

Equality Impact Assessments Toolkit

EqlA Template



You must consider the [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) when completing this template.

The EDI team can provide help and advice on undertaking an EqlA and also provide overview quality assurance checks on completed EqlA documents.

EDI team contact email: edi_team@sandwell.gov.uk

| Quality Control | |
|--|--|
| Title of proposal | Determined Admission Priorities for Sandwell's Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2025/26 |
| Directorate and Service Area | Children's Services and Education |
| Officer completing EqlA | Donna Williams |
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| Other officers involved in completing this EqlA | |
| Date EqlA completed | 07.12.2023 |
| Date EqlA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director | |
| Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EqlA | |
| Date EqlA considered by Cabinet | |
| Where the EqlA is Published (please include a link to the EqlA and send a copy of the final EqlA to the EDI team) | |

Section 1.

The purpose of the project, proposal or decision required

The Admissions Code published in September 2021 requires the Local Authority (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 2025 by 28 February 2024.

This report recommends the adoption of proposed admission arrangements for 2025/26 which includes the following changes:

- Change of PAN at Ferndale Primary School from 90 to 60 places from September 2025.
- Reintroduction of a waiting list for schools.
- Changing or adding new preferences for schools will not be possible once an application is submitted online but can still be made by contacting the LA's School Admissions Team.
- Update to a 'Tie Breaker' from the toss of a coin to a random number generator.
- Update in terminology from 'midyear admissions' to 'in-year admissions' in line with the School Admissions Code 2021.

Section 2.

Evidence used and considered. Include analysis of any missing data

The recommendation fulfils the requirements of the Admission Code 2021 that the LA must determine the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools by 28 February 2024, for the 2025/26 academic year.

Section 3.

Consultation

There is a statutory requirement under the Admission Code for the LA to consult at least once every 7 years or if there are changes proposed for the admission arrangements. The LA have proposed the changes as set in

section 1, and have consulted with the following, in line with School Admissions Code 2021:

- Parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen
- Other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the LA have an interest in the proposed admissions
- All other admission authorities within the relevant area
- All adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority

Section 4.

Summary assessment of the analysis at section 4a and the likely impact on each of the protected characteristics (if any)

There will be no adverse impact to any group as a result of the recommendation. If agreed, the proposed arrangements will be consistent with the requirements of the Admission Code and are fair, transparent and clear for all applicants for a school place.

Section 4a - What are the potential/actual impacts of the proposal on the protected characteristics?

| Reviewed Characteristic | Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne) | Details of impact | Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table) | Owner of action/ Timescale |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Age | Ne | | | |
| Disability | Ne | | | |
| Gender Reassignment | Ne | | | |
| Marriage and civil partnership | Ne | | | |
| Pregnancy and maternity | Ne | | | |

| Reviewed Characteristic | Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne) | Details of impact | Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table) | Owner of action/ Timescale |
|--|---|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Race | Ne | | | |
| Religion or belief | Ne | | | |
| Sex | Ne | | | |
| Sexual Orientation | Ne | | | |
| Could other socio-economic groups be affected? | | | | |
| Carer Low income groups Veterans/Armed Forces Community Other | Ne | | | |

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then please move to Sections 6.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

6. Section 6: Decision or actions proposed

In accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021, the Director of Children's Services and Education be authorised to publish the Local Authority's Admission Arrangements for 2025/26 academic year for places in all community and voluntary controlled schools as set out in Appendix 1.

7. Monitoring arrangements

Section 8 Action planning (if required)

| Question no. (ref) | Action required | Lead officer/ person responsible | Target date | Progress |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
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If you have any suggestions for improving this process, please contact EDI_Team@Sandwell.gov.uk