

## LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

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

**Date:** Thursday, 17 March 2011

**Time:** 10.00 a.m.

### A G E N D A

1. Appointment of Chair of the Meeting
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 11th November, 2010 (copy attached) (Pages 1 - 4)
4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
5. Admissions Consultation - Annual consultation feedback report for 2012/13 admission (report attached) (Pages 5 - 22)
6. Free Schools - Proposals for the Rotherham Borough area (report attached) (Pages 23 - 28)
7. Academies and Trust Schools in Rotherham - Update
8. School Admission Appeals - Statistics (document attached) (Page 29)
9. Department for Education Consultation on the future of Local Admissions Forums
10. Membership of the Rotherham Local Admissions Forum (document attached) (Page 30)
11. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Thursday, 7th July, 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

**Date of Next Meeting:-  
Thursday, 7 July 2011**

**LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM  
THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Barron, Mrs. C. Cockayne, Mr. G. Lancashire, Mr. P. Robins and Mr. B. N. Sampson (Community Representatives) and Mrs. I. G. Hartley (Community Schools).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Havenhand, Mrs. G. Atkin and Mrs. H. McLaughlin (Voluntary Aided Schools), Mrs. C. Thorpe (Diocese of Hallam), Mrs. H. Morris (Sheffield Diocese), Mrs. P. Powell (Community Representative) and Mr. C. E. Kelsey (Community Schools).

**6. 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)

**7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 1ST JULY, 2010**

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Local Admissions Forum, held on 1st July, 2010, be approved as a correct record.

**8. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION FOR ENTRY IN THE 2012/2013 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Further to Minute No. 4 of the meeting of the Local Admissions Forum held on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2010 and to Minute No. 37 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Children and Young People's Services held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 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 timetable for the year is:-

Autumn Term, 2010	governing bodies to consider the arrangements which will apply
by 10 <sup>th</sup> December, 2010 the	all relevant details to be forwarded to Borough Council
from 4 <sup>th</sup> January until 1 <sup>st</sup> March, 2011	period of consultation via the Borough Council's Internet web site
by end of March, 2011	Borough Council and the Local Admissions Forum consider any changes and forward any comments to appropriate Admission Authority(ies)

by 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2011

all admission authorities to determine their arrangements and notify those consulted

The report made reference to the admission criteria and numbers for both community and controlled schools and for voluntary aided schools. The Local Admissions Forum noted that there were no proposed changes to the admission criteria for 2012/2013.

Included within the report were details of each community and controlled school's proposed admission number for 2012/2013 (appendix two of the report submitted).

The Borough Council currently co-ordinates admission arrangements during the normal admission round. The Department for Children, Schools and Families' 'Admission Code of Practice' required this to be extended to cover in-year admissions for all year groups with effect from 2011/12 and the Council's scheme had been modified last year to take this into account.

The Local Admissions Forum noted the following intentions of the admission authority:-

(i) to revert to maintaining waiting lists for reception/foundation 2 places at primary schools only until 31 December, rather than for a whole academic year (reference - the Local Admissions Forum meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009); it was noted that waiting lists for Year 7 places at secondary school were maintained only until 31 December; and

(ii) to issue to parents a summary of the information contained in the admissions booklet (the whole booklet is available upon request and also via the Borough Council's Internet web site).

During discussion of this item, reference was made to the possible establishment of schools in the region which would not be subject to local authority control:-

- a school for pupils aged 11 to 18 years, possibly using the former University of Sheffield premises near to Dearne Valley College;

- publicity about a 'free' school being established at premises within the Rotherham town centre;

- possible interest in establishing a school in the Catcliffe/Waverley area on the boundary between Rotherham and Sheffield.

It was also noted that Brinsworth Comprehensive School and Wales High School had gained Academy status with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2010.

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

(2) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Local Admissions Forum detailing the outcome of the consultation process about the school admission arrangements for the 2012/13 academic year.

(3) That the admission authority's intention to maintain waiting lists for reception/foundation 2 places at primary schools only until 31 December, with effect from the beginning of the 2011/12 school year, be noted.

#### **9. ROTHERHAM LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

Consideration was given to a draft of the 2010 annual report for the Rotherham Local Admissions Forum, prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 85A(1A) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as inserted by Section 41(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006).

During consideration of the draft annual report, a number of issues were discussed:-

- surplus places in schools;
- waiting lists for admissions to schools;
- falling rolls in secondary schools during most of the next decade;
- applications submitted on-line, for admission to Rotherham schools;
- school admission appeals and the '30 limit' qualifying measures appeals;
- school admission appeal decisions which had referred to the Local Government Ombudsman;
- the number of casual/in year transfers of schools;
- increasing numbers of children arriving from overseas and joining Rotherham schools;
- the fair access protocol;
- Looked After Children and pupils with Special Educational Needs.

Agreed:- (1) That the draft annual report be received and the document be approved as the Rotherham Local Admissions Forum Annual Report 2010.

(2) That the Annual Report 2010 be submitted to the Local Authority (Borough Council), its schools and to the Schools Commissioner at the Department for Education and a copy also be published on the Borough Council's Internet web site.

#### **10. OFFICE OF THE SCHOOLS ADJUDICATOR - ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2009 TO AUGUST 2010**

The School Organisation Planning and Development Manager reported on the recent publication of the Eleventh Annual Report of the Chief Schools Adjudicator. The Annual Report covered the period September 2009 to August 2010.

Discussion took place on the contents of this Annual Report, which was

available from the Internet web site: [www.schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk](http://www.schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk).

Agreed:- That the contents of the Eleventh Annual Report of the Chief Schools Adjudicator be noted.

**11. ADMISSION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL 2011/2012 - DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKLETS**

Members of the Local Admissions Forum received copies of the booklet for admission to primary school 2011/2012. The booklet is available to view on the Council's Internet web site and paper copies will be sent to parents upon request.

The Local Admissions Forum also noted that the number of applications submitted online by parents for 2011/12 admissions had reduced as a result of the application form, instead of the full booklet, being posted directly to parents. However, the number of parents not applying for a place has reduced. The members of the Local Admissions Forum welcomed the increase in the proportion of parents who have submitted applications for admission of their children to school.

**12. MRS. I. G. HARTLEY M.B.E.**

The Local Admissions Forum placed on record its congratulations to Mrs. Irene G. Hartley who had been awarded the honour of Member of the Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.) in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2010.

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Rotherham Local Admissions Forum</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Admissions Consultation - Annual consultation feedback report for 2012/13 admission (All Wards)</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services</b>

**5. Summary:** This report covers issues that have arisen as a result of the annual consultation exercise with and between schools, other LEAs and through the RMBC website. (All admission authorities must determine their arrangements by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011).

**6. Recommendations:** That:

- i) The proposed admission numbers contained within Annex 1 for community and controlled schools are confirmed for 2012/13, subject to the clarifications included in Annex 2,
- ii) The proposed admissions criteria for community and controlled schools for 2012/13, are agreed and adopted,
- iii) The proposed change to the length of the time the 'Waiting List' operates for Primary Schools is noted.
- iv) The proposed admissions numbers and criteria for voluntary aided schools' and Academies as outlined in Annex 2, are noted,
- v) The appropriate notice is published in respect of the proposed admission numbers for schools named in Annex 2, where the admission number will be less than that indicated by the current net capacity calculation,
- vi) This report is placed on the Authority's website.

**7. Proposals and Details:** Annex 1 shows details of the LEA's consultation document, which was considered by governing bodies during the Autumn Term 2011. This has also been accessible on the Authority's website up to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 for public consultation.

All feedback received by the Authority is summarised in Annex 2.

The Local Admissions Forum has also had the opportunity to consider these matters at its recent meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**8. Finance:** There are no specific quantifiable financial consequences arising from this report.

**9. Risks and Uncertainties:** All those consulted must be informed of any determination and it is possible, in certain instances, for objections to be made to the Adjudicator.

**10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:** The School Admissions Code seeks to promote equity and fair access and all the admission authorities in Rotherham, in complying with the code, show their commitment to that.

**11 Background Papers and Consultation:** The annual consultation exercise is undertaken by reference to statutory regulations and the code of practice – principally, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Education Act 2002 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006 together with the School Admissions Code and Regulations.

**Contact Name :** David Hill, Manager, School Organisation Planning and Development

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**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL -  
REPORT TO GOVERNING BODIES – AUTUMN TERM 2010**

**CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADMISSION YEAR  
2012/13**

**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 2012/13. 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 2010

Governing bodies consider the arrangements which will apply.

By 10th December 2010

All relevant details to be forwarded to the LA.

4th January – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011

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 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011

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 admissions criteria for 2011/12 are shown at Appendix 1.

**There are no proposed changes to the admission criteria and they will apply for 2012/13.**

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 David Hill, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Norfolk House, as soon as possible and no later than 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

**Voluntary Aided Schools/Academies**

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

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. Full details of the admissions criteria and admissions number to be forwarded to the LA by 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010 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 [david-education.hill@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:david-education.hill@rotherham.gov.uk)**

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

### **Further General Points**

All admission numbers should 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 FS2 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 David Hill on 01709 822536.

#### ii) **Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements**

The Authority currently co-ordinates admission arrangements during the normal admission round. The DCSF 'Admission Code of Practice' required this to be extended to cover in-year admissions for all year groups with effect from 2011/12 and our scheme was modified last year to take this into account. There are no proposed changes for 2012/13.

**Action: No action required**

#### iii) **Waiting List**

The Authority currently maintains waiting lists for pupils applying during the normal admission round. The new Admissions Code of Practice required that waiting lists are in place from September 2009 and continue for at least the first term of the academic year. Our consultation document last year proposed one term for secondary schools and a full year for Primary schools and this was approved. The new policy has operated since September 2009. It has worked successfully for Secondary Schools. For Primary Schools the change has been less successfully. The extension for a full year has led to unforeseen problems. This has occurred where pupils, who have been settled in school, have been offered a school transfer. The original intention was to use the waiting list to prioritise new applications but unless parents formally withdraw their child's name from the waiting list their original application still stands and has to be reconsidered (as a place becomes available it has to be offered to the highest name on the waiting list). Some of these pupils offered a transfer have been in school for over a term and in some cases two terms. Parents have been faced with a difficult decision which could unsettle their child. The change has not created a fairer allocation of places and has further delayed the admission process. The LA now wishes to maintain the Primary Waiting List for one term up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December to be in line with the Secondary list.

**Action: Primary schools only.**

**We wish to keep the waiting list open for the Statutory one term. Governor's views are sought on the proposed change.**

**iv) Local Authority 'Admission to School' Booklets.**

The local Authority has previously supplied a hard copy of the 'Admission to School' booklet to every parent applying for 'Admission to Primary School' and for 'Admission to Secondary School'. The information contained in the booklets is freely available on the Local Authority Website along with details on how to make an on-line-application. The Authority is currently able to satisfy 95% first preferences for primary and 97% first preferences for secondary school. Much of the information in the booklet is surplus to most parents' applications (most booklets are discarded once the application has been submitted). Where parents are unsuccessful with their application separate guidance is available on the appeal procedures. Many other neighbouring authorities now produce only a summary of the information which is sent to all parents with detailed information available on request or via the website. The Rotherham Authority has had to make a decision, prompted by the current financial position to adopt a similar policy and booklets will now only be provided upon request. All parents will still receive a short summary explaining how to apply for a school place, a copy of the Common Application Form and information on how to access the on-line system.

**Action: Governing Bodies to note the decision to only send a summary of the information contained in the admissions booklet to parents with full copies available on request and/or via the [rotherham.gov.uk](http://rotherham.gov.uk) website.**

**The admission criteria for community and controlled schools for 2012/13 is shown below and is unchanged from the current criteria.**

### **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. Parents should ensure that they attach full supporting information to the Common Application Form.
- iv) Children who on the closing date live 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. Parents should ensure that they attach full supporting information to the Common Application Form.
- v) Children who on the closing date live in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.
- vi) Children who on the closing date live 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 on the closing date 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.** Parents should ensure that they attach full supporting information to the Common Application Form.

- 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. Parents should ensure that they attach full supporting information to the Common Application Form.
- v) Children who on the closing date live 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 who on the closing date live in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.
- vii) Children who on the closing date live 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 on the closing date 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 on the closing date have a specific medical reason confirmed by a medical practitioner which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular** school essential. Parents should ensure that they attach full supporting information to the Common Application Form.
- iii) Children who on the closing date have 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. Parents should ensure that they attach full supporting information to the Common Application Form.
- iv) Children who on the closing date live in 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 in Years 8-11 at the start of the academic year 2012.
- v) Children who on the closing date live in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.

- vii) Children who on the closing date live have an older brother or sister on the roll of the preferred school in Years 8-11 at the start of the academic year 2012.
- vi) Children who on the closing date are on the roll of one of the associated Primary/Junior/Junior and Infant schools as identified by the Authority.
- vii) Children who on the closing date 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 who 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 LA’s co-ordinated admissions schemes for Primary and Secondary schools. In assessing preferences, the LA 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

## Appendix 2

School	Net Capacity	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2011/2012	Proposed Admission Number 2012/2013	Comments
Anston Brook Primary	210	30	30	30	
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	30	
Aston Fence J&I	210	30	30	30	
Aston Hall J&I	180	25	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	180	25	30	30	
Catcliffe Primary	150	24	25	25	
Coleridge Primary	210	30	30	30	
Dalton Foljambe J&I	140	20	30	30	
Dinnington Primary	270	38	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	272	68	70	70	
High Greave Infant	180	60	60	60	
High Greave Junior	240	60	60	60	

School	Net Capacity	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2011/2012	Proposed Admission Number 2012/2013	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 Primary	320	60	60	60	
Maltby Hall Infant	180	60	60	60	
Maltby Manor Primary	420	60	60	60	
Maltby Redwood J&I	240	34	45	45/34	Governors could consider reducing to 34 from 45
St Mary's Catholic Primary (Maltby)	210	30	30		
Meadow View Primary	300	42	40	42	
Monkwood Primary	402	57	60	60	
Ravenfield Primary	210	30	30	30	
Rawmarsh Ashwood J&I	210	30	30	30	
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	210	30	30		
Rawmarsh Thorogate J&I	210	30	30	30	
Redscope J & I	342	48	60	60/55	Governors could consider reducing to 55 from 60
Rockingham J&I	282	45	56	56/50	Governors could consider reducing to 50 from 56
Roughwood Primary	336	48	56	56/50	Governors could consider reducing to 50 from 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		
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	70	70	

School	Net Capacity	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2011/2012	Proposed Admission Number 2012/2013	Comments
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	17	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	180	26	30	30	



**SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

<b>School</b>	<b>Net Capacity Figure</b>	<b>Indicated Admission Number</b>	<b>Admission Number 11/12</b>	<b>Proposed Admission No 12/13</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Aston Comprehensive School, a Specialist School in Maths and Computing	1673	286	280	280	Subject to annual notice – lower no. than IAN
Brinsworth Academy	1487	255	255	255	
Clifton, a Community Arts School	1251	250	250	250	
Dinnington Comprehensive School specialising in Science and Engineering	1444	252	252	252	
Maltby Academy	1638	290	200	(200)	To match Published Notice
Oakwood Technology College	1050	210	210	210	
Rawmarsh Community School, a Sports College	1075	215	222	222	
Swinton Community School, a Maths & Computing College	1320	226	226	226	
Thrybergh School and Sports College	704	140	140	140	
Wales Academy	1520	248	248	248	
Wath Comprehensive, a Language College	1740	300	300	300	
Wickersley School and Sports College	1833	300	300	300	
Wingfield Business and Enterprise College	845	170	170	170	
Winterhill School	1577	315	315	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	685	137	130		Subject to annual notice no. lower than IAN

**ADMISSION NUMBER FOR SIXTH FORMS**

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Admission Number for Y7-Y11</b>	<b>Proposed Admission Number for Y12 2012/13*</b>
Aston Comprehensive School, a Specialist School in Maths and Computing	280	42
Brinsworth Academy	255	38
Dinnington Comprehensive School specialising in Science and Engineering	252	37
Maltby Academy	200	30
Swinton Community School, a Maths & Computing College	226	34
Wales Academy	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 2012/13 ENTRY**

**SOPD**

**A) Community and Controlled Schools**

- 1) There are no proposed changes to the LA's current admissions criteria applicable to community and controlled schools shown at Appendix 1. No comments are therefore sought on the admissions criteria.
- 2) The proposed Admission Number for 2012/13 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/Academies**

- 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 2012/13

(tick as appropriate)

- 2) The proposed admission number for the school for 2012/13 is

**Voluntary Aided Schools/Academies must forward a copy of their admissions policy to David Hill by the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010.**

**C) All Schools**

1) There are no proposed changes to the co-ordinated schemes applying to both Primary and Secondary schools. No comments are therefore sought on the co-ordinated scheme.

2) There are proposed changes to the 'Waiting List' for Primary Schools. We would wish to keep the waiting list open for the Statutory one term.

Primary Schools Governor's views are sought on the proposed change to one term.

Does the Primary School Governing Body –

Agree with the change

Disagree

(tick as appropriate)

If disagreeing with the change, please indicate below what date you would wish to see the waiting list open to:

NB Please complete this pro-forma and return to David Hill by no later than **10<sup>th</sup> December 2010**.

**All voluntary aided schools and Academies must** forward a copy of their full proposed admissions criteria via e-mail to [david-education.hill@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:david-education.hill@rotherham.gov.uk) by the above date, in order that appropriate consultation can be undertaken via the website.

**(It is a statutory requirement that all voluntary aided schools and Academy admission policies are published (on the LA website) and available for public consultation by 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011)**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

**1) Feedback from the annual admissions consultation****A Community and Controlled Schools****i) Admission numbers**

The following matters have been raised:-

**Thurcroft Junior School**

The school has requested an admission number of 65 (rather than the proposed 70). The reason given is that this is more in line with the Infant School which has an admissions number of 60. However, Thurcroft Junior School's net capacity calculation gives an admission number of 90 and the recommended admission number of 70 is already a reduction on this. The LA already has to publish a statutory notice as the school is substantially below the admission number derived from the net capacity. (The school does have larger classrooms which do influence the capacity). There is also substantial new housing proposed in the Thurcroft area close to the school and around 300 dwellings are likely to be built in the near future. The LA needs to retain as much space as it can in both the Infant and Junior schools and would not want the capacity to be reduced. It is proposed that the admission limit remain at 70 in order that the school can continue to accommodate all the pupils who may wish for a place in their local school.

**Maltby Redwood Primary****Redscope J&I****Rockingham J&I****Roughwood Primary**

These schools were asked to give consideration to an alternative numbers. Feedback from the governing bodies is that the following numbers were the preferred option:

Maltby Redwood Primary – 34

Redscope J&I - 60

Rockingham J&I - 56

Roughwood Primary - 56

These numbers should be approved.

**ii) Admissions criteria**

The only change proposed to the admission criteria related to a change to the 'Waiting List'. A change to the waiting list for Primary Schools was proposed and this was to reduce it to one term up to the end of the Autumn Term. (The waiting list for Secondary Schools operates until the end of the Autumn Term) Only 3 (of the 99) Primary Schools expressed concern. Sitwell Infant School and St Mary's Herringthorpe proposed that it continue to the end of the year (but gave no reasons). Maltby Manor Primary School also proposed the end of the year as they consider it would be fairer to everybody, however Maltby Manor School has never been oversubscribed and the LA has never had to keep a waiting list for the school. The operation of the waiting list to the end of the year has previously resulted

in pupils, settled in school, being offered a transfer which has led to an upset to their education and has not resulted in a fairer allocation of places. Given that the vast majority of schools have supported the change it is proposed to operate the Primary 'Waiting list' for the Statutory one term.

**B Voluntary Aided Schools**

**i) Admission numbers**

There were no proposed changes to those admission numbers already applying to 2011/12.

**ii) Admissions criteria**

There are no proposed major changes to any school's admissions criteria. A number of schools have previously made minor changes which have been necessary following the admission arrangements compliance exercise undertaken by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. For most schools this related to ensuring that certain definitions (siblings/distance measuring etc) are fully explained within the admissions policy. These have been agreed with the schools concerned and the dioceses.

**C Academies**

**1) Admissions Numbers**

There were no proposed changes to those admission numbers that applied previously in 2011/12. (In the case of Wales Academy and Brinsworth Academy they have both adopted the admission number which previously applied when they were Community Secondary schools.)

**ii) Admissions Criteria**

The three academies; Brinsworth, Maltby and Wales have all adopted the Admission Policy approved by the Local Authority for the Community Secondary Schools.

**D Public Consultation**

The Admission consultation has been available on the RMBC Website for the Statutory 8 weeks along with a copy of each Voluntary Aided School admission's policy. A public notice advising of the consultation was placed in local newspapers. No response to the public consultation had been received by the closing date of the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

**2. Required publication where an admission number is less than that indicated by the current net capacity calculation for the school**

There remains a requirement for a notice to be published should any admission authority wish to have an admission number, which is lower than that indicated by the current net capacity calculation. For 2011/12, this would apply to the following schools:-

<b>School</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Aston Comp A Specialist School In Maths & Comp.	280 rather than 286	pressure on the school's accommodation as agreed for 2010/11 and 2011/12
St. Bernard's Catholic High Specialist School For the Arts	140 rather than 158	pressure on the school's accommodation as agreed for 2010/11 and 2011/12
Thurcroft Junior	70 rather than 90	large classrooms inflate the capacity calculation

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> March, 2011</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Free School Proposals</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services</b>

**5. Summary:**

There are currently two proposals for Free Schools within the Rotherham Authority.

**Three Valleys Academy**

The Department for Education has recently 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 place school for pupils aged 11-18 years in Wath-Upon-Dearne.

The proposal has now been fully assessed by the Department for Education, and the Secretary of State has given approval for it to proceed to the business case stage. **The Authority has until the 11<sup>th</sup> March to submit views to the DfE.**

**Rotherham Central Free School**

Mrs Blencowe, Principal Designate, is proposing to establish the 'Rotherham Central Free School'. The School will be located in Rotherham (most probably 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 centre of Rotherham.

We have not yet received any information from the Department of Education on the progress of this proposal.

**6. Recommendation:**

**That the Authority responds to the Department for Education objecting to the Free School proposals and giving full reasons for the impact that 'The Three Valleys Academy' and 'Rotherham Central Free School' will have on the current Secondary School provision and educational standards within the Rotherham Authority.**



## 7. Proposals and Details:

### Three Valleys Academy

#### Background

The Department for Education has recently 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 place school for pupils aged 11-18 years in Wath-Upon-Dearne. The school will have an admission limit of 120 pupils and a 6<sup>th</sup> Form of 250 pupils.

The proposal has now been fully assessed by the Department, and the Secretary of State has given approval for it to proceed to the business case stage. The Secretary of State also has a duty to consider carefully the impact that any new school will have on the surrounding community and existing schools and has written to the Authority requesting views on the proposed school. **The establishment of a new school in the Dearne will severely impact on our existing schools and educational standards. The Authority has until the 11<sup>th</sup> March to submit views to the DfE.**

#### Issues:

1. **Catchment Area.** The Three Valleys Academy will be located in the former Nursing School in Manvers. It will draw pupils from Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley. The Free School has published an indicative catchment area which includes (in Rotherham) Wath, Swinton, Rawmarsh, Kilnhurst and Parkgate. This will impact on four Rotherham Secondary Schools Wath, St Pius, Rawmarsh and Swinton. The nearest school is Swinton which is about 1.25 miles away and Wath which is less than 1.5 miles away.
2. **Expressions of Interest:** The free school claims to already have had support from over 500 people with expressions of interest in letters and emails.
3. **Timing:** The free school is proposed to open in September 2012. It is already asking for expressions of interest and will take, in September 2012, pupils into both Year 7 and Year 8 and also admissions into the 6<sup>th</sup> Form.
4. **Educational Standards:** All Rotherham Secondary Schools are improving with rising educational standards. The introduction of a new free school could severely impact upon educational standards of Rotherham pupils.

#### Implications for Rotherham Secondary Schools:

1. **St Pius X:** This school has always been oversubscribed with nearly all pupils being of the Catholic Faith or attending a feeder Catholic Primary School. Many pupils travel from the Doncaster and Barnsley Authorities. Pupils are unlikely to be attracted away from this school.
2. **Wath Comprehensive, a Language College:** This school has always been oversubscribed (typically each year 15-50 pupils are unsuccessful in gaining a place). Some pupils who live in Wath and who would have gained a place may be attracted to the Three Valleys Academy, however given the demand for places at Wath, particularly from areas of Barnsley and Doncaster the school will fill up with

these pupils. The mix of pupils in the school may change but numbers are unlikely to change. (the issue here is that Barnsley, particularly with the under popularity of Wombwell School, and Doncaster will be hit with pupils going to both the Three Valleys Academy and taking up more places at Wath Comprehensive). More pupils from Rawmarsh (and possibly Swinton) may also gain places at Wath.

- 3. Rawmarsh Comprehensive:** The numbers entering Rawmarsh are falling (due to the falling Secondary birth rate). The school is furthest away from the area and some pupils may be attracted to the school. Any loss will impact on numbers at the school. It is impossible to predict how many pupils will go. (There is a slight drift in numbers to Wath.) The LA has produced pupil forecast for the school based on the loss of 20 pupils per year from 2012 onwards. A 20 pupil loss would reduce numbers on roll to 741 by 2015/16. (A 40 pupil loss would reduce numbers on roll to 641 by 2015/16). This also has financial implications for the school budget. A loss of 20 pupils equates to a funding loss of around £100,000. If this continued through all year groups after five years the budget could be reduced by around £500,000. **A loss of 40 pupils per year group would threaten the whole viability of the school.**
  
- 4. Swinton Comprehensive:** Swinton is likely to be hit the hardest. It is closest to the Three Valleys. Any loss would impact on numbers at the school. It is impossible to predict how many pupils may be attracted to the school. The LA has produced pupil forecast for the school based on the loss of 20 pupils per year from 2012 onwards. A 20 pupil loss would reduce numbers on roll to 723 by 2015/16. (A 40 pupil loss would reduce numbers on roll to 623 by 2015/16. The 623 assumes no loss to the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. The numbers, excluding 6<sup>th</sup> Form, would only be 480 with just 109 in Y11 which would probably be too small to run a 6<sup>TH</sup> Form – dire consequences for the school.). This also has financial implications for the school budget. A loss of 20 pupils equates to a funding loss of around £100,000. If this continued through all year groups after five years the budget could be reduced by around £500,000. **The loss of 40 pupils per year group would lead to the definite closure of the school 6<sup>th</sup> form and threaten the whole viability of the school.**

### Summary:

The falling birth rate and the numbers on roll indicates that there is sufficient capacity in all current Secondary Schools and no expansion of school places is required in the Dearne Valley area. To provide a new school would impact severely on Swinton Comprehensive to such an extent that the viability of the school is compromised. There is likely to be an impact on Rawmarsh which is less but again compromises numbers at the school. **There is no doubt that educational standards would fall due to the loss of pupils. Teaching staff and other school staff will have to be made redundant.**

### Rotherham Central Free School

#### Background

Mrs Blencowe, Principal Designate, is proposing to establish the Rotherham Central Free School. The School will be located in Rotherham (most probably 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 centre of Rotherham.

## Progress

We have had no formal notification from Mrs Blencowe (a requirement of the first stage of the completion of the Free School proposal form). The DFE will advise the Local Authority once approval to move to business case is given and we will then be given the opportunity to submit concerns. Mrs Blencowe is currently seeking support for her proposals and her supporters have been lobbying parents outside a number of local primary schools.

## Implications for Rotherham Central Schools

1. A new central school will Impact on **Brinsworth Academy, Clifton, Oakwood, Rawmarsh, Thrybergh, Wingfield and Winterhill Secondary Schools.**
2. If the Rotherham Central Free School were to open in Sept 2012 and it was fully subscribed 100 pupils would be lost from the above Rotherham Schools. It is difficult to judge where the pupils will come from and some schools may lose more than others.
3. **This represents a loss of approximately £500,000 to Rotherham Schools in just the first year of operation.**
4. If the school were to fill up each year for the following 4 years around 500 pupils would have been lost and this equates to **an Annual Loss of around £2.5 Million** from Rotherham schools.
5. The loss of 500 school places tied in with the falling secondary school rolls (due to the falling birth rate) jeopardises the future of at least one central Rotherham School.
6. The loss of numbers will impact not only on the school budget but will also impact on school standards. **Schools will find it increasingly more difficult to provide a balanced curriculum and the inevitable effect of a school with falling numbers is reduced educational attainment.**
7. **Teaching Staff and other school based staff will have to be made redundant.**

## Summary

The proposal to open the Rotherham Central Free School should be opposed as it will have a dramatic impact on current Rotherham schools reflected in: falling rolls, loss of school funding, teacher and other staff redundancies and falling educational standards.

## 8. Finance:

The local authority will receive reduced funding as any pupil who attends a Free School will withdraw the allocation of funding the LA receives to give to schools under the dedicated schools grant.

**9. Risks and Uncertainties:**

The Authority will have an increasing number of surplus places and the viability of a number of Secondary schools will be jeopardised along with a detrimental impact on educational standards.

**10. Background Papers and Consultation:**

The LA has provided to NICHE copies of our pupils projections which show the extent of surplus places in the area. The LA has also written to the Local MP to express concern and also provided information for the local press and also a briefing note to Headteachers and the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities.

**Contact Names:**

Report Author – David Hill, Manager, School Organisation Planning and Development, tel. 822536 , email [david-education.hill@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:david-education.hill@rotherham.gov.uk)

## Three Valleys Academy

### Timeline of Key Dates:

- Free School Notifies the Secretary of State of its intention to put forward a proposal to set up a free school.
- Free school completes proposal form – obtains support from parents/other supporters and notifies the LA of its proposal
- The Department for Education approved the ‘Three Valleys Academy’ proposal on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011.
- The Department for Education notifies the LA of its decision to move the proposal to Business Case. Formal letter sent to the Local Authority advising of the decision and asking for the LA’s views on the proposal.
- **The dead line for reply is the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011.**
- The meeting held on the **17<sup>th</sup> February 2011** with Cllr Paul Lakin and the Chair of Governors and Head teachers of relevant schools resolved to oppose the request for the ‘Three Valleys Proposal’ and supported the Authority in its opposition. The opposition would be based on:
  1. Sufficient capacity currently exists in all schools for all pupils in the area.
  2. Educational Standards are high and rising in all schools.
  3. 97% of parents get their first choice secondary school.
  4. The loss of pupils to ‘The Three Valleys’ would jeopardise the future of at least two of the Secondary Schools with the 6<sup>th</sup> Form at Swinton particularly at risk.
  5. ‘The Three Valleys’ has not provided any information on curriculum, educational standards, quality of staff, suitable accommodation, sports facilities or financial viability.
  6. All Secondary Schools would work with their feeder primary schools to provide clear guidance both to the schools and parents on the opportunities available within the current secondary schools.
  7. Following examination results there will be a co-ordinated media campaign promoting Rotherham Schools to parents and the wider community. **August 2011.**
  8. Continued support will be sought from local MPs to oppose the proposal.

**ROTHERHAM LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM****SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEALS : STATISTICS****March 2011**

This brief report is included on the agenda to inform the Local Admissions Forum of the numbers of school admission appeals received and hearings taking place.

**September 2009 to August 2010****LEA PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

appeals lodged = 199  
 appeals heard = 140  
 appeals allowed = 69

Church Schools :  
 30 lodged 25 heard 5 allowed

65 class size appeals – none successful

**LEA SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

appeals lodged = 224  
 appeals heard = 186  
 appeals allowed = 111

Church Schools :  
 22 lodged 14 heard 1 allowed

**September 2010 to August 2011 (figures to date)****LEA PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

appeals lodged = 158  
 appeals heard = 100  
 appeals allowed = 49

Church Schools :  
 36 lodged 25 heard 6 allowed

60 class size appeals – none successful

**LEA SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

appeals lodged = 177  
 appeals heard = 125  
 appeals allowed = 68

Church Schools :  
 21 lodged 15 heard 9 allowed

In terms of secondary schools, most of the pressure from admission appeals is centred upon the Wales Academy, Wath Comprehensive School and Wickersley School and Sports College – with the Saint Bernard's Catholic High School and Oakwood Technology College next in line. This pattern seems set to continue for the foreseeable future.

There continues to be pressure upon places at Rotherham town centre primary schools, especially Ferham and St. Anns – and Thornhill to a slightly lesser extent. Recently, there have been many appeals for both Broom Valley and the Sitwell primary schools. The increasing birth rates affecting demand for primary school places in the Wickersley & Flanderwell area have not yet resulted in an increased number of appeals for primary school places in that part of Rotherham.

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL****LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM****MEMBERSHIP AS AT MARCH 2011**

The membership of the Rotherham Local Admissions Forum is:-

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

Mrs. I. G. Hartley (Wath Comprehensive School and Mr. C. E. Kelsey  
(Bramley Sunnyside Infant School)

Voluntary Controlled Schools : 1 member, to be appointed

Voluntary Aided Schools : 3 members

Mrs G. Atkin (St. Albans Church of England Primary School)

Mrs. H. McLaughlin (St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Herringthorpe)

Father A. Hayne (St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Herringthorpe)

Academy : 1 member, to be appointed

Church Dioceses : 2 members

Diocese of Hallam : Ms. C. Thorpe

Sheffield Diocese : Mrs. H. Morris

Parent : 1 member, to be appointed

Community Representatives (10)

Councillor I. C. Barron

Councillor S. Currie

Councillor J. Havenhand

Mr. G. Lancashire

Mrs. P. Powell

Mr. P. Robins

Mr. B. Sampson

Mrs. C. Cockayne

One representative of the Early Years Nursery (voluntary) sector

One representative of the Black and Minority Ethnic community