

Warwickshire County Council – Admissions Arrangements for Academies / Update on Schools Moving to Academy Status

Background

It is anticipated that by September 2011 around half of Warwickshire's Secondary Schools will have academy status; more are expected to follow during 2011/12. The table at the end of this document shows the current status of those schools that have embarked on the process of converting to an academy.

Set out below are some of the key points relating to admissions and academies. These should be considered alongside the new draft School Admissions Code which was published by the Department for Education in May 2011.

General issues and co-ordination

In the same way as maintained schools, all academies are required to adopt clear and fair admission arrangements in line with relevant law and the School Admissions Code.

When a school becomes an academy, the academy trust will be the admission authority and is responsible for its own admission arrangements. This will mean little change for some schools such as foundation and voluntary-aided schools; in many cases these already are self-standing admission authorities. The change will be greater for community schools and voluntary controlled schools; the academy will need to take on responsibility for its own admissions process. This will involve periodic consultation and regular publication of the academy's admission arrangements.

Academies may choose to purchase support from the local authority to help with certain aspects of their responsibility as an admission authority. Warwickshire already provides such a service.

The local authority remains responsible for co-ordinating admission to all state funding schools within their area, including academies. Parents will therefore continue to make a single application to their home authority. Information will then be exchanged with other authorities about applications in their area. The home local authority will then be informed if a place is available, and a single offer to parents will be made by the home local authority.

Objections about an academy's admissions arrangements

Any party wishing to object to an academy's admission arrangements should currently contact the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who will seek the advice of the school's adjudicator.

Appeals against the refusal of a school place

The academy trust will be responsible for arranging appeals. These must be arranged and held in such a way that they comply with the School Appeals Code and other relevant legislation.

Academies may choose to purchase this service from the local authority and Warwickshire already provides such a service.

Impact on selective schools

The government has made it clear that there will be no expansion of selection. Schools which already select some or all of their pupils will be able to continue to do so when they become academies, but schools becoming academies cannot decide to become newly selective schools.

Selective schools may choose to purchase support with the process of selecting pupils based on ability. Warwickshire is already trading this service with the selective schools that have converted to academy status.

Impact on faith schools

Converting schools must retain their existing designation. Where a school currently admits pupils, or a portion of pupils based on faith, it will be able to retain those arrangements. For academies with a Church of England or Catholic faith designation it is expected that the diocese will be represented on the academy trust. For former voluntary-aided schools this means that the diocese will be able to appoint the majority of members to the academy trust and the members in turn appoint the majority of governors.

Warwickshire Academies – State of Play as at 02 June 2011

School	Type	Sponsor	Academy Order Issued	Date of Change (if known)	Admissions Service Purchased	Admissions Service for Selective Schools Purchased*	Academy Admissions Appeal Service Purchased
The Nuneaton Academy	Academy	North Warks & Hinckley College	✓	Opened 1 st September 2010	X	X	✓
Polesworth School	Academy		✓	Opened 1 st February 2011	X	N/A	✓
Alcester Grammar School	Academy		✓	Opened 1 st April 2011	N/A	✓	✓
Ashlawn School	Academy		✓	Opened 1 st April 2011	✓	✓	X
Rugby High School	Academy		✓	Opened 1 st April 2011	N/A	✓	✓
Studley High School	Trust		✓	1 st June 2011	TBC	N/A	TBC
Myton School	Foundation			1 st July 2011	TBC	N/A	TBC
Alcester High School	Community	Caludon Castle School, Coventry		1 st August 2011	TBC	N/A	TBC
Henley High School	Community	Alcester Grammar School		1 st August 2011	TBC	N/A	TBC
Stratford Girls' Grammar School	Community		✓	1 st August 2011	N/A	Expected	TBC

* Includes provision of the 11+ test.

Stratford High School	Community		✓	1 st August 2011	TBC	N/A	TBC
The Coleshill School	Community	Caludon Castle School, Coventry		1 st August 2011	TBC	N/A	TBC
King Edward VI School	Voluntary Aided		✓	1 st August 2011 2011	N/A	Expected	TBC
Campion School	Community			1 st September 2011	TBC	N/A	TBC
George Eliot School	National Challenge Trust School	North Warks & Hinckley College	✓	1 st September 2011	TBC	N/A	TBC
Shipston High School	Community			TBC	TBC	N/A	TBC
Aylesford School	Community			TBC	TBC	N/A	TBC
Etone College	Community			TBC	TBC	N/A	TBC
Ash Green School	Foundation	Creative Trust		TBC	TBC	N/A	TBC
Higham Lane School	Community			TBC	TBC	N/A	TBC
Bilton School	Community	Coundon Court, Coventry		TBC	TBC	N/A	TBC

* Includes provision of the 11+ test.

Agenda No 5, Additional Information

School Federations

A number of schools across the county have either become part of a federation or are looking to establish a federated approach to their future management.

Federations already established are:

- Acorns Primary School, Long Compton and Shipston Primary School
- Thorns Community Infant School and Park Hill Junior School, Kenilworth
- Sydenham Primary School, Leamington Spa and Lighthorne Heath Primary School

Current consultations

- The Governing Bodies of Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Alcester, St Mary's Catholic Primary School Henley in Arden and St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Broadway, Worcestershire are currently consulting on a proposal to federate. If the Governors decide to continue with the proposal, this would see the schools federated with effect from 1 September 2011.

In all of the existing federations and the proposal currently out for consultation, the model of management is for one federated governing body to oversee the schools. Each federation has an executive head.

Other

Other schools at the early stages of discussions regarding the possibility of federation include;

- Dunchurch Infant and Dunchurch Boughton C E Junior School
- Austrey C E Primary School, Newton Regis C E Primary School and Warton Nethersole C E Primary School as the All Souls Federation.

A number of other schools have expressed an interest in possible future federation to support their long term sustainability. These schools do not have specific proposals in mind. These include:

- Loxley C E Primary School
- Snitterfield Primary School

A number of schools have considered federation but have decided against formally consulting at this stage. These include:

- Boughton Leigh Infant and Boughton Leigh Junior Schools in Rugby
- Gun Hill Infant School and Herbert Fowler Junior Schools in Arley

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