

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 15 th March 2022
Report Subject	School Admission Arrangements 2023/24
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To advise on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise on the admission arrangements for 2023/24 and to recommend approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the proposed admission arrangements for 2023/24 be approved.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
1.01	In accordance with the School Admissions Code, the local authority is required to undertake a statutory consultation exercise on its admission arrangements for the following year. Consultation must be complete by 1 March and the admission arrangements must be determined by 15 April each year. Statutory consultees include all schools in the area, the diocesan authorities and neighbouring authorities.
1.02	Consultation must cover the full admission arrangements including the admissions policy, oversubscription criteria, the timetable for admissions and admission numbers (i.e. the maximum number of pupils to be admitted by the admissions authority in to each year group). This information is attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

1.03	<p>The current admission arrangements have been in place since 2003 and the majority of parental preferences continue to be met (approximately 96%). For information, the number of admission appeals in recent years is detailed in the table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 309 1297 611"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Secondary Appeals</th> <th>Primary Appeals</th> <th>Total Appeals</th> <th>Total appeals upheld by Panel**</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>43</td> <td>77</td> <td>120</td> <td>68/56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>20</td> <td>61</td> <td>81</td> <td>40/50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>85</td> <td>56</td> <td>141</td> <td>88/62%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>50</td> <td>39</td> <td>89</td> <td>48/54%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>44</td> <td>47</td> <td>91</td> <td>52/57%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22*</td> <td>52</td> <td>35</td> <td>87</td> <td>64/73%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*to date **i.e. appeal lost by parent</p> <p>It is anticipated that oversubscription will continue at secondary level in some areas of the County as a consequence of parental preference.</p>	Year	Secondary Appeals	Primary Appeals	Total Appeals	Total appeals upheld by Panel**	2016/17	43	77	120	68/56%	2017/18	20	61	81	40/50%	2018/19	85	56	141	88/62%	2019/20	50	39	89	48/54%	2020/21	44	47	91	52/57%	2021/22*	52	35	87	64/73%
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1.04	<p>The consultation process took place between 05.01.22 and 04.02.22 and no comments were received. There are no changes proposed to the admission arrangements. The proposed admissions timetable has been drawn up in consultation with neighbouring authorities and takes in to account factors such as allowing parents sufficient time to visit/research schools and express their preferences, the time needed to process applications, etc. The timetable also incorporates the “common offer dates” prescribed by the School Admissions Code (ie 1 March for secondary and 16 April for primary – however the offer date for primary is 17 April 2023 as the 16th falls on a Sunday).</p>																																			
1.05	<p>As part of the consultation, Headteachers were asked if there have been any changes to the accommodation at their Schools which could necessitate a review of their Admission Number. No requests have been received. There are changes to the capacity and admission numbers at Ysgol Brynffordd and Ysgol Glanrafon as a result of extensions at both schools. Ysgol Brynffordd’s capacity is increasing from 58 to 70 and the admission number from 8 to 10, and at Ysgol Glanrafon capacity is increasing from 309 to 356 with the admission number increasing from 44 to 50. These revised figures are included in Appendix 2.</p>																																			
1.06	<p>There are between 1700 and 1800 applications each year in each of the 3 admissions phases, i.e. for Year 7, Reception and Nursery. In addition, there are more than 1200 applications received during the academic year to transfer schools, many as a result of house moves in to the area. All applications are made online and assistance is provided by Admissions Officers and Flintshire Connects staff for any parents experiencing difficulties completing the form.</p>																																			

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>There are no revenue/capital implications.</p> <p>There are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>The annual determination of admission arrangements must be carried out in accordance with the framework and timetable in the School Admissions Code. Consultation has been completed and approval is being sought within the deadlines set out in the Code. Adherence to the Code minimises the risk of challenge to the Public Services Ombudsman or by way of judicial review.</p> <p>There are no direct anti-poverty, environment or equalities issues arising from this report. The admissions policy is applied consistently in all cases in accordance with the Code.</p>

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	All statutory consultees have been consulted in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix 1 – Admission Arrangements 2023/24.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Primary Admission Numbers.</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Secondary Admission Numbers.</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-admissions-code.pdf

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Gill Yates, Admissions Manager Telephone: 01352 704187 E-mail: gill.yates@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>School Admission Arrangements – the overall procedure and practices about how to apply for a school place, including the criteria to decide how places are allocated, application procedures, the timetable for the admissions process, how late applications are handled, waiting lists and the appeal process.</p> <p>School Admissions Code – a Code issued by Welsh Government in respect of the discharge of admissions functions. All admission authorities have a statutory duty to act in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>Oversubscription criteria – a list of criteria which an admission authority must adopt to be used for the allocation of places if there are more applications received than there are places available.</p> <p>Admission Number – the number of school places that an admission authority can admit in each year group.</p>