

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO MEMBERS**

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

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 15th 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 1st 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 17th 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.

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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 – 1st 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 15th 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, 1st Floor, Norfolk House, as soon as possible and no later than 10th 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 10th 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

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 31st 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 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

School	Net Capacity Figure	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 11/12	Proposed Admission No 12/13	Comments
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

School Name	Admission Number for Y7-Y11	Proposed Admission Number for Y12 2012/13*
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.

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 10th 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 **10th 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 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 4th 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 1st 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:-

School	Change	Comments
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