

Cabinet

17 February 2022

Determination of Admission Arrangements, Co-ordinated Scheme and In Year process for school admissions for the 2023/2024 Academic year

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the Admission Arrangements, Co-ordinated Scheme and In Year process for school admissions during the 2023/2024 Academic year, as outlined in Appendix 1, Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.
2. Authorises the Strategic Director for Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Education to approve the Admission Arrangements, Co-ordinated Scheme and In Year admission process in future years, unless those arrangements or schemes are subject to consultation as outlined in Section 1.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school. Admission arrangements are determined by the relevant admission authority for that school.
- 1.2 Warwickshire County Council are the admissions authority for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools within Warwickshire.
- 1.3 For Academies, Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools the governing body or academy trust, as appropriate, is responsible for determining the admission arrangements
- 1.4 Admission authorities must set (or 'determine') admission arrangements annually. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements. If no changes are made to admission arrangements, they must be consulted on at least once every 7 years.
- 1.5 Minor changes are proposed for the 2023/ 2024 Admission Arrangements for any schools where the Local Authority is the admission authority.

- 1.6 Changes include the reduction in the published admission number at 2 schools to better reflect the pupil intakes and amendments to the oversubscription criteria to ensure the definition of looked after children is in line with the new Admission Code 2021, alongside revision and clarification of the information outlined in all documents.
- 1.7 As required under the Admission Code 2021 where a change is proposed consultation has been undertaken. The consultation began on 22nd November 2021 and ran until 14th January 2022.
- 1.8 Details of the consultation were published via Ask Warwickshire and the head teacher and chair of governors for all Warwickshire schools and academies were notified directly. All schools were asked to pass information on the consultation on to parents or carers and details were included in the Family Information Service newsletter. In addition the Catholic Archdiocese and Church of England Diocese were notified alongside all neighbouring Local Authorities.
- 1.9 In total eight responses were received to the consultation, none of which were concerning the proposed changes. Of the eight responses received four were seeking signposting to the application process, one concerned classroom organisation and admission at an academy, one suggested changes to the arrangements to give higher priority to siblings above other local children, and two concerned the admissions priority at transfer from infant to junior schools. A summary of those consultation responses can be found in Appendix 4.
- 1.10 In line with the Department for Education School Admissions Code 2021 if no future changes are proposed consultation is not required again until 2028.
- 1.11 It is proposed that the co-ordination of the administration of in-year admissions for 2023/ 2024 remain with the Local Authority. While it is not a legal requirement for Local Authorities to process such applications, retaining this function provides numerous benefits with regard to pupil safeguarding and the tracking of vulnerable children and assists in the undertaking of the statutory responsibility for operation of the Fair Access Protocol.
- 1.12 The majority of admission authorities wish for the Local Authority to continue to carry out the in-year application function on their behalf. No additional resources are required to continue this function.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 None

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None

4. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 4.1 If approved, the proposed admission arrangements will apply to applications received for the 2023/24 academic year.

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 - Warwickshire County Council admissions arrangements 2023-24
2. Appendix 2 - Warwickshire County Council Coordinated Scheme 2023-24
3. Appendix 3 - Warwickshire County Council In-Year Admission Process 2023-24
4. Appendix 4 – Consultation Responses

Background Papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s):

Other members: