

Admission Arrangements for Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools for 2021/22

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Frances Nicholson - Cabinet Member for Children and Families & Cllr Faye Purbrick – Cabinet Member for Education and Transformation

Local Member(s) and Division: All members

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1. Summary / Background

This report seeks authority for Cabinet to determine the Local Authority admission arrangements for all Voluntary Controlled and Community schools for 2021/22 as required by the School Admissions Code and associated legislation.

The current approved arrangements were endorsed by the Cabinet on 23 January 2019.

In 2019, for both primary and secondary school applications, 97% of applicants were offered a school place at one of their first three preferences.

2. Recommendations

The Cabinet agrees the determination of the Admission Arrangements for all Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools for 2021/22 as set out in this report, noting that there are no proposed amendments as the current arrangements are fit for purpose.

3. Reasons for recommendations

It is a requirement of the School Admissions Code that all Admission Authorities determine their admission arrangements for 2021/22 by 28 February 2020.

4. Other options considered

No alternative options were considered as the current arrangements are fit for purpose.

5. Links to County Vision, Business Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy

Continue to protect and care for the most vulnerable children, adults and families in the community and support their carers.

Improve the prospects of children and young people most at risk of being disadvantaged.

6. Consultations and co-production

There are no proposed changes however, the School Admissions Code December 2014 stipulates that Local Authority admission arrangements for Voluntary Controlled and Community schools must be determined by the Admission Authority by 28 February each year. The School Admissions Code is national statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education which all admission authorities must adhere to.

7. Financial and Risk Implications

There are no financial implications. The admission arrangements meet the requirements of the School Admissions Code and the Schools Standard and Framework Act 1998.

There is minimal risk to the Local Authority as the admission arrangements proposed are compliant with the School Admissions Code.

8. Legal and HR Implications

The admission arrangements meet the requirements of the School Admissions Code and the Schools Standard and Framework Act 1998.

There are no HR implications. The admission arrangements meet the requirements of the School Admissions Code and the Schools Standard and Framework Act 1998.

9. Other Implications

Equalities Implications

The Equalities Manager has agreed an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required as there are no implications.

Community Safety Implications

There are no implications.

Sustainability Implications

There are no implications.

Health and Safety Implications

There are no implications.

Health and Wellbeing Implications

- There are no implications on health and wellbeing
- There are no implications on preventing ill-health (physical and mental health)
- There are no implications on reducing health and social inequalities.

Social Value

- Not applicable

10. Scrutiny comments / recommendations:

The proposed decision has not been considered by a Scrutiny Committee.

11. Background

- The School Admissions Code 2014 requires all admission authorities to determine their 2021/22 admission arrangements by 28 February 2020. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements for a minimum of 6 weeks between 1 October and 31 January the year before those arrangements are due to apply. Once all arrangements have been determined, arrangements can be objected to and referred to the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2020. Any decision taken by the adjudicator must be acted upon by the admission authority.

The 2020/21 admission arrangements for Somerset Voluntary Controlled and Community schools are still fit for purpose, are clear and transparent and support the principle of local schools for local children. Therefore, there are no changes proposed when considering the 2021/22 admission arrangements. It is proposed that the 2020/21 admission arrangements are therefore used for the 2021/22 admission arrangements.

12. Background Papers

- [School Admissions Code 2014](#)
- Local Authority 2021/22 Primary Admission Arrangements
- Local Authority 2021/22 Primary Co-ordinated Scheme
- Local Authority 2021/22 Secondary Admission Arrangements
- Local Authority 2021/22 Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme
- Sixth Form Policy 2021/22
- 2021/22 Published Admission Numbers for VC and Community schools

Report Sign-Off

		Signed-off
Legal Implications	Honor Clarke	07/01/20
Governance	Scott Woodridge	03/01/20
Corporate Finance	Sheila Collins	13/01/20
Human Resources	Chris Squire	13/01/20
Property	Paula Hewitt / Oliver Woodhams	13/01/20
Procurement / ICT	Simon Clifford	13/01/20
Senior Manager	Julian Wooster	13/01/20
Commissioning Development	Sunita Mills / Ryszard Rusinek	
Local Member	All	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Faye Purbrick - Cabinet Member for Education and Transformation & Cllr Frances Nicholson – Cabinet Member for Children and Families	13/01/20
Opposition Spokesperson	Jane Lock	
Scrutiny Chair	Cllr Leigh Redman - Children's Scrutiny	