

CABINET

DATE	15/02/2023
REPORT OF	Councillor Margaret Cracknell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Janice Spencer, Director of Children's Services
SUBJECT	School Admission Arrangements 2024-2025
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 02/23/09

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The recommendations contribute to 'Enable children, young people and adults to learn and be ready to work.' School Admission Arrangements enable children and young people to access appropriate education and therefore have better opportunities to learn and be employed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the local authority's school admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the academic year 2024-2025. In accordance with legislation these arrangements should be determined and published, after any relevant consultation by 15th March 2023. The report summarises the consultations which have taken place and the recommendations made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet

- 1) Supports the position whereby, the general admission arrangements, including published admissions numbers (PANs), for the local authority's community and voluntary controlled schools for 2024-2025 be unchanged.
- 2) Supports the position that, no material changes be made to the local authority's co-ordinated school admission arrangements published schemes other than the updating of dates and deadlines, and that locally agreed protocols that support admission arrangements continue to be reviewed on a regular basis.
- 3) Delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the governing bodies of community and voluntary controlled schools and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education to increase the published admission number of an individual year group in a school in exceptional circumstances.
- 4) That it be noted that those schools / academies that are their own admission authorities have the ability to consult and determine their own admission arrangements. Details of known proposed changes are provided at Appendix 1.
- 5) That it is noted with the increasing number of academies within the local authority the number of schools for which the local authority is responsible for in respect of determining admission arrangements is reduced

REASONS FOR DECISION

The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 requires school admission arrangements for 2024-2025 to be determined and published, after any required consultation by 15th March 2023. The recommendations above result from the statutory consultation required under legislation which took place for a minimum period of 6 weeks between 1st November 2022 and 10th December 2022.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

1.1 Consultation with neighbouring local authorities and the diocesan bodies during 1999 established that North East Lincolnshire and its neighbouring authorities of North Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire all agreed that their "relevant areas" for consultation on admission arrangements would be the areas that coincided with each local authority's own boundaries.

1.2 The three neighbouring local authorities have informed each other of their proposals for admission arrangements for 2024-2025. No areas of disagreement have arisen between North East Lincolnshire and its neighbouring authorities as a result of this. Consultations took the form of written advice and access to publications on respective websites.

1.3 In line with the School Admissions Code, it is no longer a requirement for admission authorities:

- To formally consult on any increases to school's published admission numbers (PANs).
- To formally consult on admission arrangements unless they remain unchanged for seven years.

However, there is a requirement to formally consult on proposals to decrease published admission numbers and or changes to oversubscription criteria or policy details.

1.4 Despite the reduced School Admissions Code's requirements, even if there are no formal consultation requirements, admission authorities still have to determine and publish their admission arrangements annually in line with the relevant timescales.

1.5 There are no proposals for change to the local authority's agreed published co-ordinated school admissions. Therefore, current arrangements will continue for a further year with appropriate modification of dates and deadlines.

1.6 To assist schools / academies in understanding the statutory requirements and to provide the opportunity for proposed changes, informal consultation commenced with all North East Lincolnshire School / academy governing bodies during the 2022 summer term.

1.7 It is noted that some governing bodies of schools / academies which are their own admission authorities are proposing changes to their admission arrangements for 2024-2025 and have all requested that the local authority coordinate consultation on their behalf. These will be determined and published

by the respective admission authorities by 15th March 2023.

1.8 The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) requires that local authorities regularly review the links between school admission arrangements and education transport policies. There have been no changes to the local authority's school admission policy this year which would result in the need to review the Home to School Transport Policy.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Risk assessment against proposed school admissions arrangements. Identified as Priority E – Low Risk, Requiring Monitor and Review. The local authority's school admission arrangements are consulted upon and determined annually. Any proposed changes are in line with statutory requirements. The public consultation has taken into account the views, opinions and likely impact on citizens, schools and service users.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Other options are regularly considered in the wide ranging consultations.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

Due to the stake holder consultation, there are minimal potential reputational implications for the Council resulting from the decision.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is no effect on the Council's revenue or capital expenditure or any expectation to call on Council's reserves.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

School Admission Arrangements enable all children and young people to access appropriate education and be given the opportunity to learn and become employed.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no climate change or environmental implications.

8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

There has been no consultation with Council's Scrutiny Panel

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct additional financial implications arising from the report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1. Section 88C of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended, requires the Local Authority in its role as admission authority to determine the admission arrangements that will apply in line with regulations and the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code.

10.2. As stated in the body of the report the Local Authority has a statutory duty to

consult, determine and publish its admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools.

10.3. In adopting the recommendations as set out in the report the Local Authority is adhering to, and complying with, such obligations.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All wards are affected.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

School Admission Arrangements for the Academic Year 2023-2024
<http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/resident/schools-and-education/apply-for-a-school-place-admissions-information/school-admission-arrangements-2023/2024>
School Admissions Code 2021
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001050/School_admissions_code_2021.pdf

14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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COUNCILLOR MARGARET CRACKNELL
PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

Appendix 1

North East Lincolnshire Local Authority – Governing body resolutions in relation to any proposed changes to school admission arrangements for the 2024-2025 academic year

The School Admissions Code does not require admission authorities to consult on any proposed increase in published admission numbers (PANs). Consultation is required for any changes to admission arrangements or a decrease in PAN.

The following table provides details of academies which have advised the local authority of any proposed changes to their admission arrangements for 2024-2025 academic year which have required formal consultation to be undertaken.

Academy Trust	Academy	Proposed Change
Ormiston Academy Trust (OAT)	Ormiston Maritime Academy	A decrease in the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 190 to 160
David Ross Education Trust (DRET)	Havelock Academy	Removal of catchment area as over subscription criteria number 3. Clarification of wording for children of all staff groups to confirm that it applies where the member of staff has been employed at Havelock Academy on a permanent contract for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to Havelock Academy is made or where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at Havelock Academy for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. Clarification of wording on the final criteria relating to distance - The distance from the child's home address to the academy. Priority will be given to the child living nearest the academy. Clarification in the sixth form section that there is a sixth form site at King Edward VI Academy and ensuring oversubscription criteria is aligned with Y7 criteria.
	Edward Heneage Primary Academy	Removal of criteria 4 as a tiebreaker – keeping a randomizer as the tie-breaker which is consistent with other schools.
	Fairfield Academy	A change to the order of oversubscription, prioritising children with a sibling on roll at the time of admission over children living in the catchment area. The rationale being that giving siblings on roll a higher priority than living in catchment would minimise the possibility of losing existing siblings on roll. Families will often move all children in order for them all to attend one school.