

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

Venue: Town Hall, Rotherham **Date:** Thursday, 13 November 2008

Time: 10.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 3rd July 2008 (copy attached) (Pages 1 - 6)
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd July 2008
4. Local Admissions Forum Annual Report 2008 (copy of draft annual report attached) (Pages 7 - 28)
5. School Admissions Consultation for Entry in the 2010/2011 Academic Year (report attached) (Pages 29 - 41)
6. Aston All Saints Church of England (Aided) Primary School - Objection to Admission Arrangements - School Adjudicator's Decision (document attached) (Pages 42 - 45)
7. Admission to Primary School 2009/2010 - distribution of booklet
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting : to decide Thursdays 19th or 26th March 2009 at 10.00 am

**LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM
THURSDAY, 3RD JULY, 2008**

Present:- Councillor J. Falvey, Mrs. I. G. Hartley (School Governors), Mr. B. N. Sampson (Church of England), Mrs. G. Atkin (Church of England), Mr. M. Hall (Community Representative), Mr. F. Hedge (Community Representative), Mr. G. Lancashire (Junior and Infant Schools) and Mrs. C. Thorpe (Diocese of Hallam)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2008/2009

Agreed:- That Councillor A. Rushforth be appointed Chairman of the Local Admissions Forum for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2008/2009

Agreed:- That Mrs. Irene G. Hartley be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Local Admissions Forum for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

(Mrs. Hartley in the Chair)

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A. Rushforth, Father A. Hayne, Mrs. H. McLoughlin, Mrs. H. Morris, Mrs. P. Powell and Mr. P. Robins.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 20TH MARCH 2008

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Local Admissions Forum, held on Thursday, 20th March, 2008, be approved as a correct record.

5. UPDATE ON THE NUMBERS OF EUROPEAN UNION MIGRANTS, ETC AND THE SCHOOLS ATTENDED

Further to Minute No. 24(a) of the meeting of the Local Admissions Forum held on 20th March, 2008, consideration was given to a report presented by the Principal Officer, Forward Planning (Children and Young People's Services) containing statistical details of the number of new arrivals admitted to primary and secondary schools in Rotherham during (i) the academic year 2006/2007 and (ii) the academic year 2007/2008 (the latter being the position as at 1st May, 2008).

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

6. DEFINITION OF A SIBLING

Further to Minute No. 25(4) of the meeting of the Local Admissions Forum held on 20th March, 2008, consideration was given to an extract of the Local Authority's school admission criteria which contained the definition of the sibling criteria. The definition is:-

"For the sibling criterion to be applicable, one of the following conditions must exist:-

- * brother and/or sister to be permanently resident at the same address
- * stepbrother and/or stepsister to be permanently resident at the same address
- * half brothers and/or half sisters to be permanently resident at the same address.
- * brother and/or sister who do not live at the same residence but, who share the same parents

(You may be required to provide proof e.g. Birth Certificate and proof of residence)"

Agreed:- That the definition of the sibling criteria, as now reported, be noted.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY SCHOOLS MINISTER JIM KNIGHT M.P. - UPDATE ON ACTION AND CONSULTATION

Further to Minute No. 25 of the meeting of the Local Admissions Forum held on 20th March, 2008, consideration was given to a report presented by the Principal Officer, Forward Planning (Children and Young People's Services) concerning the implications of the Ministerial Statement made by Schools Minister Jim Knight M.P., entitled 'Strengthening the School Admissions System'.

The report stated that, in December 2007, the Government published its Children's Plan which included a pledge to monitor the impact of the new Schools Admission Code. As a result, Government officials were asked to carry out an analysis of the published admissions arrangements for 2008 in three local authority areas – Northamptonshire, Manchester and Barnet. This analysis led to the School Minister's decision to produce the statement which included plans for 'strengthening the admissions system for 2009'. The principal points of the statement were:-

- (i) Strengthening the role of local authorities – local authorities to produce a report each year on the legality, fairness and effectiveness of all school admissions arrangements in their area.

(ii) Improving Admissions Forums - consultation on further steps that can be taken to ensure that forums operate as effectively as possible.

(iii) Consulting and engaging communities and parents more effectively – effective consultation should include all those who have an interest in admissions policies, including parents. There will be consultation on steps to be taken.

(iv) Properly informing parents – a new guide for parents on the admissions and appeals codes is to be produced.

(v) Extending the role of the Schools Adjudicator - Schools Adjudicator to report on steps to be taken to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements in respect of 2009 admissions arrangements. Additionally, the period for objections is to be extended.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has subsequently:-

(a) Published 'Primary and Secondary School Admissions and Appeals: A Guide for Parents' in April 2008;

(b) Requested the Schools Adjudicator to seek confirmation from all local authorities that full consultation on all admissions policies and procedures has taken place for 2009/2010. Admissions booklets including all existing policies have been forwarded to the Schools Adjudicator together with any amended policies for that year. The Schools Adjudicator had tested samples of these and had reported back on aspects which appeared contravene the Admissions Code (this report was also provided for the Local Admissions Forum members).

(c) Drafted amendments to the Education and Skills Bill.

(d) Launched a consultation on changes which would include an updated Code. Conferences to discuss potential changes have been arranged to take place shortly with the consultation period ending on 2nd October 2008.

(e) Extended the period for objections to admissions procedures to 31st July.

The report also listed some of the potential changes to the school admissions system which were being suggested as part of the consultation process.

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

(2) That the report of the Schools Adjudicator on the sample testing of the school admissions booklets be noted and the Local Admissions Forum supports the inclusion of the following revised definitions to be included in future admissions policies published by the Council and by voluntary

aided schools (and schools be reminded accordingly):-

- sibling
- distance (definition of Ordnance Survey seed point)
- additional/supplementary forms
- parents / family members

(3) Additionally, it be noted that the reference to 'local school' should be removed from the Additional Information Form.

(4) That further guidance be awaited from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in respect of the reference to the potential removal of "Christ-centred education" as an admissions criterion.

(5) That, with regard to the admissions policy of Aston All Saints Church of England (Aided) Primary School:-

(a) the Local Admissions Forum notes the Schools Adjudicator's concerns that a "place of request form" ought not to be used as a tie-breaker within the admissions criteria, as it appears to contravene paragraph 2.13 of the DCSF Admissions Code of Practice; and

(b) the Local Admissions Forum shall make a formal objection to the Schools Adjudicator in line with the Code of Practice and the recent Ministerial letter, against the inclusion of this tie-breaker in the admissions criteria for Aston All Saints Church of England (Aided) Primary School.

(6) That, in response to the Department for Children, Schools and Families' consultation, it is the view of this Local Admissions Forum that the role and structure of Local Admissions Forums shall remain unchanged.

(7) That the Governing Bodies for the Treeton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School and the Wickersley St. Alban's Church of England (Aided) Primary School should reconsider aspects of their current policies which could be seen as confusing for parents.

8. ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - OBJECTION TO ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS - SCHOOL ADJUDICATOR'S DETERMINATION

Further to Minute No. 25(3) of the meeting of the Local Admissions Forum held on 20th March, 2008, consideration was given to a report presented by the Principal Officer, Forward Planning (Children and Young People's Services) containing the determination of the Schools Adjudicator in response to the objection lodged by the Council about the proposed admissions policy for 2009/2010 for St. Bede's Catholic Primary School.

The Schools Adjudicator's decision was dated 3rd June 2008 and, in accordance with Section 90(3) of the School Standards and Framework

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Act 1998, partially upheld the objection lodged by this Council. Additionally, the Schools Adjudicator determined that, for admissions to the school in September 2009, September 2010 and September 2011, the arrangements for St. Bede's Catholic Primary School should be as set out in the annex to the determination.

Agreed:- That the report be received and the determination of the Schools Adjudicator be noted.

9. ADMISSIONS FORUM REPORTS - INFORMATION NOTE

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Principal Officer, Forward Planning (Children and Young People's Services) containing detailed information about the purpose and scope of annual reports to be published by Local Admissions Forums and providing guidelines on their content. The report stated that Regulation 3(1A) of the Education (Admission Forums) (England) Regulations 2002 ('the Forum Regulations'), as amended by the Education (Admission Forums) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007, prescribed the information to be included in such reports.

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

(2) That a draft annual report for the Rotherham Local Admissions Forum be submitted to the meeting to be held on 13th November, 2008.

10. ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION 2010/2011

The Local Admissions Forum noted details of the consultation process which would take place in respect of admissions to schools for the academic year September 2010 to August 2011.

It was noted that there may be proposed amendments to the admissions criteria applying to community and controlled schools.

This matter would be considered further at the next meeting of the Local Admissions Forum, scheduled to take place on Thursday, 13th November, 2008.

11. ADMISSION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL - 2009/2010 BOOKLET

Members of the Local Admissions Forum received copies of the booklet for admission to secondary school 2009/2010, which was being distributed to parents.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) School Admission Appeals for the 2008/2009 Academic Year

The Local Admissions Forum received statistical information about the

number of appeals heard, to 3rd July 2008, in respect of admissions to primary and secondary schools in Rotherham for the academic year beginning in September, 2008.

(b) Primary (Infant) Schools – Admission Appeals - ‘Qualifying Measures’

The Local Admissions Forum discussed an issue which had arisen during the current round of infant school admission appeals. In a small number of cases, there had been questioning of the Admission Authority’s contention that to admit further children to a school, above the Admission Number, would require the Local Authority and the School Governing Body to take “qualifying measures” such as the building of an extra classroom and the employment of an extra teacher in order to ensure that the infant classes did not exceed thirty pupils.

The Local Admissions Forum noted the contents of Paragraph 3.48 of the Government’s School Admission Appeals Code which stated that “It is not the role of the panel to reassess the capacity of the school as this should have been agreed locally based on an objective assessment of the space available. The panel should consider the impact on the school of admitting additional children in terms of the organisation and size of classes, the availability of teaching staff and the effect on children already at the school”.

Reference was also made to the school funding system, introduced in 1999, which built upon Local Management of Schools (LMS) by increasing the level of financial delegation to schools. Its key aspects are formula funding and the delegation of financial responsibility to schools. It is used by local education authorities to calculate the budgets of all schools maintained by them. The system also sets the framework for the financial relationship that operates between schools and their local education authorities.

The Local Admissions Forum agreed that these issues should be emphasised at the next training session for School Admission Appeals Panel members.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 2008 AT 10.00 A.M.

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Local Admissions Forum be held on Thursday, 13th November, 2008, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

ROTHERHAM

LOCAL

ADMISSIONS

FORUM

Annual Report

Autumn 2008.

ROTHERHAM ADMISSIONS FORUM ANNUAL REPORT - AUTUMN, 2008

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ADMISSIONS FORUM ANNUAL REPORT - AUTUMN 2008

ANNUAL ADMISSIONS REPORT FOR THE 2007/08 ADMISSION YEAR

1. **Purpose of the Report and Legal Framework**

Section 85A(1A) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as inserted by section 41(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) provides admissions forums with the power to produce an annual report on school admissions. Regulation 3(1A) of the Education (Admissions Forums) (England) Regulations 2002 ('the Forum Regulations') prescribes what will be included in such reports.

Local Authorities are required, under section 13A of the Education Act 1996, as substituted by section 1 of the Education Inspections Act 2006, to exercise their functions, so far as possible, with a view to '*ensuring fair access to educational opportunity*'.

Paragraph 1.67 of the School Admissions Code extends the duty to achieve fair access to all schools:

*'Admission authorities and governing bodies **must** ensure that their admission arrangements and other school policies are fair and do not disadvantage, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social or racial group, or a child with a disability or special educational needs'*.

The admission forum report offers the opportunity therefore, to provide an objective analysis of the degree to which local admission arrangements support fair access.

Although the report should review the year's admission arrangements and processes and should concern itself fundamentally with school admission issues, it should not confine itself solely to these issues, especially where broader school policies might affect parents exercising their choice.

In order to put school admissions into context it is probably prudent to look first of all at the provision of school places within Rotherham, pupil numbers and demographic trends.

2. **Provision of school places**

Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the area. They must also ensure that there are sufficient schools, promote diversity and increase parental choice.

In assessing the above, there is a balance to be made between the provision of places (capacity) and the use of resources for the benefit of all local children.

The Authority produces an annual 'surplus places' return. For 2007/08, this shows the following:-

2.2. Primary Schools

No of school	101	(85 com/controlled and 16 vol. aided)
Total net capacity	23,410	(R-Y6)
Total number of pupils	20,935	(R-Y6)
No of surplus places	2,527	
% surplus	10.8%	
(12 schools were 'full')		

2.3 Secondary Schools

No of schools	16	(14 com/controlled and 2 vol. aided)
Total net capacity	20,944	
Total number of pupils	19,858	
No of surplus places	1,186	
% surplus	5.7%	
(5 schools were 'full')		

3. **Number of pupils/demographic trends**

The number of Primary and Secondary pupils in each year group in 2007/08 was as follows:-

R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	V1th Form
2908	2843	2815	3010	3027	3119	3207	3480	3512	3617	3647	3790	1815

3.1 Primary

Pupil's numbers have been falling for a number of years as smaller cohorts have entered Reception. The smallest cohort is now in Y2 and numbers entering schools have begun to increase since then.

The total number on roll in the Primary sector is likely to be at its low point in 2009/10 and numbers will then steadily increase up to around 2017.

Over the last 5 years the Authority has taken out 1373 primary school places as pupil numbers have fallen.

3.2 Secondary

Pupils' numbers are also now falling. The largest cohort is in Y11.

Total number on roll is likely to reach its low point in 2015/16.

Secondary school capacity will be reduced through the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

NB. It is generally believed that between 5% and 10% surplus places provides sufficient scope to provide for maximising parental preference whilst making the best use of resources.

4. Admissions

Table 1 in **Appendix 6** sets out the majority of the prescribed data for individual Primary Schools with Table 2 supplying the same information for Secondary Schools. The Primary Schools are grouped into the 12 areas used for school place planning.

4.1 Primary Schools

14 of the Primary Schools were oversubscribed. A further 7 primary schools were able to offer places to all children who applied by the closing date, but had then reached their admission limit and were not able to offer places to subsequent late applications.

The total percentages for 1st/2nd/3rd preferences for approved places are shown below.

	1 st Pref	2 nd Pref	3 rd Pref	Pref 15	Total
Reception	95.98	2.32	0.53	1.17	100
Y2/Y3	100	0	0	0	100

A very small number 31, (1.17%) of pupils did not gain one of their preferred schools for Reception/Foundation Stage 2 and were allocated a place at the next nearest/appropriate school with places available, in accordance with the co-ordinated admissions scheme. There was total satisfaction with the Infant to Junior School admissions. These are shown in the Preference 15 column in the above table.

Preferences can only be refused where the number of preferences exceeds the number of places available. Places are offered by reference to the admission authority's published admissions criteria.

Appendix 1 shows the position as regards oversubscribed schools.

4.2 Secondary Schools

Seven of the Secondary Schools were oversubscribed.

The total percentages for 1st/2nd/3rd preferences for approved places are shown below.

	1 st Pref	2 nd Pref	3 rd Pref	Pref 15	Total
Secondary	94.97	3.11	0.82	1.10	100

A smaller number 38, (1.1%) of pupils did not gain access to one of their preferred schools and were allocated a place at the next nearest/appropriate school with places available, in accordance with the co-ordinated admissions scheme.

Appendix 2 shows the position as regards oversubscribed schools.

4.3 Primary and Secondary School Appeals

Appendix 3 shows the position regarding primary and secondary school appeals. It takes account of the late appeals.

The statistics relate only to the Y6 - 7 admissions and the Reception/Foundation Stage 2 admissions.

The number of appeals processed is slightly fewer than the previous year, although there have been increases in the numbers for both of the Church Aided Secondary Schools.

In terms of qualifying measures, there continue to be many appeals for the primary schools around and near to the Rotherham town centre (eg: St. Ann's, Thornhill, Ferham and Kimberworth Community).

There continues to be concern, on a national scale, about the '30 limit' appeals for primary school pupils, because of parents' limited scope to succeed with the appeal. It is anticipated that the DCSF may undertake a consultation process about whether such appeals ought to be reviewed by an appointed official, instead of being dealt with by an appeals panel.

Two of the secondary school show marked contrasts this year, when compared with the previous year. Clifton has had no appeals for this year new starters, compared with 22 last year. There were no appeals for Wales High School Year 7 starters last year, compared with 26 this year. One explanation may be the extremely good OFSTED report which Wales High School has received. The vast majority of the appeals were from out of area pupils, all of whom made reference to educational reasons for preferring the School and were subsequently unsuccessful.

There were two cases in which the parents made complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman about their unsuccessful appeals. The Ombudsman did not find it necessary to investigate one of these referrals and in the second case, the Ombudsman's conclusion was that there was no maladministration causing injustice.

4.4 Casual/In Year Transfers

During the academic year 2007/8 there were 2,009 casual/in year transfers. This figure included 347 children who were new arrivals from overseas.

There have been a number of new arrivals from overseas during the past few years. Figures are shown below:-

2007/8	347 children
2006/7	406 children
2005/6	324 children

The figures for this new academic year are similar to last year.

Last year new arrivals who were Year 10 and Year 11 were able to access educational provision at Rotherham College of Arts and Technology. This year the provision is currently under discussion.

The Admissions Team continues to liaise closely with the Safeguarding Unit/Welcome Centre and Education Welfare Officers/ to locate children. There is a large degree of movement with some families. We have noticed that some children from previous years have moved away and return again during the summer.

5. Ethnicity/social mix/looked after children/pupils with SEN

Tables 1 and 2 which are attached as **Appendix 6** include details for all schools.

It is difficult to draw any specific conclusion from this data.

The admissions policies and criteria for each school should now all conform with provisions contained within the School Admissions Code.

- 5.1 Looked After Children have top priority within admissions criteria (in accordance with the Code) and all those pupils with statements of SEN gain a place at the school named via the statementing process.
- 5.2 The admissions criteria for community/controlled schools gives high priority to those living within the catchment area of the school and 100% of secondary and 99.9% of primary catchment area pupils gain access to their catchment area school where this is their 1st preferred school. Additionally 84.7% of secondary

and 57.6% of primary children attend their catchment area school. The relatively low percentage for primary schools reflects the availability of schools within a short distance from their home address including a large number of church schools. Even where primary children attend a school other than their catchment area school, it will in the vast majority of cases be a school close to their home address and therefore, they will be educated within their local community. The ethnic/social mix, therefore, very closely reflects the ethnic/social mix for the area served by each school. Drawn catchment areas are, in the vast majority of cases, long standing and are not drawn up so as to include or exclude any particular groups.

6. In-year fair access protocol

The Local Admissions Forum agreed the In-year fair access protocol. The protocol applies equally to all Primary and Secondary Schools within Rotherham in respect of preferences made outside of the normal admissions round on behalf of pupils who would otherwise have no place available to them.

The protocol includes children who have been permanently excluded from school. During the academic year there were 4 permanent exclusions. This included 3 secondary age children and 1 primary age child. This number of permanent exclusions has reduced significantly from the number in the previous year which was 51.

With regard to in year admissions and transfers of Children in Public Care the following information is provided.

For Primary Schools, during the academic year there were 14 approved transfers. 2 of these requests were from other local authorities when children were placed with carers in Rotherham.

For Secondary Schools, during the academic year there were 10 approved transfers. 5 of these requests were from other local authorities when children were placed with carers in Rotherham.

An additional 17 Looked after Children were also dealt with via Statements of Special Educational Needs from other Local Authorities.

There were additionally 24 applications processed within the protocol involving 16 children where the change of schools was linked to domestic violence.

There were 4 applications involving 3 children where confirmation had been received that involved a first time asylum seeker.

There were no applications processed using the other categories of the In Year Fair Access Protocol. As with all other applications for a transfer of schools, these applications are normally processed and a decision confirmed in writing within ten working days.

When a large number of families with children move into an area fairly quickly, this may affect the operation of the In Year Fair Access Protocol. Where there is a large influx in a geographical area it could lead to classes of well above 30 pupils per class particularly in Key Stage 2.

7. Infant class sizes

- 7.1 Rotherham had just 3 schools with infant classes in excess of 30 at the time of the annual school census.

The schools and the reasons were as follows:-

Blackburn Primary School	1 statemented child being educated outside the chronological age group.
Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant/ St Joseph's Catholic Primary (Rawmarsh)	} Each school has a class exceeding 30. This followed on from the closure of Rawmarsh St Mary's CE School.

Following closure of St Mary's, all existing pupils had the opportunity to apply for a place in alternative local schools.

Places in some year groups were in short supply and the 30 limit had to be exceeded in these two instances.

In all three cases, the pupils concerned were assessed as being 'excepted pupils' (1 statemented during the year and 2 where no places were available within a reasonable distance).

- 7.2 Primary schools have been reminded of the duty in respect of infant class sizes and plans are always put into place for the following year where the limit has been exceeded.
- 7.3 Appeals Panel Members continue to receive appropriate training which includes information specifically relating to appeals for cases refused due to the class-size limits.

8. Additional Matters

- 8.1 All admission authorities have given consideration to the Admission Code which was published in 2007.
- 8.2 The Local Authority and the LAF are aware of their responsibilities in respect of compliance with the mandatory provisions.

8.3 There have been two recent cases which have been referred to the School Adjudicator which concerned:

- St Bede's Catholic Primary School and
- Aston All Saints CE Primary School.

The former principally sought clarification about the use of attendance at the school's early years provision as part of the admissions criteria. The objection was partially upheld but the Adjudicator agreed that the school, as a faith school, could legitimately use it as a tie-breaker when assessing preferences for the school.

In the latter case, Aston All Saints have used a 'Place Request Form' as part of the admission process. Once again, this was used only as a tie-breaker.

The Schools Adjudicator upheld the objection made by the Local Admissions Forum and all references to the 'Place Request Form' and its use have now been removed from the admissions criteria applying to the school.

8.4 The Local Authority has conducted a survey of schools' uniform policies. As with many other matters, (eg transport, catchment areas, marketing, trips and extra-curricular activities etc) there is no evidence to suggest that there is any barrier to admission. **Appendix 4** shows details of costs.

8.5 The Choice Advice Service, which operates for Secondary School Admissions, has been widely publicised through leaflets to all parents, details in the 'Admission to School booklets' and publicity notices. Information about the service is also published on the Council Website next to the School Admission information. The Choice Advice service also has a dedicated email address and phone line. Despite the best efforts of the Authority take-up has been limited and calls to the service by phone, email or appointment have been minimal. This does reflect on the high quality of advice and service already given by the Admissions Team which gives the necessary information to parents. The Authority has already one of the highest 'first choice' satisfaction rates (95%) and this indicates that parents are not making frivolous uninformed choices which might lead to disappointment.

8.6 The LA has a website which gives full information, with relevant links, on admission. In the last year there were 931 on line applications. There were 510 secondary applications, 380 applications for Reception/Foundation Stage 2 and 41 applications for Infant to Junior School admissions.

8.7 The Local Authority conducts a Parental Survey each year on the application process. The most recent survey showed that 98% of secondary and 97% of primary booklet respondents stated that they found the booklets helpful.

8.8 The details of the Local Admissions Forum are shown in **Appendix 5**

Recommendations

(To be finalised at the meeting).

Appendix 1**OVERSUBSCRIBED PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

As at the offer date the following school was oversubscribed and could only offer places to some of those children in categories (i) and (ii) of the admissions criteria.

School	Published Admission Number	Category (i) Applications (children looked after by the Local Authority)	Category (ii) (catchment) Applications	No. of catchment area NOT offered this school and placed on the waiting list as per the co-ordinated scheme
Thornhill	30	0	33	3

In the case of the above school, all applications in the categories below category (ii) were also placed on the waiting list for the preferred school as per the co-ordinated scheme.

The following schools (overleaf) were oversubscribed at the time of allocation, after priority had been given to children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs and Children in Public Care, those who lived in the catchment area and children with siblings who attended that school, the remaining places were filled by children who lived nearest to the school as determined by the admissions criteria.

School	Places remaining	No. of applications in category VI	No. of applicants NOT offered this school and placed on the waiting list as per the co-ordinated scheme
Aston Fence	0	10	10
Aston Hall	6	7	1
Aston Lodge	3	4	1
Bramley Sunnyside	24	26	2
Kimberworth	1	13	12
Listerdale	9	33	24
Ravenfield	7	8	1
Rawmarsh Ashwood	1	8	7
Rawmarsh Thorogate	14	22	8
Todwick	7	12	5
Wentworth	0	12	12
Whiston Worrygoose	6	24	18
Wickersley Northfield	22	32	10

Some schools, although able to offer places to all children who applied by the closing date, had then reached their admission limit and were not able to offer places to subsequent late applications. These schools were:

- Rawmarsh St. Joseph's
- Bramley Grange
- Ferham
- Herringthorpe
- Meadow View
- Wales
- Wath Victoria

Oversubscribed Voluntary Aided Schools

School	No. of applications as at the closing date	No. of applicants NOT offered this school and placed on the waiting list as per the co-ordinated scheme
Brampton, The Ellis C.E. Infant	55	15
St. Alban's C.E. J&I	33	3
Wath C.E. Primary	35	5
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary (Dinnington)	31	1
St. Mary's Catholic Primary (Herringthorpe)	51	21
Our Lady & St. Joseph's Catholic Primary	31	1

Appendix 2

OVERSUBSCRIBED SECONDARY SCHOOLS

As at the offer date the following schools were oversubscribed:-

Oakwood Technology College

This school was oversubscribed. After preferences were agreed for children who had a Statement of Special Educational Needs, were in public care, children who lived in the catchment area, siblings and those in feeder Primary Schools there were 33 places available which were allocated to children who lived nearest the school. Of those who were not offered places 14 were added to the waiting list as they had not been offered a place at a higher ranked school within the area of co-ordination.

Wales High School, A Business and Enterprise College

This school was oversubscribed. After preferences were agreed for children who had a Statement of Special Educational Needs, children in Public care, children who lived in the catchment area, siblings and those in feeder Primary schools there were 23 places available which were allocated to children who lived nearest the school. Of those who were not offered places 41 were added to the waiting list as they had not been offered a place at a higher ranked school within the area of co-ordination.

Wath Comprehensive, A Language College

This school was oversubscribed. After preferences were agreed for children who had a Statement of Special Educational Needs, were in Public Care, who lived in the catchment area, siblings and those in feeder Primary Schools there were 22 places available which were allocated to children who lived nearest the school. Of those who were not offered places 73 were added to the waiting list as they had not been offered a place at a higher ranked school within the area of co-ordination.

Wickersley School and Sports College

This school was oversubscribed. After preferences were agreed for children who had a Statement of Special Educational Needs, those who lived in the catchment area, and siblings there were no places available. The number of places allocated under these criteria was 301 exceptionally. Of those who were not offered places 98 were added to the waiting list as they had not been offered a place at a higher ranked school within the area of co-ordination.

Wingfield Comprehensive School

This school was oversubscribed. After preferences were agreed for children who had a Statement of Special Educational Needs, were in public care, children who lived in the catchment area, siblings and those in feeder Primary Schools there was 1 place available which was allocated to the child who lived nearest the school. Of those who were not offered places 5 were added to the waiting list as they had not been offered a place at a higher ranked school within the area of co-ordination.

St. Bernard's Catholic High School, Specialist School for the Arts

This school was oversubscribed. At the time of allocation this school was only able to allocate places to children who fell into category 5 or above. Of those who were not offered places, 45 were added to the waiting list as they had not been offered a place at a higher ranked school within the area of co-ordination.

Saint Pius X Catholic High School A Specialist School in Humanities

This school was oversubscribed. After preferences were agreed for children who had been placed in category 5C or above, 7 places remained. The school exceptionally allocated places to 131 children. Of those who were not offered places 20 were added to the waiting list as they had not been offered a place at a higher ranked school within the area of co-ordination.

Appendix 5

ROTHERHAM: LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

The Admissions Forum meets three times per year. Meetings are usually held in March, July and November.

All schools are officially members of the Forum and agenda/minutes are available via an e-mail link.

There is a 'core membership' of the Forum and this is made up as follows:-

i)	Local Authority	3 members
ii)	Schools - community and voluntary controlled	3 members
iii)	Schools – voluntary aided	3 members
v)	Church of England Diocese	3 members
v)	Roman Catholic Diocese	3 members
vi)	Representatives of the local community	3 members
vii)	Parent Governor representative	1 member

Current members are:-

- i) Cllrs. Rushforth, Falvey and Barron
- ii) Mrs. I. G. Hartley + 2 vacancies
- iii) Mr. G. Lancashire + 2 vacancies
- iv) Mr. B.N. Sampson, Ms. H. Morris and Mrs. G. Atkin
- v) Ms. C. Thorpe, Mrs. H. McLaughlin and Father A. Haynes
- vi) Mrs. P. Powell, Mrs. F. Hedge and Mr. P. Robins
- vii) Mr. M. Hall

Appendix 3

Statistics of Admission Appeals

LEA Schools

Secondary Schools

	Allowed	Refused	Allocated before appeal	Late Appeal	Previous Allowed	Year Refused
BRINSWORTH	-	-	-	-	2	-
CLIFTON	-	-	-	-	20	2
OAKWOOD	9	1	4	8	17	2
RAWMARSH	-	-	-	-	1	-
WALES	4	21	1	-	-	-
WATH	6	18	1	4	8	3
WICKERSLEY	12	18	3	7	17	25
WINGFIELD	1	-	2	1	11	-
WINTERHILL	-	-	-	-	-	1

Primary Schools	2	45	7	8	19	39
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Qualifying Measures	-	44	7	8	1	30
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Church Aided Schools

Saint Bernard's RC High	4	12	1	1	5	5
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Wath Saint Pius X High	11	1	-	-	6	-
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Church Primary Schools	-	9	3	1	2	13
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Qualifying Measures	-	9	3	1	2	8
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Survey of Schools' Uniform Policies

School	Sweatshirts				Y11 Top	Polo Shirt				Shirt/Blouse	Skirt	Trousers	Blazer	Tie	Badge	Apron	Pencil Case Set
	26/32/33"	34"	S/M	L/XL/XXL	S/M/L	26/30"	32/34"	S/M	L/XL/XXL								
Aston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£20.00	£2.50	£5.00	-	-
Brinsworth	£9.00	£11.00	£11.00	£12.00	-	£6.20	£7.25	£7.25	£7.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clifton	£8.50	£9.50	£9.50	£9.50	-	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dinnington	-	-	£8.50	£10.00	-	-	-	£6.95	£8.17	-	-	-	-	£4.00	£2.50	-	-
Maltby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oakwood	£13.00	£13.00	£13.00	£13.00	£10.00	£12.00	£12.00	£12.00	£12.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	£5.00	-
Rawmarsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£22.00	£3.00 - £4.00	£2.50	-	-
Swinton	£12.50 - £13.00	£14.00	£14.50	£15.00 - £15.50	-	£10.50	£11.00 - £12.50	£12.50 - £13.00	£13.00 - £14.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thrybergh	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	£11.00	-	£7.50	£7.50	£7.50	£7.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£2.00
Wales	£8.50	£8.50	£8.50	£12.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£2.25 - £4.00	£3.00	£3.00	-
Wath	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	From £15.00 (2)	£12.00	£16.00	From £39.50	£3.00	£5.00	-	-
Wickersley	£9.00	£14.00	£14.00	£14.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wingfield	£9.00	£9.50	£11.00	£12.00	-	£7.50	£8.00	£9.50	£10.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winterhill	£10.00	£11.00	£12.00 - £13.00	£14.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

School	Polo/Football/Rugby Shirt/T Shirt			Rugby Shirt	Sports Top	Polo Shirt Girls	Girls PE Sweatshirt	Sweatshirt (unisex)	NIKE Top	Drill Top	Dance Top	Shorts		Socks		Rain/Fleece Jacket		Tracksuit Bottoms		School Bag		
	26-28/ 30-32/ 34"	S/M	L/XL	30/48"	32/44"	30/48"		S/XL		S/XL	28/40"	22/28"	30" - 42"	12-2 & 3-6	7-13	30"	32/34" & S	M/L/XL	22/28"	30/38"		
Aston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brinsworth	£11.25	£13.25	£13.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£5.50	£6.50	£2.90	£3.40	£11.25	£13.20	£13.20	-	-	-	-
Clifton	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£5.50	£5.50	£3.00	£3.00	-	-	-	£10.50	£11.00	-	-
Dinnington	£4.00	£4.00 - £6.00	£6.00	£12.00 - £16.00	£17.00 - £18.00	£10.00 - £11.50	-	£14.00 - £14.50	-	-	-	£7.00 - £9.00	£12.00	£2.50	£3.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maltby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oakwood	£12.00	£15.00	£15.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rawmarsh	£8.00	£8.00	£8.00	-	-	-	-	£9.00 - £10.00	-	£13.50	-	-	-	-	-	£20.00	£20.00	£20.00	-	-	-	-
Swinton	£12.50 - £15.00	£15.00 - £16.00	£16.00 - £18.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£12.50	£14.50	£15.00	-	-	-	-
Thrybergh	£4.00	£4.00	£4.00	-	-	-	£8.00	-	£13.00	-	-	£3.00	£3.00	£2.50	£2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	£1.50
Wales	£8.00 - £9.50	£10.00 - £12.00	£13.00 - £14.50	-	£11.00	-	-	£8.50 - £12.00	-	£15.50	-	£2.00	£2.50 - £3.00	£2.00	£2.50	-	-	-	£6.00	£6.00	-	-
Wath	From £4.00	-	-	-	-	From £8.00	-	-	-	From £16.00	-	From £7.00	-	From £3.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wickersley	£5.50	£6.00	£7.00	£20.00 - £24.00	-	£8.00 - 14.50	-	£12.00 - £14.50	-	-	£8.50	£5.00	£6.00	£2.50 - £3.00	£3.00	£19.00	£19.00	£19.00	-	-	-	-
Wingfield	£12.50 - £15.00	£15.00	£15.00	-	-	£7.50 - £9.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winterhill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

											Y7	WHOLE SCHOOL										
			Allocated Preferences					Appeals	Appeals	Free school meals		Free School Meals eligible		Free School Meals taken		BME	BME	LAC	% LAC	Statements	Statements	
	NOR	Type	Admiss No	1st	2nd	3rd	pref 15	Total	Lodged	Upheld	Y7 Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	number	%			Number	%
												NOR				take up						
Secondary School																						
Aston Comprehensive: A Specialist School in Maths & C	1504	C	280	274	4	1	1	280			29	1.92	136	9.04	80	58.82	115	6.67	8	0.46	30	1.74
Brinsworth Comprehensive School	1241	C	255	225	5	0	2	232			37	2.98	183	14.75	136	74.32	330	23.04	5	0.35	24	1.68
Clifton: A Community Arts School	1310	C	150	211	14	8	6	239			78	5.95	414	31.60	293	70.77	313	23.89	8	0.61	20	1.53
Dinnington Comprehensive School - Specialising in Scie	1236	C	252	229	9	3	6	247			25	2.02	136	11.00	52	38.24	28	1.98	8	0.56	25	1.76
Maltby Comprehensive School	1111	C	290	200	13	3	11	227			49	4.41	201	18.09	132	65.67	18	1.46	6	0.49	15	1.22
Oakwood Technology College	1070	C	210	180	26	4	0	210	8	7	28	2.61	168	15.70	119	70.83	358	33.46	7	0.65	14	1.31
Rawmarsh Community School - A Sports College	1085	C	222	204	6	0	2	212			53	4.88	205	18.89	148	72.20	25	2.3	2	0.18	16	1.47
Saint Pius X Catholic High School	659	VA	130	121	10	0	0	131	12	11	11	1.66	55	8.35	30	54.55	31	4.7	5	0.76	11	1.67
St Bernards Catholic High School: Specialist School for	663	VA	140	138	2	0	0	140	17	4	21	3.16	79	11.92	60	75.95	114	17.19	10	1.51	18	2.71
Swinton Community School: A Maths & Computing Coll	930	C	226	141	4	1	0	146			26	2.79	135	14.52	99	73.33	21	1.94	9	0.83	34	3.13
Thrybergh Comprehensive School	600	C	140	113	5	4	7	129			52	8.66	205	34.17	204	99.51	33	5.5	6	1	10	1.67
Wales High School	1239	C	248	244	2	2	0	248	24	4	42	3.38	163	13.16	74	45.40	33	2.14	8	0.52	29	1.88
Wath Comprehensive School: a Language College	1461	C	300	300	0	0	0	300	22	6	33	2.25	168	11.50	117	69.64	64	3.65	19	1.08	27	1.54
Wickersley School & Sports College	1527	C	300	301	0	0	0	301	30	11	41	2.68	116	7.60	100	86.21	208	11.09	8	0.43	39	2.08
Wingfield Comprehensive School	849	C	170	167	3	0	0	170			47	5.53	183	21.55	113	61.75	48	5.65	8	0.94	19	2.24
Winterhill School	1558	C	320	223	4	2	3	232			63	4.04	269	17.27	227	84.39	225	14.44	14	0.9	23	1.48
Totals for Borough	18044			94.97	3.1	0.81	1.1	3444	113	43	635	3.51	2816	15.6	1994	70.8	1964	10.88	131	0.72	354	1.96

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO GOVERNING BODIES – AUTUMN TERM 2008**

CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADMISSION YEAR 2010/11

i) **Admission Numbers and Admissions Criteria**

This item gives governors the opportunity to consider the admission arrangements (criteria and admission number), which will apply for admission in 2010/11. The Local Admission Forum has previously considered the requirements for consultation and has agreed that the LA should facilitate this, as far as possible, by use of the Authority's Internet site.

The timetable for the year is:-
Autumn Term 2008

Governing bodies consider the arrangements which will apply.

By 10th January 2009

All relevant details to be forwarded to the LA.

17th January – 1st March 2009

Period of consultation via the LA's website.

By end of March

LA and the Local Admission Forum consider any changes and forward any comments to appropriate Admission Authority(ies).

By 15th April 2009

All admission authorities to determine their arrangements and notify those consulted.

Community and Controlled Schools

For these schools, the LA is the admission authority. The proposed admissions criteria for 2010/11 are shown at Appendix 1. **There are proposed changes to the criteria which applied for 2009/10 and the LA is consulting on these – further details are overleaf.**

Each school's proposed admission number is shown at appendix 2.

Action: The governing body is requested to complete and return the pro-forma to Martin Harrop, 1st Floor, Norfolk House, as soon as possible and no later than 10th January 2008.

Voluntary Aided Schools

The governing body is the admission authority. Full consultation is required this year.

If there are any proposed changes at Church of England schools, Governing Bodies should consult their Diocesan Board before consulting anyone else.

Action: Governing Bodies to consider both the admissions criteria and the admission number appropriate for the school. If there are any proposed changes, full details of the admissions criteria and admissions number to be forwarded to the LEA by 10th January 2009 to enable the full consultation with all the appropriate consultees to be carried out via the Internet. This should be done by e-mail to martin.harrop@rotherham.gov.uk

Pro-forma to be completed and returned as for community and controlled schools.

Further General Points

All admission numbers should now be set by reference to the indicated admission number (IAN) deriving from the net capacity calculation.

An admission number higher than the IAN can be set, subject to the necessary consultation, feedback and determination.

An admission number lower than the IAN can be set, subject to the above, but would also require the publication of a notice with provision for objection to the Adjudicator.

All infant, J&I, Primary schools need to continue to be mindful of the need to maintain classes from R to Y2 at 30 or less.

If you require any further information or would wish to discuss any matters relating to admission numbers/criteria/net capacity, please contact Martin Harrop on 01709 822415.

ii) **Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements**

Schemes for the co-ordination of admission arrangements for Primary and Secondary schools were agreed for 2009/10.

Once again, there are no proposed changes to those schemes, except for any necessary minor amendments to dates.

Action: Governing Bodies to note and to forward any comments, if any, on the pro-forma.

Proposed changes to the admissions criteria applying to community and controlled schools

The Authority is consulting on possible amendments to its admissions criteria applying to community and controlled schools. This is in response to provisions contained within the Schools Admissions Code under Chapter 2 – Setting fair oversubscription criteria, particularly in relation to Government advice on the treatment of siblings and also in relation to those with a specified medical/social need.

There was a proposal to make some changes last year, but this was not agreed following feedback and also as a result of a likely new revised Admissions Code which may make changes as regards possibly enhanced consultation requirements. The following gives the background to the proposed changes.

The current School Admissions Code includes under Section 2 (Setting Fair Oversubscription Criteria) a number of paragraphs which consider the position of siblings and also those children with a Social or Medical need.

Paragraph 2.18 ‘Siblings at Primary Schools’ reads:

‘Families must be at the heart of the admissions system and the Government expects the admission authorities for primary schools to take the needs of parents with young children into account in deciding which oversubscription criteria will be used. At primary schools it is good practice to give priority to siblings. Admission authorities **should** ensure in their oversubscription criteria that, as far as possible, siblings (including twins, triplets or children from other multiple births) can attend the same primary school, as long as they comply with the infant class size regulations.’

Interestingly, in respect of secondary school aged children Paragraph 2.19 reads: 'At secondary school age, children are usually more independent but many parents will still want their children to attend the same schools. Giving priority to siblings at secondary schools that have no more than 10% selection by ability and aptitude is acceptable and can be good practice.'

On '**Social and medical need**' the Code includes at Paragraph 2.25:

'Admission authorities **must not** use this criterion to give a child a lower priority in obtaining a place at the school, but it is acceptable to give higher priority to children or families where there is a social or medical need (for example where one or both parents or the child has a disability that may make travel to a school further away more difficult).'

Rotherham has always used catchment areas as part of the published criteria and this has usually been afforded top priority, save for the mandatory requirement, now in place, which puts 'relevant looked after children' as the first criterion and the special conditions, in relation to Y3, where attendance at the associated Infant school has a higher priority. The majority of children entering community and controlled schools fall into the 'catchment area' category and the Code confirms that use of catchment areas is lawful and acceptable. However, living in the catchment area does not guarantee a place in a school as, in some instances, there will be more catchment area preferences than places available. Where that is the case, the distance tie-breaker comes into use, but it means that with reference to the current priority order, those living outside the catchment area with a sibling on roll at the school and those with a recognised social or medical need would not be offered a place. In respect of the latter, that decision would seem particularly perverse since the pupil would fall into a category which the LA (the admission authority for the school) would be agreeing would make attendance **at that particular school essential**.

It also means that in some instances someone who lives in a catchment area **and who also has a sibling** in attendance in the school might not gain a place on the distance tie-breaker.

Feedback from some schools last year, particular those close to the border of Rotherham was that those schools would not be in favour of the sibling criterion being placed above the catchment area criterion.

In view of the above, the LA (as the admission authority for all Rotherham's community and controlled schools) is, once again, consulting on proposed amended admissions criteria for the 2010/11 admissions year (see Appendix 1).

Proposed admission criteria for community and controlled schools – 2010/11**Primary Reception****Places will be allocated in the following order of priority:**

Those who on the closing date are:

- i) Relevant looked after children (see note 2 below).
- ii) Children who have a specific medical reason confirmed by a medical practitioner which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**.
- iii) Children with a compelling social reason which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**. The kinds of overriding social reasons which could be accepted are where there is evidence that the pupil's education would be seriously impaired if he or she did not attend the preferred school.
- iv) Children living in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority who will also have an older brother or sister on the roll of the preferred school or its associated junior school at the time of their admission.
- v) Children living in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.
- vi) Children living outside the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority whose older brother or sister will be on the roll of the preferred school or its associated junior school at the time of their admission.
- vii) Children who live nearest to the school measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane (as the crow flies).

Year 3**Places in Year 3 at a Junior School will be allocated in the following order of priority:-**

Those who on the closing date are:

- i) Relevant looked after children (see note 2 below).
- ii) Children in attendance at Y2 in the associated Infant School.
- iii) Children who have a specific medical reason confirmed by a medical practitioner which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**.
- iv) Children with a compelling social reason which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**. The kinds of overriding social reasons which could be accepted are where there is evidence that the pupil's education would be seriously impaired if he or she did not attend the preferred school.
- v) Children living in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority who will also have an older brother or sister on the roll of the preferred school at the time of their admission

- vi) Children living in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.
- vii) Children living outside the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority whose older brother or sister will be on the roll of the preferred school at the time of their admission.
- viii) Children who live nearest to the school measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane (as the crow flies).

Secondary Year 7

Places will be allocated in the following order of priority:-

Those who on the closing date are:

- i) Relevant looked after children (see note 2 below).
- ii) Children who have a specific medical reason confirmed by a medical practitioner which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular** school essential.
- iii) Children with a compelling social reason which the Authority is satisfied make attendance **at that particular** school essential. The kind of overriding social reasons which could be accepted are where there is evidence that the pupil's education would be seriously impaired if he or she did not attend the preferred school.
- iv) Children living in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority who will also have an older brother or sister on the roll of the preferred school at the time of their admission
- v) Children living in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.
- vii) Children living outside the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority whose older brother or sister will be on the roll of the preferred school at the time of their admission.
- vi) Children who are on the roll of one of the associated Primary/ Junior/Junior and Infant schools as identified by the Authority.
- vii) Children who live nearest to the school measured by a straight line on a horizontal plane, (commonly known as measurement, "as the crow flies").

Notes

- 1 Where the admission number for any school is likely to be reached mid category, places will be prioritised within that category by reference to the distance between the home address and the school. Highest priority will be given to those living closest to the school measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane (commonly known as measurement, "as the crow flies").
2. Where any final place at a school is available and two or more pupils are judged to be living equidistant from the school (e.g in flats), the final place will be allocated by the drawing of lots by officers of the authority.

3. A 'relevant looked after child' is a child that is looked after by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time an application for admission to a school is made, and also the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time when he/she is admitted to the school.
4. Places will be allocated in accordance with the LEA's co-ordinated admissions schemes for Primary and Secondary schools. In assessing preferences, the LEA will operate an 'equal preference' system, which means that no priority will be given according to the ranking of the preference, except where a potential offer can be made in respect of more than one school. In that situation, the final offer of a place will be made at the highest ranked of the potential offer schools.
5. Children issued with a statement of Special Educational Needs will gain a place at the school named in the statement as part of that process.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

School	Net Capacity	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2009/2010	Proposed Admission Number 2010/2011	Comments
Anston Brook Primary	253	36	30	30	Revised capacity following building work = 210
Anston Greenlands J&I	210	30	30	30	
Anston Hillcrest Primary	210	30	30	30	
Anston Park Infant	225	75	75	75	
Anston Park Junior	300	75	75	75	
Aston CE J&I	210	30	30		
Aston Fence J&I	140	20	30	30	New build cap = 210
Aston Hall J&I	210	30	30	30	
Aston Lodge Primary	210	30	30	30	
Aston Springwood Primary	210	30	30	30	
Aughton Primary	150	21	30	30	
Badsley Moor Infant	270	90	90	90	
Badsley Moor Junior	360	90	90	90	
Blackburn Primary	316	45	56	56	
Bramley Grange Primary	280	40	40	40	
Bramley Sunnyside Infant	240	80	80	80	
Bramley Sunnyside Junior	320	80	80	80	
Brampton Cortonwood Infant	120	40	40	40	
Brampton the Ellis CE Infant	120	40	40		
Brampton the Ellis CE Junior	280	70	70		
Brinsworth Howarth J&I	175	25	30	30	
Brinsworth Manor Infant	240	80	80	80	
Brinsworth Manor Junior	320	80	80	80	
Brinsworth Whitehill Primary	296	42	42	42	
Broom Valley Primary	420	60	60	60	
Canklow Woods Primary	270	38	30	30	New build cap = 210
Catcliffe Primary	170	24	25	25	
Coleridge Primary	210	30	30	30	
Dalton Foljambe J&I	140	20	30	30	
Dinnington Primary	301	43	43	43	
St Joseph's Catholic Primary (Dinnington)	196	28	28		
East Dene J&I	330	47	50	50	
Ferham Primary	210	30	30	30	
Flanderwell Primary	175	25	30	30	
Greasbrough J&I	270	38	50	50	
Harthill Primary	180	25	30	30	
Herringthorpe Infant	210	70	70	70	
Herringthorpe Junior	280	70	70	70	
High Greave Infant	180	60	60	60	
High Greave Junior	240	60	60	60	

School	Net Capacity	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2009/2010	Proposed Admission Number 2010/2011	Comments
Kilnhurst Primary	196	28	28	28	
Kimberworth Primary	210	30	30	30	
Kiveton Park Infant	162	54	54	54	
Kiveton Park Meadows Junior	180	45	59	59	
Laughton CE Primary	105	15	15		
Laughton J&I	146	20	24	24	
Lilly Hall Junior	240	60	60	60	
Listerdale J&I	210	30	30	30	
Maltby Craggs Infant	180	60	60	60	
Maltby Craggs Junior	240	60	60	60	
Maltby Hall Infant	180	60	60	60	
Maltby Manor Primary	420	60	60	60	
Maltby Redwood J&I	300	42	45	45	
St Mary's Catholic Primary (Maltby)	210	30	30		
Meadow View Primary	300	42	40	40/42	Govs to consider.
Ravenfield Primary	210	30	30	30	
Rawmarsh Ashwood J&I	210	30	30	30	
Rawmarsh Monkwood Primary	420	60	60	60	
Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior	240	60	60	60	
Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant	180	60	60	60	
Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary	210	30	30	30	
Rawmarsh St Joseph's Catholic Primary	197	28	30		
Rawmarsh Thorogate J&I	210	30	30	30	
Redscope J & I	420	60	60	60	
Rockingham J&I	329	47	56	56	
Roughwood Primary	392	56	56	56	
Sitwell Infant	222	74	74	74	
Sitwell Junior	300	75	76	76	
St Ann's J&I	420	60	60	60	
St Bede's Catholic Primary	280	40	40		
St Mary's Catholic Primary (Herr)	208	29	30		

School	Net Capacity	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2009/2010	Proposed Admission Number 2010/2011	Comments
St Thomas' CE Primary (Kiln)	150	21	30	30	
Swallownest Primary	210	30	30	30	
Swinton Brookfield Primary	300	42	50	50	
Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary	315	45	45	45	
Swinton Queen Primary	300	42	45	45	
Thornhill Primary	210	30	30	30	
Thorpe Hesley Infant	210	70	70	70	
Thorpe Hesley Junior	268	67	80	70/80	Governors could consider reducing to 70 from 80
Thrybergh Fullerton CE Primary	111	15	17		
Thrybergh Primary	245	35	37	37	
St Gerard's Catholic Primary	140	20	20		
Thurcroft Infant	180	60	60	60	
Thurcroft Junior	361	90	70	70	Subject to annual notice
Todwick J&I	210	30	30	30	
Treeton CE Primary	259	37	37		
Trinity Croft CE J&I	112	16	16		
Wales Primary	175	25	30	30	
Wath CE Primary	210	30	30		
Wath Central Primary	420	60	60	60	
Our Lady & St Joseph's Catholic Primary	175	25	30		
Wath Victoria J&I	240	34	40	40	
Wentworth CE J&I	112	16	16	16	
West Melton J&I	128	18	28	28	
Whiston J&I	210	30	30	30	
Whiston Worrygoose J&I	210	30	30	30	
Wickersley Northfield Primary	419	59	60	60	
St Alban's CE Primary	205	29	30		
Woodsetts J&I	210	30	30	30	

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

School	Net Capacity Figure	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2009/2010	Proposed Admission Number 2010/2011	Comments
Aston Comprehensive School, A Specialist School in Maths and Computing	1755	300	280	280	Subject to annual notice – lower no. than IAN
Brinsworth Comprehensive School	1487	255	255	255	
Clifton Comprehensive	1433	286	250	250	To match new build capacity
Dinnington Comprehensive School	1444	252	252	252	
Maltby Comprehensive School	1638	290	290	290	
Oakwood Technology College	1050	210	210	210	
Rawmarsh School, A Sports College	1108	221	222	222	
Swinton Community School, A Maths & Computing College	1320	226	226	226	
Thrybergh Comprehensive	700	140	140	140	
Wales High School	1520	248	248	248	
Wath Comprehensive A Language College	1788	300	300	300	
Wickersley School and Sports College	1833	300	300	300	
Wingfield Comprehensive	850	170	170	170	
Winterhill	1577	315	320	315/320	Governors could consider reduction to 315
St Bernard's Catholic High, Specialist School for the Arts	792	158	140		Subject to annual notice no. lower than IAN
Saint Pius X Catholic High – A Specialist School in Humanities	650	130	130		

ADMISSION NUMBER FOR SIXTH FORMS

School Name	Admission Number for Y7-Y11	Proposed Admission Number for Y12 2009/10*
Aston Comprehensive School, A Specialist School in Maths and Computing	280	42
Brinsworth Comprehensive School	255	38
Dinnington Comprehensive School	252	37
Maltby Comprehensive School	290	43
Swinton Community School, A Maths & Computing College	226	34
Wales High School	248	37
Wath Comprehensive A Language College	300	45
Wickersley Schools and Sports College	300	45

* This number is 15% of the admission number for Y7.

PRO- FORMA
ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION FOR 2010/11 ENTRY

SOPD

A) Community and Controlled Schools

1) There are proposed changes to the LA's current admissions criteria applicable to community and controlled schools shown at Appendix 1. The revised priority order would provide a better fit with the requirements of the new Code, but it does retain catchment area pupils above siblings living outside the catchment

Does the Governing Body -

Agree with the changes

Disagree (tick as appropriate)

If disagreeing with the changes, please indicate below what you would wish to see in terms of the priority order:

2) The proposed Admission Number for 2010/11 is shown in Appendix 2.

Does the Governing Body -

Agree with the number

Disagree (tick as appropriate)

If disagree, the suggested admission number for the school is

Reasons:

B) Voluntary Aided Schools

- 1) There are no proposed changes to the current admission criteria.
or
Amendments will be made to the admissions criteria
for the school admission year 2010/11

(tick as appropriate)

- 2) The proposed admission number for the school for
2010/11 is

C) All Schools

- 1) There are no proposed changes to the co-ordinated schemes applying to both Primary and Secondary schools, except for any necessary minor changes to dates.

Noted and agree

Comments (if any):

NB Please complete this pro-forma and return to Martin Harrop by no later than **10th January 2009**.

All voluntary aided schools should forward a copy of their full proposed admissions criteria via e-mail to martin.harrop@rotherham.gov.uk by the same date, in order that appropriate consultation can be undertaken via the website.

Signature _____

Date _____

School _____

DETERMINATION

Case reference: ADA/001422

Objector: Rotherham Admissions Forum

Admission Authority: The governors of Aston All Saints Church of England Primary School

Date of decision: 23 September 2008

Determination

In accordance with section 90 (3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, I uphold the objection made by Rotherham Admissions Forum to the admission arrangements determined by the governing body of Aston All Saints Church of England Primary School for admissions in September 2009.

I determine that, in relation to the oversubscription criteria, the first tie-breaker paragraph be removed, and the second and third tie breaker paragraphs renamed 'First' and 'Second'; I determine that the definition notes relating to a 'Place Request Form' and a 'Preliminary Waiting List' be removed in their entirety; and I determine that no use shall be made of any 'Place Request Form' or 'Preliminary Waiting List', or of any process similar to that which underlies the form and list.

The referral

1. An objection has been referred to the Adjudicator by Rotherham Admissions Forum ("the Forum") about the admission arrangements ("the Arrangements") for Aston All Saints Church of England Primary School ("the School"), which is a voluntary aided school, for admissions in September 2009. The Forum has objected to the School's use of a 'Place Request Form' to determine some children's priority for admission under the tie-breaker provisions associated with the oversubscription criteria, and to their request for unnecessary information on this form.

Jurisdiction

2. These arrangement were determined under section 89(4) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 ("the Act") by the governors of the School. The Forum says it was consulted about the Arrangements during the consultation round, and submitted its objection on 16th July 2008. I am satisfied that this objection has been properly referred to me in accordance with section 90 (2) of the Act, and that it falls within my jurisdiction.

Procedure

3. In coming to my conclusions, I have had full regard to the Act and Regulations made thereunder, the School Admissions Code (“the Code”) and all the evidence presented so far as it is relevant to the objection. I have also had regard to the Human Rights Act 1998, and, as required by Schedule 5 to the Act, to the relevant provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

4. The documents I have considered in reaching my decision include:

the Forum’s form setting out its objection, accompanied by the Arrangements and a copy showing schools in the locality of the School;

a letter from the Diocese of Sheffield (“the Diocese”) dated 28th July 2008, enclosing a statement from the chair of governors of the School dated 14th July 2008, and a further letter dated 19th August 2008;

a letter from the School dated 12th August 2008, with enclosed documents, including a copy of the ‘Place Request Form’; and

a copy of the Diocese’s ‘Additional Information’ form, including the ‘Minister of Religion Referral Form’.

The Objection

5. The Forum has objected to the School’s use of a ‘Place Request Form’ to determine some children’s priority for admission under the tie breaker provisions associated with the oversubscription criteria, which it believes is contrary to paragraph 2.13 of the Code, and to their request for unnecessary information on this form, which it believes is contrary to paragraph 1.71 of the Code.

6. The School’s chair of governors sent a statement of the governors’ views dated 14th July 2008 to the local authority and the Diocese, written in the light of the Forum’s objection having been made. The statement relates that the ‘Place Request Form’ has been in use since 1970, and is only used as a tie-breaker. It argues that paragraph 2.13 of the Code refers to the order in which applications are received, and that the ‘Place Request’ form is not part of the application process administered by the local authority. It goes on to argue that the system is fair and promotes community cohesion. Furthermore, 2.34 of the Code encourages admission authorities to ensure that families who are less able to afford property nearest the school are not excluded; the system, it is argued, enables established, local families to avoid losing priority to newcomers who move close to the school. Lastly, the statement argues that it would be unfair to abandon a list of over 90 names covering the period up to 2013, with many names being added to the list ‘shortly after birth’.

7. The Diocese has written to say that it does not support the use of a ‘Place Request Form’, which it believes is in breach of paragraph 2.13 of the Code.

Consideration of Factors

8. The School's first tie breaker paragraph says, 'First – in the order of the date of receipt of a "Place Request Form." (see later)'. Among the definitions following the oversubscription criteria, are:

"Place Request Form" – means a form available from school which can be submitted at any time requesting that the child's name be placed on a preliminary waiting list at the school. This does not guarantee a place but may be used when Admissions Criteria are applied.

Preliminary Waiting List (optional) To make a preliminary request for a place for your child at this school, fill in a Place Request Form. This form is available ONLY from the school and can be submitted at any time. Once this has been filled in and returned to school, your child's name is placed on a preliminary waiting list at the school. This does not guarantee a place but may be used when Admissions Criteria are applied.

9. Paragraph 2.13 m) of the Code does prohibit 'giv[ing] priority to children based on the order in which applications were received'. I am clear that the intention of 2.13 m) is to prohibit priority being given on the basis of any kind of date-ordered list, whether of formal applications or of requests for places or even expressions of interest. So I am not persuaded by the School's argument that the provision in their Arrangements is not caught by paragraph 2.13 of the Code. I find that the provision described above in paragraph 7 clearly breaches this prohibition.

10. Nor am I persuaded by the School's argument that the provision is a suitable means of fulfilling the recommendation in 2.34 of the Code that admission authorities should ensure that distance measuring should not exclude families who are less able to buy property nearest to the school. Even if it were effective in this respect – which has not been proved – it would not be acceptable to fulfil a 'should' recommendation in the Code by breaching a 'must not' prohibition.

11. Having examined the form in question, I find that it does indeed contain requests for information that are irrelevant to the intention of the 'place request' process. However, since I am determining that the use of such a form and the underlying process are to cease, the question of its content becomes of no account, and I shall not pursue it.

12. I suggest that the School corrects the spelling of 'practising' in oversubscription criterion 7.

Conclusion

13. For the reasons given above, I am upholding the objection and making appropriate deletions.

Determination

In accordance with section 90 (3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, I uphold the objection made by Rotherham Admissions Forum to the admission arrangements determined by the governing body of Aston All

Saints Church of England Primary School for admissions in September 2009.

I determine that, in relation to the oversubscription criteria, the first tie-breaker paragraph be removed, and the second and third tie breaker paragraphs renamed 'First' and 'Second'; I determine that the definition notes relating to a 'Place Request Form' and a 'Preliminary Waiting List' be removed in their entirety; and I determine that no use shall be made of any 'Place Request Form' or 'Preliminary Waiting List', or of any process similar to that which underlies the form and list.

Dated: 23 September 2008

Signed:

Schools Adjudicator: Canon Richard
Lindley