

Children's and Adults' Care and Education Committee

13 February 2019

Annual Determination of Admission Arrangements for Community Schools

Report by Interim Director of Children's Services

Call-in deadline 5pm on Wednesday 27 February 2019 (ten working days after the meeting)

Purpose

To fulfil the statutory duty for the local authority to approve school admission arrangements.

Recommendation of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

To **resolve** that the proposed school admission arrangements for 2020-21, as set out in Annexes 1 to 4, to the report are agreed.

Benefits to the Community:

Under relevant legislation and the School Admissions Code, admissions authorities are required to ensure fair access to educational opportunity and prohibited from disadvantaging children from any social or racial group or those with disabilities or special educational needs.

Key Points

- A. There are no proposed changes from the determined admissions arrangements for 2019-20 and the proposed arrangements for 2020-21 are set out in **Annexes 1 to 4** attached.
- B. However, it should be noted that the Annexes include dates which are Pan-London dates, within the secondary and primary schemes, and these may subsequently change.
- C. Because there are no proposed changes to the admissions arrangements for 2020-21, there has been no statutory wider consultation on the arrangements. However, a short consultation with all schools on the secondary, primary and in year schemes (attached as **Annexes 2 to 4** of this report) has been carried out with all schools. This consultation is carried out annually with all schools.

Context

1. Admission authorities are required to publish the arrangements which they will make to allocate places at schools if they are oversubscribe, i.e. where there are more applications than there are places available. Before determination and publication they are required to consult with other admission authorities, neighbouring Local Authorities, Diocesan Boards (for faith schools), relevant parents and the wider community. Admission authorities are required to consult every seven years unless the proposed admission arrangements are different from those determined in the previous year.
2. The proposed arrangements consist of:
 - the oversubscription criteria for community primary and secondary schools (Annex 1);
 - the scheme for the annual coordinated admission round for entry to Reception (Annex 2);

- the scheme for the annual coordinated admission round for entry to Year 7 (Annex 3); and
- the scheme for in-year admissions to state-funded primary and secondary schools within the borough, i.e. admissions made once the school year has started (Annex 4).

Proposal and Options

3. It is proposed that the arrangements for 2020-21 as set out in Annexes 1 to 4 to the report are agreed. No changes, except the relevant dates, are proposed from the arrangements determined in 2018 for the 2019-20 admission arrangements.

Consultations

4. A short, non-statutory consultation on the secondary, primary and in year schemes which are attached as Annexes 2 to 4 of this report was undertaken with all schools from 7 to 25 January 2019 and there were no responses.

Timescale

5. All admission authorities must determine admissions arrangements by 28 February each year and publish these on their website by 15 March in the determination year.

Resource Implications

6. N/A

Legal Implications and Equalities Impact Assessment

7. School admission authorities are required by Section 88C of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 to consult as necessary and to determine admission arrangements for their schools by 28 February each year. The requirement to consult is triggered only if substantial changes are proposed or if consultation has not been undertaken in the previous seven years. Kingston Council last consulted upon admission arrangements in 2018, for admission in 2019/2020 and is not proposing any substantial changes, and is therefore not required to consult upon its proposed arrangements for 2020/2021.
8. The determined arrangements must be published by 15 March. The proposed admissions criteria comply with the legislation and School Admissions Code.
9. Under relevant legislation and the School Admissions Code admission authorities are required to ensure fair access to educational opportunity and prohibits all admission authorities from disadvantaging children from any particular social or racial group or those with disabilities or special educational needs.
10. To enable parents to make informed decisions when applying for school places, Kingston's published admissions arrangements provide parents with clear information about the admissions process, entry criteria and admission arrangements.
11. The proposals enable the Council to promote equality of opportunity for all children by having objective criteria and procedures that are fair for all groups of children including those with special educational needs and disabilities and children in care.

Risk Assessment

12. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for every school aged resident requiring a school place. In its role as the commissioner for school places, the Council works collaboratively with maintained schools, academies and free schools within Kingston and with neighbouring Councils to plan for and meet the demand for school places and agree admission arrangements which will enable as many children as possible to attend schools within their immediate community.

Health Implications

13. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure fair access and educational opportunity to all children from any social or racial group or those with disabilities or special educational needs.

Road Network and Environmental & Air Quality Implications

14. There are no network or environmental implications arising directly from the proposals under consideration in this report.

Background papers - held by author of report - Hatija Bhatia, Head of School Admissions and Fair Access (Kingston and Richmond), Achieving for Children, hatija.bhatia@achievingforchildren.org.uk, Tel: 020 8547 5284.

- School Admissions Code
- Determined admissions arrangements for 2019/2020

Annexes

- Annex 1 Admissions arrangements for Community Secondary and Primary Schools
- Annex 2 Scheme for Coordinated Secondary School Admissions in September 2020
- Annex 3 Scheme for Coordinated Primary School Admissions in September 2020
- Annex 4 RBK Scheme for In-Year Admissions for the 2020/2021 school year