

CABINET

Monday, 24 February, 2020

**ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND
VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
SCHOOLS AND THE COORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEMES FOR
2021-2022**

Councillor Thomas Usher Cabinet Member - Children Families and Education, 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 that policy for Wirral parents”.

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 2021-2022. This is a statutory requirement.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Cabinet be requested to approve the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and the Wirral co-ordinated schemes for 2021-2022.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 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 co-ordinated scheme for admissions to all primary and secondary schools including Academy schools, in 2021-22. 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 No changes have been made to the 2020-21 determined admission arrangements published in the co-ordinated schemes for admissions. A consultation was therefore not required (see 8.1). Information relating to the status of schools and admission numbers has been updated to reflect the current position. This information is updated throughout the school year as it changes.
- 3.2 The Council as the admission authority must determine the admission arrangements every year, even if they have not changed from the previous year and a consultation has not been required. This must take place by 28th February.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 No new financial implications arise as a result of this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 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. 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 Schools Adjudicator and/or Secretary of State.
- 5.2 Section 8.20 of the secondary co-ordinated scheme and 7.8 of the primary co-ordinated scheme refers to overseas applications. This section may need to be further revised in the light of upcoming changes to the United Kingdom's position in relation to the European Economic Area. If so, amendments will be made at the time.
- 5.3 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.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 The Fair Access Protocol which is part of the co-ordinated scheme for admissions 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 Failure to determine the admission arrangements by 28th February of the preceding year would contravene the 2014 Admissions Code and associated guidance.

7.2 See also 5.1 above.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

8.1 Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year, there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period. As no changes have been proposed since the previous consultation held in Autumn 2018, a consultation was not required in relation to the 2021-22 co-ordinated admission schemes.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

An equality impact assessment was completed in relation to the 2020-21 co-ordinated scheme. As no changes have been made to the scheme, this impact assessment stands and can be found at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017-1>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none associated with this report.

The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to:

- Have no impact on emissions of CO2

REPORT AUTHOR:

Sally Gibbs

Senior Manager, School Admissions and Place Planning

telephone: (0151) 666 4487

email: sallygibbs@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Primary co-ordinated scheme for admissions 2021-2022
Secondary co-ordinated scheme for admissions 2021-2022

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	25th February 2019
Delegated Authority	2nd October 2018
Cabinet	26th February 2018
Delegated Authority	17th October 2017
Cabinet	27th February 2017