

Report to Cabinet

10 February 2021

Subject:	Admission Arrangements for Sandwell's Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2022/23
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Joyce Underhill, Cabinet Member for Best Start in Life
Director:	Director – Education, Skills and Employment – Chris Ward
Key Decision:	No Business item
Contact Officer:	Martyn Roberts, School Place Planning and Capital Manager martyn_roberts@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendation


- 1.1 That the Director - Education, Skills and Employment, in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014, be authorised to publish the Local Authority's Admission Arrangements for 2022/23 academic year for places in all community and voluntary controlled schools as set out in Appendix 1.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The local authority (LA) must abide by the requirements of the School Admissions Code ('Admissions Code') and associated regulations and determine admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools each year. This report relates to the proposed arrangements to apply for the 2022/23 academic year and there is no obligation on the LA to consult on these arrangements as it last consulted in October / November 2017. The proposed arrangements are in line with the requirements of the Admissions Code.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <p>The recommendation in this report supports the desire of the council to focus resources on the specific needs and aspirations of the community. This contributes to the Council's Vision 2030 Ambition 1 – Raising aspirations and resilience, Ambition 3 – Young people to have skills for the future, Ambition 4 – Raising the quality of schools.</p>
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4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Purpose of the Report

4.2 The Admissions Code published in December 2014 requires the Local Authority (LA) (as the admissions authority for community and voluntary controlled schools), to formally agree admission arrangements for those schools every year, even if the arrangements have not changed from previous years. Admission authorities must determine admission arrangements for entry in September 2022 by 28 February 2021.

The Admissions Code also requires the LA to consult governing bodies of community and voluntary controlled schools where it proposes either to increase or keep the same Published Admission Number (PAN). The proposed admission arrangements and PANs are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4.3 Background and main considerations

4.4 The LA last consulted all stakeholders on its admission arrangements in October / November 2017 with Cabinet agreeing to publish these arrangements for the 2020/21 academic year at its meeting on 30 January 2019 (Minute No. 8/19) and for the 2021/22 academic year at its meeting on 26 February 2020 (Minute No. 56/20). The arrangements are not proposed to change for the 2022/23 academic year and are attached in Appendix 1.



In addition, the LA has consulted with all community and voluntary controlled schools on their Published Admission Numbers for 2022/23. The list of schools and their PANs are included in Appendix 1. All PANs are proposed to be the same as last year.

4.5 The current position

4.6 The LA's oversubscription criteria for the academic year 2022/23 for community and voluntary controlled schools is recommended to continue in line with that agreed for 2021/22.

4.7 Consultation (Customers and other Stakeholders)

4.8 There is not a requirement to consult on oversubscription criteria unless there are changes to the previous year's arrangements or if the admission authority has not consulted for a period of 7 years. The LA last consulted on arrangements in October / November 2017.

4.9 The Admissions Code requires the LA to consult all community and voluntary controlled schools where it is proposed to increase or keep the same PAN as the previous year. The LA consulted with all such schools in November / December 2020 and there were no proposals to alter PANs. There were no objections received.

5 Alternative Options

5.1 There is no alternative option open to the LA in relation to its responsibilities for agreeing and publishing oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools. The LA must abide with the requirements of the Admissions Code.



6 Implications

Resources:	<p><i>Financial, staffing, land/building implications</i></p> <p>No strategic resource implications have been identified.</p>
Legal and Governance:	<p><i>Legal implications including regulations/law under which proposals are required/permitted and constitutional provisions</i></p> <p>The School Admissions Code (issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) was published in December 2014 and associated regulations require all admission authorities to determine (formally agree) admission arrangements every year, even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not been required.</p> <p>Following determination of arrangements, any objections to those arrangements must be made to the Schools Adjudicator. Objections to admission arrangements must be referred to the Adjudicator by 15 May in the determination year.</p>
Risk:	<p><i>Risk implications, including any mitigating measures planned/taken, health and safety, insurance implications</i></p> <p>The Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS) has been complied with. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to determine admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools in accordance with the Admissions Code and associated regulations. Based on the information provided, it is the officers' opinion that there are no current "red" risks that need to be reported with regards to this proposal.</p>



	<p>If this report's recommendation to publish the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools is not approved the LA will be in breach of its statutory duty as determined by the Admissions Code.</p>
Equality:	<p><i>Implications for equality (all aspects and characteristics) including how meeting Equality Duty, equality impact assessments</i></p> <p>An Equality Impact Assessment initial screening has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this report.</p>
Health and Wellbeing:	<p><i>Implications of the proposals on health and wellbeing of our communities</i></p> <p>This proposal supports the prioritisation of applications from the local community and gives clarity to parents and carers about how their applications will be considered, including how they will be measured under the distance criterion.</p>
Social Value	<p><i>Implications for social value and how the proposals are meeting this (for e.g. employment of local traders, young people)</i></p> <p>In supporting the prioritisation of applications from the local community the proposal will ensure that children will be educated and develop within their residential and social communities.</p>

7. Appendices

- 7.1 The proposed admission arrangements are attached in the appendix to this report. These also include the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) of all community and voluntary controlled schools which have been shared with all schools.



8. Background Papers

None.

