

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 19 January 2022
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Report title	Determined Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2023-2024	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Dr Hardacre Education, Skills and Work	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett	Executive Director of Families
Originating service	Children's Services	
Accountable employee	Bill Hague	Head of Service, School Business and Support
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Report to be/has been considered by	Children's and Education Leadership Team	9 December 2021

Recommendations for 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 2023-2024 and that the Secretary of State be notified by 28 February 2022.
2. Approve the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2023-2024.

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 2023-2024.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In accordance with legislation and the Schools Admission Code, each Local Authority 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 determine admission arrangements every year. The City of Wolverhampton Council's (CWC) 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 CWC, however some academies follow CWC admission arrangements.

3.0 Admission Arrangements

- 3.1 There are no proposals for changes to the admission arrangements.
- 3.2 The Local Authorities within the West Midlands and beyond operate an inter-Local Authority scheme for primary and secondary admissions. There are no proposals to change the schemes in this regard.
- 3.3 For 2023-2024 the CWC will maintain waiting lists for primary schools including year two to three transfers and secondary schools until 31 December 2023.
- 3.4 During the Autumn term 2021, Governors were asked to consider their recommendations in respect of their school's Published Admission Number (PAN). A significant amount of work has already been undertaken to ensure a sufficient level of school places are available in future school years.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 One alternative option may have been to propose changes to the admissions arrangements. However, a full consultation was conducted in 2015, and the current arrangements are compliant with the School Admissions Code 2021. A full consultation will be undertaken in the Autumn term of 2022.

5.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 5.1 As prescribed by The School Admissions Code 2014, Admission authorities must set (determine) admission arrangements annually. If there are no changes to admission arrangements, they must be consulted on at least once every seven years. A full consultation was conducted in 2015 and will next be undertaken in the Autumn term of 2022.

There are no proposed changes to the admission arrangements, and they comply with the mandatory provisions of the School Admissions Code 2021.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The Schools Admissions service is funded largely through the Dedicated Schools Grant as an approved centrally managed service. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.
[TS/30112021/G]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 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 CWC is required to comply with the School Admissions Code in relation to admission arrangements.
- 7.2 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.
[SZ/03122021/P]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 Initial screening was carried out (equality analysis-stage one-initial analysis) and no significant impacts have been highlighted. Admission arrangements must be compliant with the School Admissions Code 2021 that adheres to and references the Equality Act 2010.

9.0 All other implications

- 9.1 The City of Wolverhampton school admission arrangements allow for a child with an Education Health and Care Plan which names the school to be admitted.
- 9.2 The oversubscription criterion includes children and young people in care and in care as the highest criterion. This includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- 9.3 The criterion allows for medical and social claims for a preferred school to be considered.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 School Admissions Code 2021 and School Admissions Regulations 2012.

11.0 Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1: School Admission Arrangements 2023-2024.