

Cabinet Meeting

24 February 2016

Report title

Admission Arrangements for Wolverhampton - 2017/2018

Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Claire Darke Cabinet Member for Education	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Julien Kramer, Education	
Originating service	School Planning and Resources	
Accountable employee(s)	Bill Hague Tel Email	Service Manager – School Places and Transport 01902 556943 bill.hague@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the Co-ordinated Admission Schemes for secondary and primary school admissions at the normal year of entry for 2017/18 and that the Secretary of State be notified by 28 February 2016.
2. Approve the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2017/18.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To approve the schemes for co-ordinated school admission arrangements for secondary and primary schools and the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2017/18.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In accordance with legislation and the School Admissions Code, each LA is required to draw up a scheme (or schemes) for co-ordinating admission arrangements for all mainstream, maintained schools (community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided, foundation and academies) within their area.
- 2.2 In addition, each Admission Authority is required to review their admission arrangements annually and to consult on their proposed admission arrangements. The Local Authority's responsibility in this regard is for the Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Wolverhampton. For academies the academy trust(s) are the admitting authority not the LA, however some academies follow LA admission arrangements.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

- 3.1 Since their introduction the Authority's schemes have been amended each year and they have worked well. During previous consultations no comments, objections or concerns have been raised.
- 3.2 The Admissions Schemes and Admission Arrangements have been rewritten with a view to making them easier for parents/carers to read and understand.
- 3.3 Due to the rewriting of the schemes/arrangements a formal consultation was undertaken in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014. No comments or queries were received during the consultation.
- 3.4 The LAs within the West Midlands and beyond operate an inter-LA scheme for primary and secondary admissions. There are no proposals to change the schemes in this regard.
- 3.5 For 2017/2018 the Local Authority will maintain waiting lists for primary schools including year two to three transfers and secondary schools until 31 December 2017.
- 3.6 During the Autumn term 2015, Governors were asked to consider their recommendations in respect of their school's Planned Admission Number (PAN). There are no proposed changes to PAN for 2017/18 at this point.
- 3.7 Work is ongoing with regard to ensuring a sufficient level of school places is available in future years. Further information regarding future demand will be detailed within upcoming School Organisation policy documents. Any proposed changes to the school estate will be reported to Cabinet in due course.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The Schools Admissions services is funded largely through the Dedicated Schools Grant as an approved centrally managed service. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.
(DE/15022016/J)

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 School admission arrangements are heavily regulated by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education and Skills Act 2008. Regulations also apply and the Local Authority is required to comply with the School Admissions Code in relation to admission arrangements.
- 5.2 The Schemes for co-ordinated admissions and the Admission arrangements for Wolverhampton community schools, voluntary controlled schools, free schools and academies comply with the current relevant legislation.
- 5.3 The Authority must notify the Secretary of State that a co-ordinated scheme for admissions in 2017 has been adopted by the 28 February 2016.
[TS/11022016/S]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 An initial equality analysis has been undertaken with regard to the Co-ordinated Admission Schemes and Admission Arrangements and a full equality analysis is not required.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 The report has no environmental implications.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There are no human resource implications from this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications from this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 School Admissions Code 2014 and School Admissions Regulations 2012.