



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet

5 April 2011
11 April 2011

ANNUAL CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENTRY IN 2012/13

Report of the Strategic Director, Children

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 As the Admission Authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in the City, Leicester City Council is required to consult upon and publish its admission arrangements for entry to schools in September 2012/2013 by 15 April 2011.
- 1.2 This report briefs Cabinet on the outcome of the recent consultation exercise on the admission arrangements for 2012/2013.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Recommendations for consideration are detailed in Section 4 and are summarised below.
- 2.2 Comments from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will be considered by Cabinet.
- 2.3 Cabinet is asked to approve the admission arrangements for the academic year 2012/2013, incorporating the proposed changes which were consulted upon as detailed below:
 - Increase the Admission Number at Mellor Primary School to 90.
 - Support the principle of federated schools.
 - Remove extended closing dates and maintain a single National Closing Date.

3. Summary

- 3.1 As the admission authority for the Community schools and the Voluntary Controlled school in the city, the Council must consult annually on admission arrangements to its schools.

- 3.2 The Consultation took place between 22 December 2010 and 28 February 2011 and was carried out by way of a Public Notice, circulation to all schools via the Extranet, and publication on the Council website.
- 3.3 No comments have been received on the proposal to increase the Published Admission Number at Mellor Primary School. One comment has been received from Beaumont Leys against the federation proposal; one request from Catherine Junior School that its Published Admission Number should be reduced; one comment from Green Lane Infant School suggesting that children who have a sibling attending the nearby (but not linked) junior school should have priority when applying for an F2 place in an infant school; one comment from Abbey Primary School to increase their Published Admission Number and one comment from a parent requesting a change in their priority area. There have been no responses relating to the policies of Voluntary Aided, Trust or Free Schools.

Proposer	Comment	Outcome
Governing Body at Beaumont Leys School	Concern that 'popular' schools take all students thus weakening the position of schools with falling rolls	Each individual federation would require formal consultation and the Authority will have the opportunity to assess the impact of each request before implementation.
Catherine Junior School	Requested a decrease in their Published Admission Number from 110 to 90	Unable to authorise due to current numbers in the adjacent Infant School currently exceeds 90 and the requirement for school places in that area.
Green Lane Junior School	Requested sibling priority from FS1 to FS2 if they have a sibling at a Junior School near by but not linked.	Not applicable as a number of schools occupy same priority area.
Abbey Primary School	Request to increase their Published Admission Number as potential housing development in area	Unable to comply due to sufficient capacity in neighbouring schools and no decision on housing development location taken.
Parent	To review the Priority Area lines for Primary Schools.	Project to review both Primary and Secondary Priority Areas commenced 1 March 2011

4. Report

4.1 Proposed changes

4.1 The general information about Leicester’s policies and arrangements for School Admissions can be found within out three information booklets (*Starting School*, *Transfer to Junior School*, and *Transfer to Secondary School*). These booklets can be obtained from the School Admissions Service and are available online at www.leicester.gov.uk/admissions

4.2 Proposed changes to the admissions arrangements for the academic year 2012/2013 for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in the City of Leicester are as follows:

4.2.1 Change the Published Admission Number at Mellor Primary School.
It is proposed that the admission number at Mellor Primary School should increase to 90 due to the fact that classroom building works have increased the capacity of the school.

School	Current PAN 2011/2012	Proposed PAN 2012/2013	Rationale
Mellor Primary School	60	90	To reflect the physical capacity of the site and built environment

4.2.3 The Council supports the principle of federated schools within the City and would seek to give existing children a higher preference for a school place at another school within the federation (whilst taking into account the requirements for Looked After Children and children subject to protection plans). This will result in children at a federated school being allocated as Criteria 3. If a specific Federation is planned, the council will consult on the specific admission arrangements for the schools involved. This principle is only in relation to admission to schools.

4.2.4 Maintain the single National Closing Dates for receipt of applications. Remove the extended closing dates for children moving into or within Leicester after the National Closing Dates to comply with the legal requirements in the School Admissions Code – Secondary Transfer applications.

4.2.5 Maintain temporary increase in Published Admission Numbers in the following schools, subject to admission pressures and parental preference and capacity in the surrounding area:

- Kestrels’ Field Primary School - 10
- Eyres Monsell Primary School - 15
- Braunstone Community Primary School - 15
- Scraptoft Valley primary School – 15

Should the temporary increase in 2010/2011 Published Admission Numbers be perpetuated, formal consultation to make the increase permanent will take place in the next Annual Consultation of Admission Arrangements.

5. Financial, Legal and other Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no specific financial issues arising from this report.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, Investing in our Children, Tel: 0116 252 7750

5.2 Legal Implications

In relation to the increase in Admission Number outlined at 4.2.1 consultation has been required due to the fact that the increase exceed the limit of 26 places (1.19 Admissions Code 2010)

The temporary increases to Admission Numbers outlined at 4.2.5 will have to be the subject of formal consultation where the temporary increases cumulatively (in each school) amount to more than 26 places extra being offered over 3 years. The report identifies that this trigger point would be reached for next year's consultation round.

The proposal is to make the "Federated School" criteria number 3 in the rank order is potentially justified under paragraphs 2.16a) and 2.72 of the Admissions Code if the schools are designated as named feeder primaries, and also as long as they do not breach paragraph 1.72 of the Code by unfairly disadvantaging social or racial groups or a child with disabilities or special educational needs. Policies should also aspire to promote social equity. Such proposals would need to be properly consulted upon on the future.

Kamal Adatia, Barrister, Head of Community Services Law, Leicester City Council, Tel: 0116 252 7044

5.3 Climate Change Implications

This report does not contain any significant climate change implications and therefore should not have a detrimental effect on the Council's climate change targets.

Helen Lansdown, Senior Environmental Consultant - Sustainable Procurement , Tel: 0116 252 6770

6 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/ NO	Paragraph/References Within the Report
Equal Opportunities	YES	Section 4.1
Policy	NO	
Sustainable and Environmental	NO	
Crime and Disorder	NO	
Human Rights Act	NO	
Elderly/People on Low Income	NO	
Corporate Parenting	NO	
Health Inequalities Impact	NO	

7 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Consultation with schools on Annual Admission Arrangements 2012/13

8 Consultations

Consultation was carried out from 4 January 2011 to 1 March 2011 in accordance with statutory requirements. A Public Notice was issued and details of the consultation circulated to all schools. An on-line response Form was posted on the Council's website.

9 Report Author

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Key Decision	Yes
Reason	Is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising more than one ward
Appeared in Forward Plan	Yes
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)