



Report to Leader (Education & Children's Services portfolio)

Decision Date:	1 March 2022
Reference number:	EC02.22
Title:	2023/24 Admission Arrangements
Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor Anita Cranmer
Contact officer:	Debbie Munday Admissions Manager Debbie.Munday@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	That the Leader agrees the determined admission arrangements for admission in September 2023.

These arrangements shall include:

- 1. The coordinated scheme for primary and secondary admissions in Buckinghamshire, for admission from September 2023, as set out in Appendix 1.**
- 2. The 2023 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 and catchment area for each school.**
- 3. The 2023 determined admission rules for community and voluntary-controlled secondary schools as set out in Appendix 3. This includes the proposed Admission Number and catchment area for each school and sixth form admission arrangements.**

4. The proposed relevant area for school admission arrangements from September 2024, as set out in Appendix 4.

Reason for decision: Following a formal consultation where there was no adverse comment (Consultation responses as per Appendix 5) the admission arrangements must be determined.

1. Executive summary

1.1 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 2023 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.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 The Department for Education (DfE) Schools Admissions Code 2021 [School admissions code - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97121/school-admissions-code-2021.pdf) 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Where changes are proposed, prior to setting the Coordinated Scheme of Admission for Primary and Secondary Schools for September 2023 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.
- 2.4 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.

- 2.5 No changes were made to the scheme (Appendix 1). No changes were made to the admission rules (Appendices 2 and 3) or the Relevant Area (Appendix 4). The LA consulted only on amending the Published Admission Numbers for two schools. The consultation period for both the scheme and the rules was from 17 December 2020 to 31 January 2021 and was publicised for parents 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.
- 2.6 By Regulation 17 of the School Admissions Regulations 2012 the Council is then required to determine its admission rules by 28 February 2022, and to notify the Secretary of State that the scheme has been accepted by admission authorities.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 As the proposed changes were very minimal changes it was not unexpected that limited responses were received. All affected governing bodies had been party to the decision to consult and were in agreement with the suggested changes. The questions asked and responses received are attached as Appendix 5.
- 2.10 The Coordinated Admissions Scheme:** No changes were proposed to the coordinated admissions scheme so the scheme as set out in Appendix 1 will be adopted.
- 2.11 The Admission Rules for Voluntary Controlled and Community Primary Schools:** No changes were proposed to the admission rules for voluntary controlled and community schools for admission for 2023 entry. The determined admissions policy for Buckinghamshire Voluntary Controlled and Community Primary Schools is therefore as set out in Appendix 2.

2.12 Published Admission Number (PAN) changes:

- To reduce the planned admission number at Manor Farm Infant School from 75 to 60.
- To reduce the planned admission number at Naphill and Walters Ash School from 60 to 45.
- To increase the planned admission number at Dropmore School from 20 to 25.

2.13 The Admission Rules for Community Secondary Schools: No changes were proposed to the admission rules for community schools for admission for 2023 entry. The determined admissions policy for Buckinghamshire Voluntary Controlled and Community Primary Schools is therefore as set out in Appendix 3.

2.14 Relevant area 2024: Appendix 4 sets the relevant area for 2024 entry and no change was proposed. The relevant area is the area that will be covered by Buckinghamshire Council.

3. Other options considered

3.1 The Council is required to determine and publish its admission arrangements for September 2023 by 28 February 2022, by statute, having regard to the views of consultees.

4. Legal and financial implications

4.1 The current School Admissions Code (“the Code”) came into force on 1 September 2021 issued by the Department for Education under section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

4.2 In determining its admission arrangements for 2023 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

4.5 Where the admission arrangements, scheme and relevant area have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to formally 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.

5. Corporate implications

5.1 There are no corporate implications.

6. Consultation with local councillors & community boards

6. Not required as minimal change proposed

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

7.1 This was the subject of a 6-week consultation with stakeholders during the period 17 December 2021 to 31 January 2022.

8. Next steps and review

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

8.2 The policy forming part of this decision will be reviewed in line with national timescales ready for 2023 entry

9. Background papers

Appendix 1 – The Buckinghamshire Coordinated Scheme 2023

Appendix 2 – 2023 Admission rules for Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools

Appendix 3 – 2023 Admission Rules for Community Secondary Schools

Appendix 4 – Relevant Area for 2024

Appendix 5 – Admissions Consultation Questionnaire Questions and Response Record

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.