

Report to Cabinet Member Education and Skills

Decision to be taken on or after 18 March 2020

**Decision can normally be implemented at least
3 working days after decision has been signed.**

Cabinet Member Report No. ED01.20

Title: Determined Admission Arrangements 2021

Date: 10 March 2020

Author: Jo Cassey, Interim Director of Education
01296 531364

Contact officer: Debbie Munday, Admissions and Transport Manager
01296 382217

Electoral divisions affected: All

For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444

Summary

This report sets out the final co-ordinated admission scheme and the determined admission rules for voluntary controlled and community schools to be used for 2021 entry. These were the subject of a formal consultation with stakeholders in line with the national timelines as set out in the Department for Education (DfE) Schools Admissions Code.

Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member agrees the determined admission arrangements for admission in September 2021.

These arrangements shall include:

- 1. The coordinated scheme for primary and secondary admissions in Buckinghamshire, for admission from September 2021, as set out in Appendix 1.**

2. The 2021 determined admission rules for community and voluntary-controlled primary schools as set out in Appendix 2. This includes the admission rules for schools, nursery classes and nursery schools and the Published Admission Number for each school.

3. The determined admission rules for community and voluntary-controlled secondary schools as set out in Appendix 3. This includes the proposed Admission Number for each school and sixth form admission arrangements.

4. The proposed relevant area for school admission arrangements from September 2022, as set out in Appendix 8.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

1. The Department for Education (DfE) Schools Admissions Code 2014 sets out the requirements for councils and admission authorities to follow with regard to (a) setting the Coordinated Scheme of Admission for Primary and Secondary Schools, and (b) determining the Admission Arrangements for Voluntary Controlled and Community schools.
2. The requirements in the Admissions Code are underpinned by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Education Act 2002 and The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012.
3. Prior to setting the Coordinated Scheme of Admission for Primary and Secondary Schools for September 2021 the Council is required to consult the governing bodies of community and voluntary controlled schools for which the Council is the admission authority, neighbouring admission authorities, governing bodies of academies, foundation and voluntary aided schools in Buckinghamshire, and other interested community groups for a minimum 6 week period which must be between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year.
4. Admission authorities for community and voluntary controlled schools are required to consult on admission arrangements whenever changes are proposed and at least every 7 years by consulting with the consultees listed above plus 'relevant parents' when setting the admission rules.
5. The consultation period for both the scheme and the rules was from 9 December 2019 to 31 January 2020 and was publicised on the Council's website and an online response form was provided. As part of notifying the statutory consultees, all Buckinghamshire admission authorities were notified via the school bulletin of the proposals, and other statutory consultees were notified by email.
6. By Regulation 17 of the School Admissions Regulations 2012 the Council is then required to determine its admission rules by 28 February 2020, and to notify the Secretary of State that the scheme has been accepted by admission authorities.
7. In addition, the Regulations require the admission authority (in this case the local authority) to publish on its website by 15 March in the determining year the determined arrangements of all maintained primary and secondary school and academies in the county/borough, advising the right to object to the Schools Adjudicator, where it is considered that the arrangement do not comply with the mandatory provisions of the School Admissions Code 2014.

8. Comment was invited from:
- Parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
 - Other persons in the relevant area who have an interest in the proposed admissions;
 - All other admission authorities within the relevant area;
 - Adjoining neighbouring local authorities;
 - The Oxford Church of England Diocese and the Northampton Catholic Diocese.
9. In total, 1 parent and 1 school responded to the admissions consultation. The following chart summarises the questions we asked and their responses. A full record of the responses received is attached as Appendix 6.

| Parent Responses and other consultees responses | Parental Responses | | | Governing Body Responses | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| | Yes – in agreement | No – not in agreement | No view * | Yes – in agreement | No – not in agreement | No view* |
| Proposed drafting changes to the coordinated admissions scheme | | | | 1 | | |
| We proposed to increase the PANs for 2 schools. | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| We proposed to decrease the PANs for 3 Primary schools. | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| We proposed to make changes to the ranking of the feeder school rule within the Junior Entry admission rules | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| We proposed to increase the PAN for 2 secondary schools | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| We proposed to change the catchment area for 4 areas (Appendices 4-7) | | | 1 | | | 1 |

* parents could also leave a blank response

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS SCHEMES AND RULES 2021

The Coordinated Admissions Scheme for all Buckinghamshire Schools

10. The final coordinated admissions scheme is as attached as Appendix 1. No substantive changes were proposed to the coordinated admissions scheme.

No governing body responses were received regarding the proposed changes. Parental consultees do not have an opportunity to comment on the scheme.

The final coordinated admissions scheme for 2021 entry is attached as Appendix 1 and this will be adopted.

The Rules for Voluntary Controlled and Community Primary Schools

11. Preliminary views were sought in the consultation last year about a change to the Junior Transfer admission rules. As there were no adverse comments we formally consulted on making that change this year.
12. Across the county there are 15 voluntary controlled and community junior and combined schools with an entry point in the Junior Transfer coordinated admission arrangements. This arrangement of schools does not exist in all areas of the county; large areas of the county are wholly served by combined schools. In the Junior Transfer we include a

'feeder school priority' rule to assist parents of children attending infant schools who would like their children to be able to progress with their friends to the linked junior school. This rule was Rule 7 and as a result of this consultation we will include this as a greater priority at Rule 5. This gives greater security of progression to a linked junior/combined school for children attending the infant school.

The admission rules for voluntary controlled and community schools for admission for 2021 entry have therefore been updated to include the 'feeder school priority' rule as Rule 5 placing it above the catchment rule and the sibling priority rule. The determined admissions policy for Buckinghamshire Voluntary Controlled and Community Primary Schools is as set out in Appendix 2.

Published Admission Number (PAN) Changes for Individual Schools for 2021

13. Planned Admission Number increases - the following changes were included at the request of the relevant governing bodies:

- Jordans School – increase from 24 to 28
- Bierton School – Reception intake - increase from 40 to 60 at reception with the +2 at junior transfer phasing out in 2024

14. The following reductions to PAN will be made following the requests made by the relevant governing bodies:

- Winslow Primary School - to remove the additional +4 at Junior Transfer to as a result of all the feeder schools becoming combined schools.
- Buckingham Primary - to remove +30 as Maids Moreton CE School is the last feeder infant school to become a combined school.
- St Michaels CE, Stewkley – to reduce extra intake at Junior Transfer from +3 to +2

No objections were received for the above changes so they will be adopted.

15. Whaddon CE School – in parallel to the annual admissions consultation, the Council (as the admission authority for Whaddon CE School) completed a formal consultation in line with the statutory guidance on behalf of the governors of Whaddon School to extend the age range of the school to become an all through primary school. The statutory notice was published on 18 October and during the consultation there was 100% agreement with the proposed change. The cabinet member formalised the proposals on 17 December 2019.

Please go to

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s145318/Report%20for%20Proposed%20expansion%20of%20Whaddon%20CE%20school.pdf>) for full details.

In line with the statutory consultation the PAN for Whaddon CE School has been updated to include the outcome of the statutory consultation. The PAN for Reception entry at Whaddon CE School will be 10 with a further +1 at Key Stage 2.

Primary School catchment changes

16 A number of small catchment changes to primary catchment areas were proposed. All schools have been approached in advance of consulting and no school has objected to consulting on minor changes to the following school's catchment area:

- Elmtree School – see Appendix 4
- Haydon Abbey School – see Appendix 5

- Millbrook School and Booker Hill School – see Appendix 6
- Waddesdon Primary School – see Appendix 7

No objections were **received for the above catchment changes so they will be adopted.**

The rules for community secondary schools

17. No changes to the secondary school admission rules were proposed.

18. We consulted on proposals to increase the PANs as follows:

- Mandeville School – increase to 210 subject to completion of expansion works.
- Buckingham Secondary School – increase to 210 subject to completion of expansion works.

No objections were received for the above PAN increases so they will be adopted.

Relevant area

19. Appendix 8 sets the relevant area which has to be set for 2022, no change is proposed and no comments were received. The relevant area is the area that will be covered by Buckinghamshire Council.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

The Council is required to determine and publish its admission arrangements for September 2020 by 28 February 2020, by statute, having regard to the views of consultees.

C. Resource implications

It is not expected that there will be any negative resource implications as a result of the identified changes to the rules and schemes.

D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment

Effectiveness: This approach will produce outcomes for residents and stakeholders which they have indicated, through consultation, that they regard as important

Efficiency: This approach ensures that the continued effectiveness of the current system is not compromised by an ill thought through revision.

Economy: This approach has no impact on service delivery.

E. Legal implications

The current School Admissions Code (“the Code”) came into force on 19 December 2014 issued by the Department for Education under section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Code is to be read alongside the School Admission Appeals Code, as well as the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”) as amended by the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (“the Amendment Regulations”). The Regulations came into force on the 1 February 2012 and the Amendment Regulations came into force on the 19 December 2014. The Code and the

Regulations and the Amendment Regulations apply to admission arrangements determined in 2014 and later years.

In determining its admission arrangements for 2021 the Council has a statutory duty as an admission authority to act in accordance with the Regulations and with the relevant provisions of the Code.

As part of determining its admission arrangements, the Council must set an admission number for each school's "relevant age group" i.e. the age group at which pupils are or will normally be admitted to the school.

Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the Code requires the admission authority to consult for a minimum of 6 weeks between 1 October and 31 January on their admission arrangements that will apply for the following academic year. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

F. Property implications

None

G. Other implications/issues

None

H. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views

The proposals were publicised to councillors by email and no adverse comments were received. Appendix 6 sets out comments made by parents and statutory consultees during the consultation.

I. Communication issues

This was the subject of a 6 week consultation with stakeholders during the period 9 December 2019 and 31 January 2020.

J. Progress Monitoring

Admission rules are subject to regular review and consultation with statutory consultees.

K. Review

The policy forming part of this decision will be reviewed in line with national timescales ready for 2022 entry.

Background Papers

School Admissions Code 2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389388/School_Admissions_Code_2014_-_19_Dec.pdf

There are 9 appendices to this document

- Appendix 1 - The coordinated admission scheme for primary and secondary schools in Buckinghamshire Council Local Authority Area from 2021 Admission Year
 - Appendix 2 - The Buckinghamshire Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools for September 2021
 - Appendix 3 - The Buckinghamshire Admissions Policy for Community Secondary Schools for September 2021
 - Appendix 4: Chesham Area – Elmtree, Thomas Harding and Waterside – before and after maps
 - Appendix 5: Aylesbury Area – Haydon Abbey and Elmhurst - before and after maps
 - Appendix 6: Wycombe Area – Millbrook and Booker Hill - before and after maps
 - Appendix 7: Waddesdon Area – Waddesdon Primary School- before and after maps
 - Appendix 8 - The relevant area for 2022
 - Appendix 9a and 9b - Summary of consultation responses of parents and governing bodies
-

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on 17 March 2020. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk