

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham. S60
2TH

Date: Thursday, 7 July 2011

Time: 10.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. Appointment of Chairman
2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 17th March, 2011 (copy attached) (Pages 1 - 3)
5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
6. Annual Report to the Schools Adjudicator (copy attached) (Pages 4 - 20)
7. New School Admissions Code and School Admissions Appeals Code - Consultation (documents attached) (Pages 21 - 49)
8. Free Schools - Proposals for the Rotherham Borough area - update
9. Travellers' Children - Attendance at School
10. School Admissions - Annual Consultation
11. School Admission Appeals - Update
12. Admission to Secondary School 2012/2013 - distribution of booklet
13. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Thursday, 10th November, 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

**LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM
THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH, 2011**

Present:- Councillor Barron, Mr. G. Lancashire, Mr P Robins and Mr B N Sampson (Community Representatives), Mrs. I. G. Hartley and Mr C E Kelsey (Community Schools), Ms. C. Thorpe (Diocese of Hallam) and Mrs. G. Atkin (Voluntary Aided Schools)

Apologies for absence were received from:- Councillor Havenhand, Mrs. C. Cockayne and Mrs. P. Powell (Community Representatives), Father A. Hayne (Diocese of Hallam), Mrs. H. Morris (Sheffield Diocese) and Mrs. H. McLaughlin (Voluntary Aided Schools).

13. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE MEETING

Agreed:- That Mrs. I. G. Hartley be appointed Chair of this meeting.

(Mrs. I. G. Hartley in the Chair)

14. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH NOVEMBER, 2010

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Local Admissions Forum, held on 11th November, 2010, be approved as a correct record.

15. ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION - ANNUAL CONSULTATION FEEDBACK REPORT FOR 2012/13 ADMISSION

Further to Minute No. 8 of the meeting of the Local Admissions Forum held on 11th November, 2010, consideration was given to a report presented by the School Organisation, Planning and Development Manager concerning the admission arrangements (ie: criteria and admission number) which would apply for school admission in the 2012/2013 academic year. The report summarised the issues which had arisen during the annual consultation exercise with and between schools, other local authorities and via the Borough Council's Internet website. It was noted that all admission authorities were required to determine their arrangements by 15th April, 2011.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the proposed admission numbers (contained in Annex 1 of the report submitted) for community and controlled schools be confirmed for 2012/13, subject to the clarifications included in Annex 2.

(3) That the proposed admissions criteria for community and controlled schools for 2012/13 be agreed and adopted.

(4) The proposed change to the length of time the 'Waiting List' for school places operates for primary schools (ie: only until 31 December and not for the entire academic year) be noted.

(5) That the proposed admissions numbers and criteria for voluntary aided schools and Academies, as outlined in Annex 2 of the report submitted, be noted.

(6) That the appropriate notice be published in respect of the proposed admission numbers for the schools named in Annex 2 of the report submitted, where the admission number will be less than that indicated by the current net capacity calculation.

(7) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Local Admissions Forum concerning the admission to school of the children of the travelling community.

16. FREE SCHOOLS - PROPOSALS FOR THE ROTHERHAM BOROUGH AREA

Consideration was given to a report presented by the School Organisation, Planning and Development Manager stating that are currently two proposals for Free Schools within the Rotherham Borough area:-

(i) Three Valleys Academy : the Department for Education has received a proposal to set up a new school in Rotherham from the Nationwide Independent College of Higher Education (NICHE). The proposal is for an 850-places school for pupils aged 11-18 years, to be situated in Wath-Upon-Dearne. The Department for Education has fully assessed the proposal and the Secretary of State has given his approval for it to proceed to the business case stage.

(ii) Rotherham Central Free School : a proposal to establish the 'Rotherham Central Free School'. The School will probably be located in central Rotherham and will provide education for 500 Secondary age pupils. The school will have an open admissions policy and will have a catchment area of around three miles from the centre of Rotherham. No information has yet been issued by the Department of Education on the progress of this proposal.

It was noted that Rotherham Borough Council has formally objected to the proposed establishment of both of these Free Schools.

The Local Admissions Forum expressed concerns about the probable impact upon the take-up of school places in a number of Rotherham area secondary schools, should the two free schools open.

Agreed:- That the report be received and its contents noted.

17. ACADEMIES AND TRUST SCHOOLS IN ROTHERHAM - UPDATE

Discussion took place on:-

- school organisation in Rotherham and its growing diversity, which reflects the trends nationally;

- the Transforming Rotherham Learning strategy;

- the establishment of the three Academies, from existing secondary schools : Brinsworth, Maltby and Wales;
- other schools considering Academy status;
- the proposal to establish a Trust School (Winterhill secondary school);
- funding arrangements for schools which are not under the direct control of the local authority.

Agreed:- That the Local Admissions Forum continue to be informed of issues concerning the establishment of Academies and Trust Schools in the Rotherham Borough area.

18. SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEALS - STATISTICS

Consideration was given to a report containing statistics of the number of school admission appeals received and hearings taking place during the two school years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.

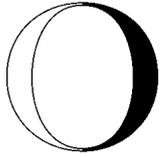
Agreed: That the information be received.

19. DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUMS

Discussion took place on the intention of the coalition Government (expressed in the White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' issued in November 2010) to abolish admission forums. During January 2011, the Chair and Clerk had sent a response to a questionnaire received from 'Comprehensive Future' (based in London - www.comprehensivefuture.org.uk) expressing support for the continuation of the admissions forums. It was agreed that such forums facilitate the effective consideration of the fairness of school admission arrangements in their local context and enable admission authorities and other key interested parties to participate in that debate.

20. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ROTHERHAM LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

Details of the current membership of the Rotherham Local Admissions Forum were noted. Every endeavour continued to be made to try and fill the vacant places.



Office of the
Schools
Adjudicator

LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT
TO
THE SCHOOLS ADJUDICATOR
FROM
Rotherham Council

30 JUNE 2011

**Report Cleared by Dorothy Smith, Senior Director Children and
Young People's Services**

Date submitted 30th June 2011

**By.....David Hill, Manager School Organisation Planning
and Development**

Contact email address..... david-education.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

Telephone number.....01709 822536

www.schoolsadjudicator.co.uk

SECTION 1

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR IN WHICH THE REPORT IS MADE - 2010 - 2011

Please complete using data/information for the period 1 September 2010 to date of report

NOTE: This template is designed to be filled in electronically – boxes can be expanded as necessary.

Fair Access Protocol

Code 4.9 a) (i) how well the Fair Access Protocol has worked and how many children have been admitted to each school in the area under the protocol;

NOTE: The Code at 3.44 requires (1) each local authority to have a Fair Access Protocol and (2) all schools and Academies to participate in their LA area's protocol

- a) Please confirm that the LA has a Fair Access Protocol that has been agreed with all the relevant schools in its area (relevant schools are all maintained schools and academies).

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If NO please explain:

(We consult annually on the admission arrangements which includes the Fair Access Protocol – All schools and Academies have signed up to the protocol)

- b) Give your assessment of how well the Fair Access Protocol has worked since 1 September 2010. In particular in placing children, the co-operation of schools and Academies as well as any other issues you have had in implementing the protocol.

The protocol has been successfully used to place pupils from the Authority's 'Pupil Referral Units' back into mainstream, also for the 'managed move of pupils with challenging behaviour between Secondary Schools and for the placement of 'Looked after Children'. The protocol has been less relevant for the transfer of pupils between Primary Schools as there are fewer pupils who fall into the relevant categories. We have few refugee/homeless/traveller children and numbers placed are low.

- c) In Appendix A, please record for each school the number of children considered to be placed in (column O) and those actually placed in

(column P) to the school under the protocol between 1 September 2010 and the date of this report.

Infant Class Sizes

Code 4.9 a) (ii) whether primary schools are complying with infant class size legislation

Are all Primary Schools in your area complying with infant class sizes?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If NO please comment and also include the number of schools where qualifying measures are being taken:

NOTE : Primary Numbers are increasing and whilst we have managed to comply with the class size legislation; predictions are that this may become a real issue as primary numbers are rising unequally across the authority.

Admission Appeals

Code 4.9 a) (iii) the number of admissions appeals held for each and every school in the area, and the number of appeals that were upheld.*

* Every school includes: community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided, foundation, Academies, city technology colleges and city colleges for technology of the arts.

For the period 1 September 2010 to the date of this report please insert in Appendix A the following for each school:

- column Q - the number of appeals held;
- column R - the number of appeals upheld; and
- column S - the number of appeals pending from the date of this report.

Code 4.9 a) iv the extent to which the local authority and appeal panels in the area complied with the requirements of the Appeals Code, with reference to ensuring the timeliness and transparency of appeals, effective communications with parents and any other relevant matter.

NOTE: other appeals panels have a duty to provide you with information on appeals (Section 88Q of Schools Standards and Framework Act).

Has your independent appeals panel complied with the requirements of the Appeals Code?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If NO please explain including non-compliance and action taken:

Have all other appeals panels for own admission authority schools complied with the requirements of the Appeals Code?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't Know	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If NO or Don't Know please highlight any issues raised and if you have been unable to obtain information:

(The Local Authority manages/clerks all the appeals for all the other Admission Authorities within Rotherham Authority - this includes the Academies and Aided Schools. This ensures compliance with the Appeals Code of Practice)

SECTION 2

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR WHICH STARTS AFTER THE REPORT IS MADE – 2011-2012:

Code 4.9 b) (i) the extent to which admission arrangements for schools in the authority's area serve the interests of children in care, children with disabilities, children with special educational needs and service children.

NOTE: You may wish to point out if specialist staff from within the Council has contributed to this report and highlight any problems that may have occurred.

Children in care: The 'Looked after Placement Officer' is now located within with the admissions team and pupils are placed within the admission policy at the appropriate local school over and above the admission limit as necessary and in accordance with our published policy and within the statutory timescales.

Children with disabilities: The 'Admissions team works' closely with the 'SEN Assessment Team', the 'Looked after Placement Officer' and also the staff seconded from the Health Authority who advise on the needs of pupils with disabilities. The 'Admissions team' works closely together with these teams to ensure that parents/carers are able to obtain a place for their child at the school of their choice.

The Health Authority staff advise on the placement, equipment, accommodation requirements etc. of children with disabilities and all pupils are appropriately placed in accordance with parents/carers choice. Building adaptations and specialist equipment is sourced through the appropriate channels.

The removal of DFE Access Initiative grant funding to assist with adaptations is a major concern.

Children with Special Educational Needs: Similarly the 'SEN Team' liaises with the admissions team and pupils are again admitted to the appropriate school, this may be over and above the admissions limit if necessary

Service Children: The Authority has few service children who require a school place. We only had one pupil this year who was accommodated in their preferred school.

Code 4.9 b) (ii) *the effectiveness of co-ordination.*

NOTE: You may wish to report on the authority's assessment of the effectiveness of any scheme for co-ordinating:

a) the admission of pupils to **LA schools** in September 2011

The co-ordination of admissions to all LA area schools has been very successful.

b) the admission of pupils in the authority's area to **other admission authority schools** in September 2011.

We co-ordinate school admissions with the Academies, V.A. Schools and the five neighbouring authorities.

SECTION 3

FOR ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN DETERMINED IN THE APRIL IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE DATE OF THE REPORT IS MADE (determined by 15 April 2011 for admission in September 2012):

Code 4.9 c) (i) a statement of whether or not admission arrangements for maintained schools in the area complied with the mandatory requirements of this Code and admissions law.

NOTE: All non-compliant admission arrangements must be corrected. All mandatory requirements can be changed by the admission authority. Any other non-compliant issues must be referred to the OSA.

Are you satisfied that the admission arrangements for all maintained schools in your area are fully compliant with the Code?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If YES please provide a statement to confirm this:

[We are satisfied that the admission arrangements for all maintained schools in our area are compliant with the DFE Code of Practice on School Admissions.](#)

If NO, please specify what action you are taking:

Using column T in Appendix A, please identify those schools that you have identified with problems now or which you have referred to the OSA, or may be referring to the OSA by the 31 July 2011.

SECTION 4

OTHER MATTERS:

Admission Forum

Code 4.9 d) (i) details about the current membership of the Admission Forum for the area

NOTE: Please list the bodies represented and the number of representatives in each category. Do **NOT** give the names of members.

Community Schools: 2 members (1 Primary and 1 Secondary)

Voluntary Controlled Schools: 1 member

Voluntary Aided Schools: 3 members

Academy: 1 member

Church Dioceses: 2 members

Parent: 1 member

Community Representatives: members, including ...

One representative of the Early Years Nursery (voluntary) sector
 One representative of the Black and Minority Ethnic community

Is the Admission Forum writing a report?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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If YES is the report attached or has it been sent separately?

Tick as appropriate:

Attached	<input type="checkbox"/>	Separately	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If separately please provide the date the report will or has been sent to the OSA?

DATE:

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Please confirm whether the Admission Forum has seen, or will see, a copy of this LA report.

Tick as appropriate:

Has seen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will see	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Free School Meals

Code 4.9 d) (ii) the proportion of children currently on free school meals at each school in the area.

NOTE: The data provided by the Local Authority to the DCSF in January 2010 has been “cleaned” and is included in Appendix A.

If the data for 2011 is significantly different from 2010 please state how it differs.

	2009-2010	2010-2011
Free Meals (min – max)	7415 (7273 – 7560)	7564(7469 – 7678)
Average take up of those entitled	72.9%	72.7%
Average take up against NOR	18.34%	18.81%
<p>The increase in free meal entitlement of approximately 149 is insignificant across 120 schools, although individual schools may see an increase it is likely this will be following the normal pattern of free meal entitlement.</p> <p>The take up against NOR has increased as (1) a consequence of improvements to the school meal take up (4.5% increase on actual meals and 2.1% points increase in all school NI52 calculation) (2) reduction in NOR accentuating the increase in meal take up when converted to percentage against NOR.</p>		

Using and interpreting the data, please comment on whether the allocation of school places meets parental preferences for those children on Free School Meals.

The correlation of data for free meals and school preference is not available, however, it would not be possible to give reliable data as eligibility for free meals for children entering the system is not known until children enter primary school in September and free meal claims have been made and assessed.

Code 4.9 d) (iii) any other matters which affect the fairness of admission arrangements for schools in the area.

NOTE: Please identify any issues not covered elsewhere on this template.

The biggest challenges facing the Rotherham Authority are:

1) The number of in-year transfer requests received by applicants from the E.U. Community who have recently settled within the authority. These applicants are putting enormous pressure on local schools and where alternative schools (within statutory walking distance) are offered they are unwilling to travel and non-school attendance is becoming a major issue.

2) We have an increasing number of FS 2 applications which is impacting on a number of primary schools. Class size legislation makes it difficult to accommodate all pupils in their preferred local primary school.

SECTION 5

OTHER ISSUES REQUESTED IN ADDITION THIS YEAR BY THE

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION.

Choice Advice

Please complete with reference to Choice Advice provided to parents applying for a secondary school place for the 2011/2012 school year.

Appendix 5 of the Code requires local authorities to provide an independent Choice Advice service that is focused on supporting the families who most need support in navigating the secondary school admissions process (paragraph 5). Choice Advice must be independent and free from any potential conflict of interest between the need of the local authority to allocate places and the advice that parents receive (paragraph 8). As a minimum, local authorities must ensure that Choice Advisers are not in the same management chain or reporting lines as the local authority's admissions staff (paragraph 9).

- a) Please confirm that your local authority has an independent Choice Advice service in place.

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- b) Please explain how you ensure the independence of the Choice Advice provided (for example, the Choice Advice service may be situated in the Parent Partnership service or Family Information Service).

Choice Advice Service is located within the Business Support Section of Children and Young People's Services, under the Director of Resources, Planning and Performance. The Admissions Service is under a different Directorate and therefore managed independently and separate to Choice Advice.

- b) Are your Choice Adviser(s) in the same line management chain or reporting lines as staff on the admissions team.

Tick as appropriate:

Yes		No	✓
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Choice Advice must be targeted at those parents who most need support with the secondary school admissions process (paragraph 10). Local authorities and Choice Advisers should market their service to ensure that they reach the families most in need of their support and that other relevant agencies and professionals are aware of the service they provide (paragraph 11). Choice Advisers should be proactive in reaching 'hard to reach' parents and should develop good links with organisations that may be able to refer parents to them (paragraph 12).

- d) Please explain how you ensure Choice Advice reaches those parents who are most in need of it.

Information on Choice Advice is available with the Admission to Secondary School Booklets, and also on the Authority's website. The Admissions Service is in a position to refer parents in need of assistance to the Choice Advice Service.

- e) Describe how Choice Advice has contributed to the fairness of the admissions process.

Choice Advisors are available to assist parents who experience difficulties with the admissions process and those who have not submitted an application close to the deadline can be targeted to provide information/advice assist them through the process.

Local authorities may provide Choice Advice at the primary school admission stage and for in-year applications (paragraph 5).

- f) Choice Advice is offered at the primary admissions stage?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes		No	✓
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- g) Choice Advice is offered for in-year applications?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes		No	✓
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It is good practice for Choice Advisers to provide support during the appeals process, particularly to those parents who accessed Choice Advice at the application stage.

h) The Choice Adviser provides support during the appeals process?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes		No	✓
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i) If no, do you plan to provide support during the appeals process in future?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes		No	✓
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Transport

Admission authorities **must** explain clearly whether or not school transport will be available, and, if so, to which schools and at what cost (if any). Are details of the availability and cost of home to school travel and transport clearly set out in the composite prospectus?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	✓	No	
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If No, please provide an explanation

SECTION 6**OTHER ISSUES REQUESTED IN ADDITION THIS YEAR BY DEPARTMENT.****6TH Forms**

Paragraphs 1.42 to 1.45 of the Code provide guidance on applications for Year 12 and transfer from Year 11.

Do you have any 6th forms within your Authority?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If Yes, how Many?

Have you considered the admission arrangements for 6th forms in line with recommendations of the Code?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Are you going to take any further action with regard to these arrangements?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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If Yes, please specify what action you are taking:

Aptitude

Paragraphs 2.78 to 2.82 provide guidance on partial selection by aptitude.

Do you have any schools which select pupils by aptitude for a subject?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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If 'yes' how many?

If yes, do you check the tests that these Schools use to ensure that they are

compliant with law?

Tick as appropriate:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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URN	LA Number	Estab number	LA+ESTAB Number	sex of school description	School Name	school type	headcount of pupils	fte pupils	Number of pupils (used for FSM calculation)	number of pupils taking free school meals	% of pupils taking free school meals	number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	% of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Children considered to be placed under FAP	Children actually placed under FAP	Number of appeals held	Number of appeals upheld	Number of appeals pending	Admission Arrangements referred / may be referred to the OSA (Y/N)
106826	372	1000	3721000	Mixed	The Arnold Centre	LEA Nursery	140	75	140	x	x	x	x						
106827	372	1001	3721001	Mixed	Rawmarsh Childrens Centre	LEA Nursery	100	50	100	0	0.0	0	0.0						
106828	372	1002	3721002	Mixed	Aughton Nursery School	LEA Nursery	85	40	83	0	0.0	0	0.0						
106832	372	2003	3722003	Mixed	Badsley Moor Junior School	Community	325	325	324	91	28.1	116	35.8						
106833	372	2004	3722004	Mixed	Badsley Moor Infant School	Community	230	230	229	91	39.7	91	39.7	1	1	1	0	0	
106834	372	2005	3722005	Mixed	Blackburn Primary School	Community	325	305	323	37	11.5	42	13.0						
106835	372	2006	3722006	Mixed	Broom Valley Community School	Community	445	420	447	53	11.9	62	13.9			26	10	0	
106837	372	2008	3722008	Mixed	Coleridge Primary School	Community	220	205	219	76	34.7	78	35.6	1	1	10	2	1	
106838	372	2010	3722010	Mixed	East Dene Primary School	Community	335	320	333	118	35.4	133	39.9	1		3	1	0	
106839	372	2013	3722013	Mixed	Ferham Primary School	Community	230	215	230	62	27.0	65	28.3			29	4	5	
106840	372	2017	3722017	Mixed	Herringthorpe Junior School	Community	260	260	258	45	17.4	53	20.5	1	1	2	0	0	
106841	372	2018	3722018	Mixed	High Greave Junior School	Community	170	170	171	95	55.6	105	61.4						
106842	372	2019	3722019	Mixed	High Greave Infant School	Community	180	160	180	68	37.8	74	41.1						
106844	372	2021	3722021	Mixed	Redscope Primary School	Community	360	340	359	55	15.3	79	22.0						
106845	372	2022	3722022	Mixed	Kimberworth Community Primary School	Community	250	230	249	52	20.9	60	24.1			10	0	0	
106846	372	2023	3722023	Mixed	Meadow View Primary School	Community	270	250	268	55	20.5	67	25.0			2	0	0	
106849	372	2029	3722029	Mixed	Thornhill Primary School	Community	235	225	237	55	23.2	63	26.6			13	6	1	
106850	372	2032	3722032	Mixed	Thorpe Hesley Junior School	Community	270	270	270	29	10.7	29	10.7						
106851	372	2034	3722034	Mixed	Herringthorpe Infant School	Community	255	230	257	26	10.1	43	16.7			5	2	0	
106853	372	2036	3722036	Mixed	Roughwood Primary School	Community	315	305	316	59	18.7	78	24.7						
106854	372	2037	3722037	Mixed	Sitwell Junior School	Community	300	300	302	34	11.3	38	12.6			9	9	0	
106855	372	2038	3722038	Mixed	Rockingham Junior and Infant School	Community	295	280	296	34	11.5	41	13.9						
106858	372	2042	3722042	Mixed	Sitwell Infant School	Community	210	210	210	22	10.5	26	12.4			3	2	0	
106859	372	2050	3722050	Mixed	Aston Fence Junior and Infant School	Community	170	170	169	10	5.9	11	6.5			5	1	0	
106860	372	2051	3722051	Mixed	Swallownest Primary School	Community	180	170	180	6	3.3	13	7.2						
106861	372	2052	3722052	Mixed	Bramley Sunnyside Junior School	Community	325	325	323	23	7.1	36	11.1			3	2	0	
106862	372	2053	3722053	Mixed	Brampton Cortonwood Infant School	Community	95	85	96	18	18.8	21	21.9						
106863	372	2054	3722054	Mixed	Brinsworth Manor Junior School	Community	310	310	311	34	10.9	41	13.2			2	2	0	
106864	372	2055	3722055	Mixed	Brinsworth Manor Infant School	Community	300	265	302	22	7.3	27	8.9	1	1	1	0	0	
106865	372	2058	3722058	Mixed	Dalton Listerdale Junior and Infant School	Community	230	215	231	7	3.0	13	5.6			4	0	0	
106867	372	2060	3722060	Mixed	Dinnington Community Primary School	Community	225	210	227	94	41.4	98	43.2						
106868	372	2061	3722061	Mixed	Harthill Primary School	Community	155	155	153	8	5.2	13	8.5						
106869	372	2062	3722062	Mixed	Maltby Crags Junior School	Community	175	175	175	60	34.3	71	40.6						
106870	372	2063	3722063	Mixed	Maltby Crags Infant School	Community	200	175	199	66	33.2	68	34.2						
106871	372	2064	3722064	Mixed	Maltby Hall Infant School	Community	190	175	191	16	8.4	16	8.4						
106873	372	2066	3722066	Mixed	Ravenfield Primary School	Community	175	175	175	3	1.7	4	2.3						
106874	372	2067	3722067	Mixed	Rawmarsh Ashwood Primary School	Community	225	215	227	25	11.0	40	17.6			6	2	0	
106875	372	2070	3722070	Mixed	Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior School	Community	215	215	213	48	22.5	58	27.2						
106876	372	2071	3722071	Mixed	Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant School	Community	130	130	132	36	27.3	47	35.6						
106878	372	2074	3722074	Mixed	Kilnhurst Primary School	Community	185	175	185	18	9.7	22	11.9						
106879	372	2075	3722075	Mixed	Swinton Queen Primary School	Community	310	290	310	34	11.0	49	15.8			4	4	0	
106882	372	2079	3722079	Mixed	Laughton Junior and Infant School	Community	170	155	168	23	13.7	31	18.5			2	2	0	
106883	372	2081	3722081	Mixed	Wales Primary School	Community	175	175	173	24	13.9	29	16.8						
106884	372	2082	3722082	Mixed	Kiveton Park Infant School	Community	180	160	180	19	10.6	22	12.2						
106885	372	2083	3722083	Mixed	Kiveton Park Meadows Junior School	Community	165	165	164	22	13.4	26	15.9						
106887	372	2085	3722085	Mixed	Wath Victoria Primary School	Community	260	245	262	61	23.3	73	27.9						
106888	372	2087	3722087	Mixed	Aston Lodge Primary School	Community	200	190	202	42	20.8	49	24.3						
106889	372	2088	3722088	Mixed	Dalton Foljambe Primary School	Community	120	105	121	36	29.8	45	37.2						
106891	372	2090	3722090	Mixed	Rawmarsh Monkwood Primary School	Community	365	345	363	58	16.0	83	22.9						
106893	372	2092	3722092	Mixed	Wath Central Primary	Community	450	420	448	69	15.4	98	21.9			2	0	0	
106894	372	2093	3722093	Mixed	Whiston Junior and Infant School	Community	200	200	201	14	7.0	18	9.0			1	0	0	
106895	372	2094	3722094	Mixed	Bramley Sunnyside Infant School	Community	320	280	321	14	4.4	17	5.3			8	4	0	
106896	372	2095	3722095	Mixed	Anston Park Junior School	Community	295	295	294	22	7.5	23	7.8						
106897	372	2096	3722096	Mixed	Thurcroft Junior School	Community	210	210	211	41	19.4	46	21.8						
106898	372	2097	3722097	Mixed	Thurcroft Infant School	Community	215	190	214	39	18.2	46	21.5						
106900	372	2099	3722099	Mixed	Lilly Hall Junior School	Community	200	200	202	12	5.9	16	7.9						

106901	372	2100	3722100	Mixed	Aston Springwood Primary School	Community	180	180	180	38	21.1	46	25.6						
106902	372	2101	3722101	Mixed	Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary School	Community	190	170	191	47	24.6	50	26.2						
106905	372	2104	3722104	Mixed	Anston Park Infant School	Community	195	195	194	13	6.7	17	8.8						
106906	372	2105	3722105	Mixed	Bramley Grange Primary School	Community	315	295	321	20	6.2	23	7.2						
106907	372	2106	3722106	Mixed	Todwick Junior and Infant School	Community	200	200	201	6	3.0	6	3.0	3		2			0
106908	372	2108	3722108	Mixed	Brinsworth Whitehill Primary School	Community	295	280	293	19	6.5	26	8.9	1		0			0
106909	372	2109	3722109	Mixed	Wickersley Northfield Primary School	Community	475	445	473	27	5.7	41	8.7	8		3			0
106910	372	2110	3722110	Mixed	Rawmarsh Thorogate Junior and Infant School	Community	200	200	201	20	10.0	21	10.4						
106911	372	2111	3722111	Mixed	Whiston Worry Goose Junior and Infant School	Community	240	220	239	19	7.9	29	12.1	5		0			0
106912	372	2112	3722112	Mixed	Maltby Redwood Junior and Infant School	Community	175	165	175	13	7.4	15	8.6						
106915	372	2116	3722116	Mixed	Catcliffe Primary School and The Meadows Children's Centre	Community	135	120	136	26	19.1	38	27.9						
106917	372	2120	3722120	Mixed	West Melton Junior and Infant School	Community	90	85	92	29	31.5	36	39.1						
106918	372	2121	3722121	Mixed	Brinsworth Howarth Primary School	Community	180	165	178	31	17.4	31	17.4						
106919	372	2122	3722122	Mixed	Aughton Primary School	Community	125	125	127	35	27.6	36	28.3						
106921	372	2124	3722124	Mixed	Anston Greenlands Junior and Infant School	Community	195	195	196	12	6.1	12	6.1	1		1			
106922	372	2130	3722130	Mixed	Anston Hillcrest Primary School	Community	240	230	238	13	5.5	13	5.5						
106923	372	2131	3722131	Mixed	Thorpe Hesley Infant School	Community	210	195	210	16	7.6	18	8.6						
106924	372	2132	3722132	Mixed	Flanderwell Primary School	Community	190	175	190	34	17.9	50	26.3						
106925	372	2133	3722133	Mixed	Aston Hall Junior and Infant School	Community	185	185	186	5	2.7	5	2.7	1		0			0
106926	372	2134	3722134	Mixed	Woodsetts Primary	Community	190	180	193	5	2.6	6	3.1	2		0			0
106927	372	2135	3722135	Mixed	Greasbrough Primary School	Community	250	250	248	37	14.9	37	14.9						
130920	372	2136	3722136	Mixed	Thrybergh Primary School	Community	195	180	197	60	30.5	68	34.5						
131415	372	2137	3722137	Mixed	St Ann's Junior and Infant School	Community	430	395	430	78	18.1	85	19.8	2		2	11	0	0
131437	372	2138	3722138	Mixed	Swinton Brookfield Primary School	Community	285	270	287	60	20.9	73	25.4						
131696	372	2139	3722139	Mixed	Canklow Woods Primary School	Community	190	175	190	88	46.3	99	52.1	1		0			0
131954	372	2140	3722140	Mixed	Anston Brook Primary School	Community	195	185	198	36	18.2	44	22.2						
106928	372	3001	3723001	Mixed	Kilnhurst St Thomas CoFE Primary School	Voluntary controlled	120	120	118	33	28.0	33	28.0						
106929	372	3003	3723003	Mixed	Wentworth CoFE (Controlled) Junior and Infant School	Voluntary controlled	120	120	121	0	0.0	0	0.0	6		3			0
106930	372	3322	3723322	Mixed	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	Voluntary aided	210	210	212	14	6.6	16	7.5	7		0			0
106932	372	3327	3723327	Mixed	Wath CoFE (A) Primary School	Voluntary aided	245	225	245	23	9.4	28	11.4	2		0			0
106933	372	3328	3723328	Mixed	Thrybergh Fullerton CoFE VA Primary School	Voluntary aided	105	105	107	14	13.1	15	14.0						
106934	372	3329	3723329	Mixed	Laughton All Saints CoFE Primary School	Voluntary aided	75	75	77	7	9.1	9	11.7						
106935	372	3330	3723330	Mixed	Brampton Ellis CoFE Junior School	Voluntary aided	265	265	265	44	16.6	60	22.6	1		1			
106936	372	3331	3723331	Mixed	Brampton Ellis CoFE Infant School	Voluntary aided	170	145	172	10	5.8	12	7.0	5		0			0
106937	372	3332	3723332	Mixed	St Alban's CoFE (Aided) Primary School	Voluntary aided	235	225	237	6	2.5	6	2.5	1		0			0
106938	372	3333	3723333	Mixed	Aston All Saints CoFE (A) Primary School	Voluntary aided	215	215	213	10	4.7	21	9.9	2		0			0
106939	372	3334	3723334	Mixed	Trinity Croft CoFE Junior and Infant School	Voluntary aided	105	105	103	20	19.4	24	23.3	2		1			0
106940	372	3335	3723335	Mixed	St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Maltby)	Voluntary aided	185	175	185	31	16.8	40	21.6						
106941	372	3336	3723336	Mixed	St Gerard's Catholic Primary School	Voluntary aided	120	120	118	34	28.8	36	30.5						
106942	372	3337	3723337	Mixed	Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Voluntary aided	190	175	189	29	15.3	34	18.0						
106943	372	3338	3723338	Mixed	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Voluntary aided	240	215	241	37	15.4	37	15.4	3		0			0
106944	372	3339	3723339	Mixed	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Voluntary aided	195	195	195	56	28.7	60	30.8	1		0			0
106945	372	3340	3723340	Mixed	St Bede's Catholic Primary School	Voluntary aided	330	310	330	13	3.9	19	5.8	7		4			0
106946	372	3341	3723341	Mixed	Treeton CoFE (A) Primary School	Voluntary aided	260	250	262	22	8.4	32	12.2	4		1			0
131366	372	3342	3723342	Mixed	Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary School	Community	330	315	330	37	11.2	47	14.2	1		0			0
132765	372	3343	3723343	Mixed	Maltby Manor Primary School	Community	400	380	399	88	22.1	96	24.1						
106947	372	4000	3724000	Mixed	Clifton: A Community Arts School	Community	1205	1205	1222	302	24.7	417	34.1	5		5	11	7	0
106949	372	4003	3724003	Mixed	Oakwood Technology College	Community	1055	1055	1056	102	9.7	166	15.7	3		3	39	23	0
106950	372	4010	3724010	Mixed	Winterhill School	Community	1340	1340	1368	205	15.0	223	16.3	4		1			0
106951	372	4011	3724011	Mixed	Wingfield Business and Enterprise College	Community	850	850	851	119	14.0	176	20.7	2		2	9	5	0
106953	372	4016	3724016	Mixed	Rawmarsh Community School - A Sports College	Community	1005	1005	1008	163	16.2	203	20.1	2		2	2	1	0
106954	372	4017	3724017	Mixed	Wath Comprehensive School : A Language College	Community	1850	1850	1860	173	9.3	214	11.5	2		2	52	15	1
106955	372	4018	3724018	Mixed	Wickersley School and Sports College	Community	1895	1895	1907	97	5.1	126	6.6	3		3	38	13	0
106956	372	4020	3724020	Mixed	Thrybergh School and Sports College	Community	580	580	583	136	23.3	225	38.6	3		3	4	1	0
106957	372	4021	3724021	Mixed	Aston Comprehensive School	Community	1650	1650	1660	99	6.0	157	9.5	1		1	14	7	1
106958	372	4022	3724022	Mixed	Dinnington Comprehensive Specialising in Science and Engir	Community	1395	1395	1405	68	4.8	154	11.0	2		2			
106959	372	4023	3724023	Mixed	Swinton Community School	Community	1015	1015	1013	107	10.6	168	16.6	4		4	1	1	0
106960	372	4024	3724024	Mixed	Brinsworth Comprehensive School	Community	1415	1415	1416	149	10.5	212	15.0	1		1	1	0	0
106961	372	4025	3724025	Mixed	Wales High School	Community	1575	1575	1578	79	5.0	168	10.6	5		5	36	23	0
106962	372	4601	3724601	Mixed	Saint Pius X Catholic High School A Specialist School in Hum	Voluntary aided	650	650	653	44	6.7	64	9.8	2		2	16	10	0
106963	372	4800	3724800	Mixed	St Bernard's Catholic High School, Specialist School for the A	Voluntary aided	675	675	683	62	9.1	92	13.5	1		1	9	1	0
136042	372	6905	3726905	Mixed	Maltby Academy	Academies	1220	1220	1228	139	11.3	207	16.9	2		2			

106966	372	7000	3727000	Mixed	Newman School	Community Special	80	80	82	11	13.4	16	19.5
106967	372	7001	3727001	Mixed	Abbey School	Community Special	100	100	100	33	33.0	40	40.0
106968	372	7003	3727003	Mixed	Kelford School	Community Special	90	90	92	31	33.7	43	46.7
106969	372	7006	3727006	Mixed	Milton School	Community Special	90	90	92	35	38.0	42	45.7
106970	372	7009	3727009	Mixed	The Willows School	Community Special	85	85	86	39	45.3	41	47.7
106972	372	7011	3727011	Mixed	Hilltop School	Community Special	95	95	97	21	21.6	22	22.7

Consultation

Launch Date: 27 May 2011

Respond by 12 weeks from Launch date

Consultation on the Changes to the Admissions Framework

In the White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching', Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, announced a review of the school admissions system to make it simpler, fairer and more transparent, building on the principle of placing trust back in schools and head teachers.

The Department would welcome views on the draft School Admissions Code and draft School Admission Appeals Code, which are at the centre of proposed changes to the admissions system.

Consultation on the Changes to the Admissions Framework

A Consultation

To Schools, Governing Bodies, Local Authorities, Parents, Faith Groups, other Key Stakeholders

Issued 27 May 2011

Contact Details

If your enquiry is related to the content of the consultation, you can contact the PCU telephone help line on: 0370 000 2288.

Enquiries

To If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Consultation Unit by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288.

1 Impact Assessment

Our initial assessment of the proposed changes concludes that they do not impose any new information obligations, nor do they impose any new administrative or policy burdens of £5 million (equivalent annual cost) or more on the maintained schools sector. We consider there to be no discernible impact on schools in the private sector arising from these proposals. We would welcome any information to inform our assessment, which will be published before the School Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code (the Codes) are laid before Parliament.

The school admissions framework is intended to ensure that the system is administered fairly on behalf of all children, and in doing so to help to advance equity of treatment in considering disability, ethnicity, gender and ability.

In constructing this consultation document and the draft Codes, we have considered the implications for disability equality, gender equality and race equality, and this has shaped our policy proposals. Following this consultation we will publish a full analysis that reflects the responses we receive about equity of treatment in admissions; in particular, we shall consider carefully any implications around sexual orientation, religion or belief.

2 Changes to Regulations

The outcome of this consultation will require some changes to the regulations that, along with the Codes, govern the admission and appeals process. We propose to issue another consultation following this one focussing solely on those regulations, inviting comments on any proposed changes.

3 Summary

The Department intends to remove many of the unnecessary and costly prescriptive burdens on schools and local authorities. This consultation seeks views on the changes to simplify the Codes.

The Codes have evolved over a number of years, with successive versions adding additional regulation in response to specific policy issues. As a result they are now overly complex, repetitive and, for many in the system, confusing. The current Codes represent over 130 pages of densely worded text, with more than 660 mandatory requirements.

The draft Codes are around a third of their original size and are much clearer in terms of what admission authorities must and must not do. They have been written from an assumption that all schools and admission authorities seek to comply with the Codes.

This assumption is backed by the Chief Schools Adjudicator in his evidence to the Education Select Committee on 2 February 2011, that "*most of the disagreements are resolved locally ... and continue to be resolved locally*", and that "*the vast majority of admissions authorities ... if they are breaching the rules, don't mean to be doing so.*" His 2009/10 annual report shows that he received fewer than 400 complaints during the last admissions round, yet there are more than 6,000 admission authorities, of which only 152 are local authorities.

These changes are not about weakening the admissions system but removing many of the unnecessary burdens for schools and local authorities to allow them to focus on setting clearer, fairer admission arrangements. This Government believes that this system will be simpler for parents to navigate and more transparent.

4 What are the Drafting Changes?

In line with the feedback we received during the review of the admissions framework we have removed duplicate and unnecessary material as well as confusing elements that led to admission authorities interpreting the Codes in different ways. This includes all of the sections that referred to what an admission authority 'should' or 'should not' do.

We want admission authorities to be clearer about their admission arrangements, consult with their local communities and partners, and address any objections that are found to be unlawful. Admission authorities must be accountable to those affected by those arrangements.

There are, however, a number of key safeguards being retained and reinforced, over and above recourse to the Schools Adjudicators.

These key principles are that:

- All relevant requirements must be in a single place - the Code - allowing those reading the Code to understand the full set of requirements. There will still be regulations, as they are a key part of the legislative framework, but which confirm the Code rather than add another layer of prescriptive requirements. This should ensure that anyone can understand the basic requirements of the Admissions Code without requiring a solicitor to interpret it;
- All admission arrangements must be clear, fair, objective and easily understood by parents;
- Subject to Royal Assent of the Education Bill, the Schools Adjudicator will have the power to hear objections to admission arrangements of all state-funded schools, including those of Academies. As now, the Adjudicator will be able to make binding decisions on all objections referred to him as well as having the discretion to consider any wider issues in admission arrangements;
- All admission authorities will still have to convene independent appeal panels to hear parental appeals against a decision not to offer a place at a preferred school;
- All schools and admissions authorities must participate in the locally agreed Fair Access Protocols to ensure that children who are struggling to find a school place, especially the most vulnerable, can do so quickly.

5 General Aims

We have sought to remove all duplication and sections of the Codes that were open to (mis)interpretation, so it is clearer what admission authorities must and must not do within the new Codes as well as making them easier to read and understand.

One of the aims of reviewing the Codes was to reduce the burdens and bureaucracy that schools face by removing unnecessary prescription and elements that drove cost into the process.

The revised Codes should ensure that all school places are offered in a fair and lawful way and that school admission appeals are heard in a fair and lawful way.

Question 1: Do you agree that the new Codes achieve these aims?

We welcome any views you have on the overall aims of the Codes.

6 Key policy changes for consultation

This consultation seeks views on a small number of key policy changes, all of which intend to deal with issues which can create unfairness in the system or which frustrate and confuse parents who seek to ensure that their child gets into a suitable school as quickly as possible.

Changes to the Admissions Code

The removal of the requirement on local authorities to coordinate in year admissions.

Some local authorities are facing a real challenge in managing the large and growing numbers of applications for a school place outside the normal admission rounds.

This means that increasingly large numbers of parents are facing delays in getting their children into a school. Instead, we propose to move to a position where a parent, applying for a school place outside of the normal admissions round, would still make initial contact with their local authority. They are responsible for the composite prospectus and also have a statutory duty to provide information to parents on schools and admissions in their area. The local authority would be able to provide suitable application forms and advise on which schools in their area were over-subscribed. Parents would then apply directly to the schools and those schools would process the forms, notifying the local authority of both the application and the

outcome. Parents will continue to have a right of appeal against a decision not to offer a place.

We believe that this will ensure that parents looking to find a place outside the normal admissions round are able to do so as quickly as possible, without delays from overly bureaucratic processes, and that fewer children will miss education for any lengthy period.

Changes to the Published Admission Number (PAN)

All schools must have a published admission number (PAN) for each age group in which pupils are or would normally be admitted to the school. The PAN forms part of the admission arrangements for the school. The current Admissions Code and associated regulations set out requirements in relation to PAN, including: restrictions on admitting above PAN, changing PAN and consultation. This area of policy is a prime example of over-regulation which stifles the ambitions of schools in being able to offer parents more places.

We want all schools that are popular with parents to be free to increase their PAN, and thereby offer more parents more options for a place, whilst ensuring clarity in schools' locally-set policies. In deciding the appropriate mechanism to achieve this, we want to achieve the right balance between giving schools the light-touch regulation consistent with other reforms, and ensuring that local authorities can get on with their strategic role in planning schools places for their areas. We have therefore made the following changes in the Code in relation to PAN: schools will no longer have to get the approval of the local authority where they want to admit pupils in-year above PAN; this will allow for greater flexibility. There will be a requirement to notify the local authority of a change to PAN and to make reference to it on the school website. In line with our plans to de-regulate the system we shall enable anyone who feels local proposals to increase PAN are unreasonable to refer an objection to the Schools Adjudicator.

We shall be consulting with the Ministerial Advisory Group, which includes representations from schools, local authorities and voluntary and community groups on the potential such de-regulation has to address the issues parents face when trying to find a place for their child.

Question 2: Do you agree with the proposals to allow all popular and successful schools to increase their Published Admission Number?

We welcome your views on what sort of criteria the Schools Adjudicator must take into account when he considers objections to an admission authority's plans to increase PAN.

Random allocation

Since 2007 the School Admissions Code has allowed random allocation (often referred to as 'lotteries') as a permitted oversubscription criterion. It is most commonly used as a tiebreaker in individual schools, to choose between two otherwise equal applications. While it may be effective in certain limited situations we propose that it should not become the principal route for awarding school places across an entire local authority. Therefore we are proposing restricting the use of random allocation as an oversubscription criterion to individual schools.

Infant class size exceptions

Currently, there is a statutory limit for infant school class sizes of 30 children per school teacher. There are several exceptions to this, to ensure that vulnerable children - such as those with special educational needs admitted outside the admissions round - are not disadvantaged. The limit of 30 will not change, but based on discussions with key stakeholders, we are proposing to add two new categories to the list of exceptions: twins (and other multiple birth children) and service children. Schools will now be able to admit children from these groups above the class size limit of 30 without falling foul of the regulations. This will avoid cases such as those where twins have ended up going to different schools or children of service personnel are disadvantaged by their need to relocate - often at short notice. We are also consulting on removing the requirement on admission authorities to take correcting measures to get back to 30 at the end of the year in which the excepted pupils enter the class. This will give schools more flexibility as to how they manage the class going forward and avoid having to take potentially expensive measures for one or two children.

Reduction in consultation requirements where no changes to admission arrangements are proposed

Admission authorities currently must consult publicly on their proposed admission arrangements every three years, even if they are not proposing to make any changes to those arrangements. This can be costly and bureaucratic. We propose that admission authorities should only be required to consult on their admission arrangements once every 7 years if no changes are proposed to their admission arrangements. Clearly any admission authority which seeks to make changes to their admission arrangements must consult on those changes before they are determined, other than an increase to the PAN.

Giving admissions priority to children attracting the Pupil Premium

Children who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) – in the future, attracting the Pupil Premium – come from some of our most vulnerable groups and their parents often lack the resources to help them access our more successful schools. It is one of this Government's priorities to break the cycle of deprivation. So we wish to give a permissive approach to those schools who believe that children attracting the Pupil Premium would thrive in their educational care. In the White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" we stated our intention that we would give this permissive approach to Academies and Free Schools.

Question 3:

Do you agree that Academies and Free Schools should be able to give priority to children attracting the Pupil Premium in their admission arrangements?

We welcome views and ideas on how best to balance the drive to raise attainment for some of our most vulnerable groups and yet maintain the drive to reduce the burden on our schools.

Children of school staff

Currently, admission authorities cannot give any priority to the children of members of their staff unless there is a demonstrable skill shortage. Given the importance that this Government places on the need to put our trust in schools, we believe that this restriction leads to some schools losing out on potentially very valuable members of staff as they seek to balance work and life as a parent. Therefore, we propose to allow children of staff at the school to be included as an oversubscription criterion. If admission authorities wish to use this permissive criterion, then it would be for them to define what they mean by 'staff' and whether it was to cover teaching or non-teaching staff, including those undertaking tasks such as catering and cleaning.

Changes to objections to the Schools Adjudicator

The Schools Adjudicator provides a valued service which plays a vital role in giving parents and others the confidence that the admissions system is fair and transparent. We wish to strengthen that role in a manner that is consistent with our overall policy drive to place trust in our schools. Therefore, we are proposing to make a small but important number of changes to the role and functions of the Schools Adjudicator.

- Currently, all objections to the Schools Adjudicator about the

determined admission arrangements of any maintained school must be made by 31 July, although later referrals can be considered at the Schools Adjudicator's discretion. As the current deadline comes at the start of the summer holidays, it can be difficult for schools to respond to requests for information from the Schools Adjudicator in time. We believe that this timetable can delay the local implementation of decisions and put pressure on the local authority to amend local prospectuses, potentially giving parents incorrect information about schools. To enable more time for admission authorities to respond, we propose to change the deadline for objections to be referred to the Schools Adjudicator to 30 June.

- Secondly, we currently specify in regulations a lengthy list of who can object to admission arrangements. We do not believe that this is consistent with local accountability and so we will change the regulations to make it possible for anyone to object to the admission arrangements of a state funded school.

7 The Admissions Code: Questions on the key policy changes

7.1 In year Co-ordination

Question 4: Do you support the proposal to remove the requirement for local authorities to co-ordinate in year applications?

Use of Random Allocation

Question 5: Do you support the proposed change to the use of random allocation?

Infant Class size exceptions

Question 6: Do you support proposals to add twins (and multiple births) and children of service personnel to the list of excepted pupils?

Reduction in Consultation

Question 7: Do you agree with the proposal that admission authorities who are making no change to their arrangements year on year should only be required to consult once every seven years, rather than once every three years?

Allowing priority to children of staff

Question 8: Do you agree with the proposal to allow schools to

give priority to applications for children of staff in their over-subscription criteria?

Changes to objections to the Schools Adjudicator

Question 9: Do you agree that anyone should be able to raise an objection about the admission arrangements they consider unfair or unlawful, of any school?

Question 10: Do you agree that the deadline for objections to the Schools Adjudicator should be moved to 30 June from 31 July?

CHANGES TO THE APPEALS CODE

Our aims in revising the Appeals Code have been to simplify and improve the admission appeals system, reduce cost and bureaucracy for schools in line with giving them more autonomy, whilst ensuring that the appeals system remains fair and objective.

Changes which will simplify and improve the Appeals Code and the appeals system

We have removed the requirement in the Appeals Code for appeal panels to refer unlawful admission arrangements to the Schools Adjudicator because, at the time of an appeal, the admission arrangements have already been used to allocate places. Instead, we will require panels to refer such arrangements to the local authority, and the admission authority if applicable, to prompt them to be reconsidered for arrangements for the next admissions round.

The current Appeals Code sets out a timetable for appeals, which admission authorities can find difficult and costly to adhere to. The revised Appeals Code will provide admission authorities with flexibility to set a timetable for exchanging information that takes into consideration their local circumstances, within an overall framework consisting of working days in which cases must be heard. As part of that framework we propose to introduce a requirement that admission authorities give parents at least 30 working days from receiving an offer to prepare and lodge an appeal. Currently, parents need only be given 10 days to do this. This can have the effect of parents lodging an appeal quickly rather than considering other options. This is backed up by the fact that almost 20 percent of appeals lodged are not taken forward. By giving parents more time to consider the offer made and talk to the local authority, we believe that fewer appeals will be lodged.

These changes, in combination, are designed to provide more clarity

for parents and a clearer timeline for admission authorities to plan and organise the appeals process.

The current Appeals Code requires appeal panels to follow a two stage process for hearing individual and multiple appeals (other than infant class size appeals). The two stage process lacks clarity and provides inadequate guidance on how to hear multiple appeals. The revised Appeals Code splits the two stages of this process into three: the lawfulness and correct application of the arrangements; whether prejudice will arise; and finally, the panel balancing the arguments. This is designed to clarify and separate the considerations and decisions a panel must take, both for multiple and individual appeals.

Changes which will reduce costs and bureaucracy for schools

We propose the removal of the requirement for all appeals in a multiple appeal for a school to be re-heard if a member of the panel withdraws. Instead, we will require postponing the remaining appeals until the third member returns or the admission authority appoints a third member. If the member is withdrawn before an appeal hearing is completed the appeal will have to be reheard. We consider this proportionate to the resource and time cost of having to re-hear large multiple appeals, but a reconstituted appeal panel may still decide to re-hear all appeals if it chooses to.

The current Appeals Code requires admission authorities to accept evidence provided by parents at any stage of the appeal process, including on the day of the hearing. Late evidence can mean the panel has to adjourn the hearing to allow the admission authority to consider and respond to the evidence. The revised Appeals Code gives parents at least two opportunities to provide evidence, including a new requirement that parents can be requested to provide initial evidence when lodging an appeal. The increased time period for making an appeal will make it easier for parents to submit more complete evidence at this stage. Appeal panels will be able to decide what action would be appropriate when evidence is submitted late, and the Appeals Code will require admission authorities to inform parents that any information or evidence not received in advance of the hearing may not be considered at the appeal.

We propose to remove the requirement for admission authorities to advertise for lay appeal members every three years. Instead, we will require them to ensure that panel members retain their independence for the duration of their service.

We have relaxed the guidelines that advised admission authorities against hearing appeals in school premises. Admission authorities will have to hear appeals in appropriate venues, but without requiring a

costly venue hire, when the school itself could be a venue.

We propose to relax the requirements for admission authorities to provide training for appeal panel members. Currently this is required every two years and includes annual updates, but we believe that this is a costly over-prescription. All panel members will still have to be trained before serving on the panel, but thereafter it will be for individual members or panels and the admission authorities to agree when training is required. Where extra training is required, it would be for the admission authority to organise and fund.

8 The Appeals Code: Questions on the key policy changes

8.1 Operation and governance of appeals panels

Question 11: Do you agree with the less prescriptive requirements around the operation, governance and training of appeals panels?

We welcome any views you may have on how this less prescriptive approach may affect the operation of appeals panels and their impartial decision making.

Timetable for appeals

Question 12: Do you agree that the proposed appeals timetable will give more certainty to parents and reduce the number of appeals overall?

We welcome any views you may have on this proposed timetable.

Question 13: Do you agree that the proposed new timetable for lodging and hearing appeals will reduce costs and bureaucracy for admission authorities?

We welcome any views you may have on this proposed timetable and how we can further reduce the burden and costs on admission authorities.

Three stage process

Question 14: Do you agree that the new three stage process will provide a more effective process for appeals panels to consider multiple and individual appeals?

We welcome any views you may have on this proposed timetable and how we can further reduce the burden and costs on admission authorities.

9 Key changes in the Education Bill 2011 (Primary Legislation)

9.1 **The revised Admissions Code has been drafted with reference to provisions that are contained within the Education Bill. They are explained here, although not part of the formal Consultation on the Codes.**

Schools Adjudicator

1. The Schools Adjudicator is an important aspect of the school admissions framework. As now the Schools Adjudicator will consider all objections to admission arrangements for maintained schools. The Bill will extend the Schools Adjudicator's remit so that he will also be able to consider objections in respect of admission arrangements for Academies.

2. We believe it is crucial that we put our trust back in schools and teachers. According to the Chief Adjudicator, the vast majority of schools and admission authorities are compliant and seek to be compliant. It cannot be right that the Schools Adjudicator can impose admission arrangements unilaterally, so we intend to remove the Schools Adjudicator's ability to modify a school's arrangements in a determination. His ability to consider specific objections and his discretion to examine other aspects of admissions arrangements remains, as does the binding nature of his decisions. But the legal responsibility will remain with the admission authority to bring their admission arrangements into line with mandatory requirements in order to comply with the Schools Adjudicator's determination.

Local Authorities

Remove the requirements on local authorities in England to set up Admission Forums.

3. Admission Forums can be an administrative burden on local authorities and communities, imposed by the Education Act 2002. In the current economic climate we do not believe it is right that we should impose such duties, especially when the experiences of those are so mixed. So rather than impose across all areas a requirement to have a Forum, we shall remove that duty through the Bill and leave it to local partnerships to develop and grow. We already know of a number of areas where such partnerships want to continue to operate in a voluntary arrangement.

Remove the requirement for local authorities to report annually to the Schools Adjudicator on how fair access is working in their areas.

4. Whilst we will still require local authorities to produce an annual

report on admissions in their area, our working assumption is a report much like a report local authority officers might send to their scrutiny committee. We shall not require that to be sent to the Schools Adjudicator, but will require that the report be published locally to shift the focus on providing parents and communities with this information instead. The Code will still require local authorities to report on admission arrangements in their area (including how well they support children with SEN and those looked after children; how well Fair Access Protocols operate in their areas and any other matters that the local authority feels are relevant to their communities).

10 How to Respond

- 10.1 This questionnaire takes about 30 minutes to complete online. We encourage you to complete as many of the questions as possible giving as much detail in your response and any supporting evidence.

You can fill in the questionnaire by:

Completing the form online at www.education.gov.uk/consultations; or

Downloading a response form and e-mailing it to:
admissions.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk

or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

Consultation Unit,
Area 1C,
Castle View House,
East Lane,
Runcorn,
Cheshire,
WA7 2GJ

11 Additional Copies

- 11.1 Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Education e-consultation website at:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations>

12 Plans for making results public

- 12.1 It is our stated intention to publish for information a revised set of Codes, taking account of any changes, by the end of September 2011. This is to allow admission authorities seeking to determine their arrangements for 2013, in line with this Code, the maximum possible time to consider the proposed Codes. We aim to bring the Codes into Force in early 2012, subject to the Passage of the Education Bill 2011

and Parliamentary process. We shall publish a full response to the consultation at the same time as publishing the Codes in September 2011.

Consultation on the Changes to the Admissions Framework

Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is: 19 August 2011
Your comments must reach us by that date.

THIS FORM IS NOT INTERACTIVE. If you wish to respond electronically please use the online response facility available on the Department for Education website www.education.gov.uk/consultations

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.

Reason for confidentiality:

Name

Organisation (if applicable)

Address:

Contact Details

If your enquiry is related to the content of the consultation, you can contact the PCU telephone help line on: 0370 000 2288.

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Consultation Unit by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288.

Please tick the box below that best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent Governor
<input type="checkbox"/> Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> National Representative Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Representative Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Headteacher/teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Faith Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)		

Please Specify:

We have sought to remove all duplication and sections of the Codes that were open to misinterpretation, so it is clearer what admission authorities must and must not do within the new Codes as well as making them easier to read and understand.

One of the aims of reviewing the Codes was to reduce the burdens and bureaucracy that schools face by removing unnecessary prescription and elements that drove cost into the process.

The revised Codes should ensure that all school places can continue to be offered in a fair and lawful way, and that school admission appeals can be administered in a more effective way and at lower cost.

Q1) Do you agree that the new Codes achieve these aims?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

Q2) Do you agree with the proposals to allow all popular and successful schools to increase their Published Admission Number?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

Q3) Do you agree that Academies and Free Schools should be able to give priority to children attracting the Pupil Premium in their admission arrangements?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

Q4) Do you support the proposal to remove the requirement for local authorities to co-ordinate in year applications?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Q5) Do you support the proposed change to the use of random allocation?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Q6) Do you support proposals to add twins (and multiple births) and children of service personnel to the list of excepted pupils?

Yes

No

Not sure

Comments:

Q7) Do you agree with the proposal that admission authorities who are making no change to their arrangements year on year should only be required to consult once every seven years, rather than once every three years?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

Q8) Do you agree with the proposal to allow schools to give priority to applications for children of staff in their over-subscription criteria?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

Q9) Do you agree that anyone should be able to raise an objection about the admission arrangements they consider unfair or unlawful, of any school?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

Q10) Do you agree that the deadline for objections to the Schools Adjudicator should be moved to 30 June from 31 July?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

Q11) Do you agree with the less prescriptive requirements around the operation, governance and training of appeals panels?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

Q12) Do you agree that the proposed appeals timetable will give more certainty to parents and reduce the number of appeals overall?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

Q13 Do you agree that the proposed new timetable for lodging and hearing appeals will reduce costs and bureaucracy for admission authorities?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

Q14 Do you agree that the new three stage process will provide a more effective process for appeals panels to consider multiple and individual appeals?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply

Here at the Department for Education we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

Yes

No

All DfE public consultations are required to conform to the following criteria within the Government Code of Practice on Consultation:

Criterion 1: Formal consultation should take place at a stage when there is scope to influence the policy outcome.

Criterion 2: Consultations should normally last for at least 12 weeks with consideration given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible.

Criterion 3: Consultation documents should be clear about the consultation process, what is being proposed, the scope to influence and the expected costs and benefits of the proposals.

Criterion 4: Consultation exercises should be designed to be accessible to, and clearly targeted at, those people the exercise is intended to reach.

Criterion 5: Keeping the burden of consultation to a minimum is essential if consultations are to be effective and if consultees' buy-in to the process is to be obtained.

Criterion 6: Consultation responses should be analysed carefully and clear feedback should be provided to participants following the consultation.

Criterion 7: Officials running consultations should seek guidance in how to run an effective consultation exercise and share what they have learned from the experience.

If you have any comments on how DfE consultations are conducted, please contact Carole Edge, DfE Consultation Co-ordinator, tel: 01928 438060 / email: carole.edge@education.gsi.gov.uk

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 19 August 2011

Send by post to:
Consultation Unit
Area 1C
Castle View House
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 2GJ

Send by e-mail to: admissions.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk