

Appendix 4

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

Summary of Consultation Responses

Consultation response received	LA comment
<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Warwickshire Admissions Arrangements 2023/2024.</p> <p>I am a governor of the Bilton Community Federation that was recently formed in April 2020. We are a family of 2 infant schools (Bilton Infant School and Bawnmore Community Infant School) and 1 junior school (Bilton junior School) that share the community of Bilton.</p> <p>There is a history of the 2 infant schools being the main feeder for the junior school and our federation was formed to make this journey even smoother.</p> <p>At the moment, there are no priorities given to pupils at our infant schools for admission to Bilton Junior School. Ideally, we would like such a priority to be included in the admissions process in order that our families can be more confident about the continuity of learning for their children.</p>	<p>The current and proposed 2023/24 arrangements, recognise and give priority to 'partner schools'.</p> <p>As such, after children with EHCPs those in Care, receiving Pupil Premium or subject to a Child in Need Plan or a Child Protection Plan, children attending a partner infant school are given the highest admissions priority over other children applying for year 3 at the partner junior school.</p> <p>Likewise, siblings of children already attending either the partner infant or junior school are given higher priority than other children.</p> <p>The intention is that in most cases on time applications received from children attending the Infant schools will be allocated a place at the partner junior school.</p>
<p>I would be grateful if the following clause could be reviewed. It appears to place a bias against siblings with a 3 school year gap. Could it be amended to say that it is counted as a sibling link at the time of application providing the year 3 applicant was attending the partner infant school, but if the place at the partner junior school is not accepted then the link no longer applies.</p>	<p>In addition to the above comment, where siblings are applying at the same time to start reception and transfer to junior school the application process takes account of sibling offers to ensure the partner school sibling link is correctly applied</p>
<p>I would like to make a suggestion going forward for admissions to primary schools from 2023.</p> <p>I feel Warwickshire should match admissions policies like Staffordshire and other authorities by giving priority to sibling places over catchment places.</p> <p>In modern Warwickshire, most parents have a form of transport to be able to travel to school however if siblings are not within the same school, this can cause severe disruption to parents and children. It has a negative effect on finances, time organisation and mental health and I strongly believe sibling places should be prioritised from 3rd to 2nd place.</p>	<p>Further analysis would be required to assess the impact or displacement of other local children of this request</p>
<p>I am writing to provide my feedback on the Consultation Process for Warwickshire School Admissions 2023 onwards. My children are both at The Ferncumbe C of E Primary School. One is in year 4 and one is in year 6. It is a small, village school with a single form intake. That was one of the things which most appealed to us when we chose it. Over the years we have been there, though, the school has expanded rapidly - when my eldest started at the school, the classes further up the school only had around 14 or 15 pupils in each. The lower school classes, however, were all around 30 pupils as the school sought to increase the amount of funding it received each year (as explained to us by the Headmistress when we she showed us around the school). This has continued to the point that most (but not all) years since my children have been at the school there have been 30 children in each new Reception class.</p>	<p>The Ferncumbe C of E Primary School is an academy and as such Admission arrangements are determined by the Academy Trust</p>

This may be great from a funding point of view, but the school is creaking at the seams from a space and quality of teaching point of view. The outdoor space was always relatively limited, but this has decreased twice since my eldest started – once with the arrival of what was meant to be a temporary outside classroom, but has been there for 5+ years now. This took up a large chunk of the playground space. Then, another large chunk of playground space was taken up when an additional permanent classroom was built. The end result being that the school is housing a lot more children than it ever has before (ca. 190), but has a lot less outdoor space. This has had a huge impact on play times, specifically the space and time permitted for each class is very limited. This is not in the best interests of the children.

The increase in numbers has also had a hugely negative impact on the inside space. My eldest child has spent the last 4 years (the whole of KS2) in the same classroom. I have been told many reasons, but I understand the main reason for this is that because at the point the decision was made, there were 27 of pupils in the class plus their SEN support staff, and this was the only class in the school which is large enough to hold them all. This is despite the fact that with the temporary classroom, which is still in the playground, the school has 8 useable classrooms for 7 classes.

This has had a massive impact on some of the pupils, who feel upset and frustrated, not just because they have been stuck in the same room for years on end (with the same teacher for 3 out of those 4 years) but also that they have not had the normal 'rights of passage' that all of the other pupils in other years have enjoyed in moving classrooms each year. They are not being prepared for year 7, when they will suddenly have to deal with new schools, multiple classrooms and multiple teachers each week.

The school has an excellent record for SEN support, which is absolutely superb. But if there is only one classroom in the whole school large enough to home 27 pupils plus their required support staff, the school should not be welcoming 30 children in to Reception each year. I would strongly recommend, therefore, for the sake of all of the children and the teaching staff, that Admissions needs to set a lower limit on how many children can be admitted each year.

4x responses received requiring signposting to the application process. No comments were made on the consultation documents.