

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
CABINET MEMBER**

**SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2013/14
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of the outcome relating to the 2013/14 admission arrangement consultation.
- 1.2 To seek approval to implement the proposed admission arrangement for 2013/14 for community and voluntary controlled schools.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 A new admissions code of practice was published by the Department for Education on 1 February 2012, which supersedes the previous code of practice published in February 2009. The new Code takes full effect on admissions arrangements in respect of the pupil intake for the 2013/14 academic years and thereafter. This report is written taking into account the requirements of the new code of practice.
- 2.2 The local authority is required to determine its *admission arrangements* and proposed *admission numbers* for 2013/14 for each community maintained and voluntary controlled school by the 15 April 2012. Academies and Voluntary Aided schools are their own admissions authorities and also need to comply with this requirement.
- 2.3 **Admission arrangements** describe how school places are allocated, especially with reference to the oversubscription criteria. This confirms how applications are prioritised, when the number of applications exceeds the number of places available.
- 2.4 The admission number refers to the number of school places that the admission authority must offer in the relevant age group of the school for which it is the admissions authority.

- 2.5 The new code of practice confirms that oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective and procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. The Code continues to give highest priority to looked after children, but this provision has now been expanded to include previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are defined as children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.
- 2.6 The new code of practice does not give a definitive list of acceptable oversubscription criteria, as it is for admission authorities to decide which criteria would be most suitable to the school according to the local circumstances. However, it does provide information on the most common criteria used.
- 2.7 Governing bodies were consulted during the Autumn and Spring Term regarding the proposed 2013/14 admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. The consultation included full details of proposed admission numbers and admission arrangements (oversubscription criteria).

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 There are two options for consideration:

Option 1: To confirm the proposed admission arrangements identified in Appendix A.

Option 2: To confirm the proposed admission numbers identified in Appendix B.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 **Option 1:**

- 4.1.1 The proposed admission arrangements (Appendix A) are based on existing admissions arrangements. However, as a result of the new code of practice the relevant criterion relating to looked after children has been updated. The proposed admission arrangements meet the requirements of the new code of practice.
- 4.1.2 The main provisions of the admissions criteria (eg catchment, siblings and distance) are well established and clearly understood. North Lincolnshire has excellent track record of meeting parental preferences, which suggests the key principals of the admission arrangement are working well.
- 4.1.3 Amendments could be made to the proposed admissions criteria (ie the non-statutory elements). However, it may be more appropriate to consider changes for the 2014/15 admissions cycle, which would allow time to undertake an impact assessment.

4.1.4 Following the recent consultation exercise, the LA has not received any requests to amend the proposed admission arrangements.

4.2 **Option 2:**

4.2.1 The proposed increase in admission numbers for community and voluntary aided schools will allow the LA to enhance capacity, which could lead to a higher number of parents receiving a school of their preference.

4.2.2 The code of practice confirms that a presumption exists in favour of schools wishing to increase their admission number, which supports the DfE's commitment to maximise parental preference at popular schools.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 **Finance** - Nil

5.2 **Staffing** - Nil

5.3 **Property** - Nil

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

6.1 **Statutory** – The proposed admission arrangements meet the requirements as set-out in: a) DfE's School Admissions Code of Practice and b) The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations No.8, 2012.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The following groups have been consulted on the 2013/14 admission arrangements:

- Each school governing body
- Each Diocese (Sheffield, Nottingham and Lincoln)
- Other Admission Authorities within the area of North Lincolnshire
- Neighbouring Admission Authorities, ie. Doncaster, North East Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.
- Relevant parents and other stakeholders (public notice)
- Details of all proposed arrangements were made available on the council website

7.2 **Consultation on Proposed Admission Arrangements:** Following consultation with the above stakeholders regarding admission arrangements described in Appendix A, no objections or representations have been received.

7.3 **Consultation on Proposed Admission Numbers:** All school governing bodies were consulted regarding their proposed admission number. Consideration has been given to their comments. Appendix B shows where a change in the current admission number has been requested

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves option 1 and option 2, to implement the revised admission arrangements for 2013/14 academic year identified in Appendix A and the revised admission numbers as identified in Appendix B.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None

Appendix A

Summary of Current Admission Arrangements and Proposed Admission Arrangements for 2013/14 (Oversubscription Criteria)

Current (Summary in priority order)	Proposed (summary in priority order)	Comment / Notes
SEN: Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN)	¹ SEN: Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN)	No change is required (This is a statutory requirement)
Children in Care: The definition of a 'Child in Care' is a child who is in care of the local authority as defined by section 22 of the Children Act 1989. In relation to school admissions a 'child in care' is only considered as such if the local authority confirms he or she will be admitted to school. Children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements are excluded	² Looked After Children: This applies to looked after children <u>and previously looked after children</u> . Previously looked after children includes children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted ^{2a} (or became subject to residence order or special guardianship order) must be given the same priority as looked after children.	Expand the current admission criterion to include provision for previously looked after children (This is a statutory requirement) N.B. The Code of Practice 2009 uses 'Children in Care' to describe children in public care; The Code of Practice 2012 uses 'Looked After Children' as the descriptor.
Catchment: Children who live in the School's designated catchment area.	³ Catchment: Children who live in the School's designated catchment area.	No Change required or proposed. Although this is not a statutory requirement ⁴ , it is an established criterion within North Lincolnshire for admitting the majority of children.
Siblings: Children who have a sibling attending the school at the time of their admission. This definition includes step-brothers and sisters and half-brothers and sisters), living at the same address and who will be attending the school at the expected time of admission.	³ Siblings: Children who have a sibling attending the school at the time of their admission. This definition includes step-brothers and sisters and half-brothers and sisters), living at the same address and who will be attending the school at the expected time of admission.	No change required or proposed. Although this is not a statutory requirement ⁴ , it is an established criterion within North Lincolnshire for admissions. Provision exists to expand the proposed definition of siblings, but this is not proposed.
Distance: Those who live closest to the school. The distance will be determined by measuring the shortest available route using the public road network from the pupils home to the main school gate, as determined by the LA	³ Distance: Those who live closest to the school. The distance will be determined by measuring the shortest available route using the public road network from the pupils home to the main school gate, as determined by the LA	No change required or proposed. Although this is not a statutory requirement ⁴ , it is an established criterion within North Lincolnshire for admissions and works well. Provision exists for employing different measurement methods (ie 'as the crow flies', but this is not proposed)

Notes:

1. Paragraph 1.6 of the code of practice confirms that "All children whose statement of special educational needs (SEN) names the school must be admitted.
 2. This new provision is confirmed in paragraph 1.7 of the code of practice. A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.
 - 2a. Under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. See Section 46 (adoption orders).
 3. This criteria will be based on the same criteria published for 21012/13 admissions
- General Note: Where there are two equal preferences for one place, lots will be drawn which will be independently verified.
4. Non-statutory options for community and voluntary controlled schools: These are the most common admission criteria as identified in the code of practice are (not in any order):
 - Distance from school (can be measured in a number of ways eg straight-line or walking route)
 - Catchment areas (locally determined)
 - Feeder schools (locally determined)
 - Social and medical needs (criteria locally determined)
 - Children of staff at the school (criteria locally determined)

Appendix B

Summary of required changes to admission numbers

School	Published Admission Number 2012/13	GB Proposed Admission Number 2013/14	LA Range	*LA Proposed Admission Number 2013/14
Secondary Schools				
¹ The Vale Academy (Academy)	150	162		¹ N/A
Primary Schools				
² Brigg (Community)	55	60	54 – 60	60
² Gunness & Burringham (Community)	14	15	14 – 15	15
² Henderson Avenue (Community)	82	85	73 – 82	85
² Luddington & Garthorpe (Community)	11	10	7 – 12	10
¹ St Mary's Catholic (VA)	26	30	22 – 30	¹ N/A
² Winteringham (Community)	16	14	14 – 16	14
Junior Schools				
² Grange Lane (Community)	65	60	60 – 67	60
Infant Schools				
² Enderby Road Infants (Community)	38	40	36-40	40

Note:

1. Included for information: Own admission authorities are not required to consult on their PAN where they propose either to increase or keep the same PAN (Paragraph 1.2, CoP)
2. For a community or voluntary controlled school, the LA (as the admissions authority) must consult at least the governing body of the school where it proposes to increase or keep the same PAN. (Paragraph 1.3, CoP)

Only schools where there is a proposal to alter admission numbers have been listed.