



CLLR BERNIE MOONEY

CABINET

26 FEBRUARY 2018

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY
CONTROLLED PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE
COORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEMES
FOR 2019-2020

Councillor Bernie Mooney Cabinet Member - Children and Families, said:

“Making sure your child gets into the right school is incredibly important for every family in the borough. It is important we have a fair, equitable policy to determine school admission arrangements.

“This report provides the borough with a policy for the 2019/20 academic year.”

REPORT SUMMARY

This report invites the Cabinet to determine the Authority’s admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools and the co-ordinated schemes for 2019-2020. This is a statutory requirement.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Cabinet agree the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and the Wirral co-ordinated schemes for 2019-2020.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Authority is required to determine admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools. The New School Admissions (England) Regulations (2003) also require the Authority to have in place a coordinated scheme for admissions to all primary and secondary schools including Academy schools, in 2019-20. The proposed schemes are attached along with proposed admission numbers for community and controlled schools (Appendices 1 and 2).

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 None.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The consultation on the co-ordinated scheme for admissions took place according to guidance (see 8.0 below). No responses to the consultation were received.

- 3.2 Outside the consultation, an enquiry was made by a primary school requesting clarification on the Council's policy relating to deferred entry for summer-born children in 1.8;

“These requests will be considered on the circumstances of each individual case and will require agreement from the allocated school”.

- 3.3 The point was made that where the parent requests deferred entry prior to a school place being allocated, there is no allocated school. This section of the co-ordinated scheme for admission to primary schools has therefore been rewritten to state that parents in this situation are expected to speak to the Headteacher of the school they intend their child to attend and agreement will be sought from that school. Obtaining agreement does not guarantee a place in any specific school as the usual admission arrangements will be applied at the time of application.

- 3.4 A new paragraph has also been added to the primary co-ordinated scheme to affirm that schools are expected to abide by deferred entry decisions that have already been taken either by Wirral or for children transferring from another local authority where that child is already being taught outside their year group, unless formal agreement is reached with the child's parents to place them into their chronological year group.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 LEGAL

- 5.1 It should be noted that the relevant co-ordinated schemes and the Fair Access Protocol apply to all Wirral primary and secondary schools, including Academy schools. A Voluntary Aided primary school and a Community primary school have already made the conversion to Academy status. There is additional emphasis on the importance of school governing bodies to understand and apply the Admissions Code, Wirral co-ordinated scheme and FAP correctly and fairly, otherwise schools will be

open to challenge both at parental appeal and by the School's Adjudicator and/or Secretary of State.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 The Fair Access Protocol requires a Local Authority Clerk to organise Fair Access Panels, prepare paperwork and disseminate Panel decisions to parents and schools. The cost of this is met from the Council's budget.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 It should be noted that the relevant co-ordinated schemes and the Fair Access Protocol apply to all Wirral primary and secondary schools, including Academy schools. A Voluntary Aided primary school and a Community primary school have already made the conversion to Academy status. There is additional emphasis on the importance of school governing bodies to understand and apply the Admissions Code, Wirral co-ordinated scheme and FAP correctly and fairly, otherwise schools will be open to challenge both at parental appeal and by the School's Adjudicator and/or Secretary of State.

7.2 Failure to determine the admission arrangements by 28th February of the preceding year would contravene the 2014 Admissions Code and associated guidance.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

8.1 Consultation on the co-ordinated scheme has taken place with all Wirral schools, other relevant admission authorities and all statutory consultees.

8.2 The consultation period took place for 6 weeks between 15th November and 27th December 2016, which complies with requirements set out in the School Admissions Code 2014.

8.3 The date by which the arrangements must be determined is 28th February. These admission arrangements must then be published on the Council's website by 15th March. The deadline for objections against the admission arrangements to the Schools Adjudicator is 15th May.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An equality impact assessment has been completed and can be found at:
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-april-2014/eias-families-wellbeing>

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APPENDICES

Primary co-ordinated scheme for admissions 2019-2020

Secondary co-ordinated scheme for admissions 2019-2020

REFERENCE MATERIAL**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

Council Meeting	Date
Delegated Authority	6th October 2017
Cabinet	27th February 2017
Delegated Authority	6th October 2016
Cabinet	22nd February 2016
Delegated Authority	8th October 2015
Cabinet	12th March 2015