

SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2022/2023

Public consultation



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1. Background Information

Plymouth City Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools in the City. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education Act 2002 and the School Admissions Code (the Code) require all admission authorities to consult on admission arrangements at least every seven years and always when arrangements change. Each year, admission authorities must determine the admission arrangements that are to apply. This paper relates to coordinated admission schemes and the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools only.

Determination of the admission arrangements for schools which are their own admission authority rests with the governing board of the individual school.

Improving school admission arrangements helps to maximise parental choice, which in turn enables the Council to identify more accurately where surplus capacity is located, thereby helping to meet the corporate objective of removing surplus school places.

Schools are a key facility within their local communities and support wider cohesion in the area. An equality impact assessment is included in this report. The determined admission arrangements are compliant with the Code. The Code takes account of primary legislation and regulations most relevant to admissions decisions and comments on the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, the Human Rights Act 1998 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

2. Proposal and Rationale

In respect of all community and voluntary controlled schools, the Council is under a statutory duty, where admission arrangements change, to consult upon and then determine the admission arrangements. The Council also has a statutory duty to ensure that as far as possible, the admission arrangements for other categories of school meet the requirements of the Code. The Council is also under a statutory duty to devise and agree upon a coordinated scheme of admissions in respect of the normal points of entry.

Not to determine the 2022/2023 school admission arrangements would leave the Council in breach of its statutory duties.

3. Timeline

Activity	Timetable for admission arrangements in 2022/2023
Earliest date to send admission arrangements to the Diocesan Board of education	1 October 2020
Earliest date to start consultation on proposed arrangements	1 October 2020 (last date 31 October 2020)
Plymouth own admission authority schools to send draft admission arrangements for consultation to Plymouth local authority (LA)	9 November 2020 to 13 November 2020
Plymouth consultation starts	Monday 7 December 2020
Plymouth consultation ends	Sunday 17 January 2021

Deadline for completion of consultation on arrangements	31 January 2021
Deadline for the local authority to formulate a coordinated scheme for state funded schools in their area, including any new school or Academy which is expected to open.	1 January 2021
Minimum length of consultation	Six weeks
Deadline for admission arrangements to be determined (even there have been no changes or no consultation)	Sunday 28 February 2021
Deadline for notification of a qualifying scheme for coordination	Sunday 28 February 2021
Deadline for admission authorities to send determined arrangements to LA	Monday 15 March 2021
Deadline for LA to publish on its website details of all new schools to open that year & details of where all other school arrangements can be viewed	Monday 15 March 2021
Deadline for objections to the Schools Adjudicator	15 May 2021

4. Methodology

When consulting on admission arrangements, the Council is required to consult all maintained schools in Plymouth, neighbouring admission authorities, and parents as well as others who the Council feel, have an interest in education. The Council detailed the arrangements for the consultation on its website and an online response form was available. The consultation was advertised using posters in schools, press notices, emails to Plymouth and surrounding district schools, MPs, City Councillors and others who the Council felt may have had an interest in admission arrangements. The Code also emphasises the local authority's role in ensuring that the admission arrangements for all admission authorities in the area, including academies, free, trust, foundation, studio, UTC and voluntary aided schools comply with the Code. Councils are under a duty to formulate and agree coordinated admissions schemes with the majority of admission authorities in its area.

5. The Consultation

For admissions in 2022/2023, consultations have been held in accordance with the Code on the basis of the admission arrangements set out in the In-Year admission arrangements 2020/21, Another Step 2021, The Next Step 2021, Starting Junior School in Plymouth 2021 and Starting School in Plymouth 2021, as suitably amended.

The proposals for change comprised:

- I. New timetables for primary and secondary schools at the normal point of entry;

2. Re-wording of the oversubscription criteria for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children; the criteria itself is not altering.
3. Re- wording of the oversubscription criteria for staff; this criteria has been amended to include all staff employed at an individual school.

6. The Consultation Survey

Comments were received in response to the consultation as follows:

Consultation category	Undecided	Support	Against	No opinion
Primary, infant and junior coordinated admission scheme	0	0	0	0
Secondary coordinated admission scheme	0	0	0	0
In-Year locally admission coordinated scheme	0	0	0	0
Nursery school oversubscription criteria	0	0	0	0
Primary school oversubscription criteria	0	0	0	0
Secondary school oversubscription criteria	0	0	0	0

7. Decision to be taken

Having completed the consultation process, the Council, as the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools, must determine the admission arrangements by 28 February 2021. In addition, the Council must also have agreed a qualifying scheme for coordination with the majority of schools in its area.

No objections have been received to the admission arrangements proposals during the period of consultation. It is therefore the recommendation is that the policy documents should be agreed as consulted upon.

It is proposed that the determined school admission arrangements for 2022/2023 be based on those for 2021/2022 subject to the following amendments:

1. New timetables for primary and secondary schools at the normal point of entry;
2. Re-wording of the oversubscription criteria for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children; the criteria itself is not altering.
3. Re-wording of the oversubscription criteria for staff; this criteria has been amended to include all staff employed at an individual school.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Education Participation and Skills – school admission arrangements 2022/2023



STAGE 1: WHAT IS BEING ASSESSED AND BY WHOM?

What is being assessed - including a brief description of aims and objectives?	School Admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for admission in the 2022/2023 academic year. The determined admission arrangements take into account responses received during the consultation carried out between 7 December 2020 and 17 January 2021 and met the legal requirements specified in the School Admissions Code.
Author	Sharon Stowe
Department and service	Education, Participation and Skills, School Admissions Team
Date of assessment	

STAGE 2: EVIDENCE AND IMPACT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (eg data and feedback)	Any adverse impact See guidance on how to make judgement	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible
Age	The determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools meet the requirements of the School Admissions Code. Educational provision is made for children from the term following their fourth birthday as specified in law. Whilst school admission policies are applicable to	Education out of age cohort could result in additional provision to be made in school place planning but this is not a quantity that can be predicted. There is a danger that parents may request a place out of age cohort because the appropriate year group is full rather than looking at the best interest of the child.	Monitor the number of out of age cohort applications received and approved.	Admissions officer responsible for the stage of entry. Monitored over the academic year.

	<p>students within specified birth cohorts, provision is made for the parent/carer to apply for admission to non-birth cohort age group. Such requests will be considered fairly and the manner of consideration is specified within each admission policy and is compliant with the law.</p>			
Disability	<p>The determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools meet the requirements of the School Admissions Code with links to other relevant legislation.</p> <p>Children with an Education, Health and Care will be ranked ahead of other applicants within the admission criteria and will be admitted to the school requested as this a requirement within the School Admissions Code.</p> <p>Priority is made within the admission criteria for the admission of children with exceptional medical or social need. Information regarding evidence required is clearly given in the admission policy.</p> <p>Special arrangements can be made in the case of selection testing admission arrangements to a grammar school where a</p>	None	None	None

	child has a disability. In such a case, the admission authority will try to match the provision already made within school to ensure a level playing field.			
Faith/religion or belief	<p>The determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools meet the requirements of the School Admissions Code.</p> <p>None of the community or voluntary controlled schools prioritise children according to faith and will consider applicants equally regardless of faith, religion or belief.</p>	None	None	None
Gender - including marriage, pregnancy and maternity	<p>The determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools meet the requirements of the School Admissions Code.</p> <p>This information is not collected or normally taken account of in the school admissions process. Taking account of gender would not be compliant with the School Admissions Code unless the school is designated as a single sex school.</p>	None	None	None
Gender reassignment	The determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled	None	None	None

	<p>schools meet the requirements of the School Admissions Code.</p> <p>This information is not collected or taken account of in the school admissions process. Taking account of gender reassignment would not be compliant with the School Admissions Code.</p>			
Race	<p>The determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools meet the requirements of the School Admissions Code.</p> <p>This information is not collected or taken account of in the school admissions process. Taking account of race would not be compliant with the School Admissions Code.</p>	None	None	None
Sexual orientation - including civil partnership	<p>The determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools meet the requirements of the School Admissions Code.</p> <p>This information is not collected or taken account of in the school admissions process.</p> <p>Children and young people who are LGBT should feel able to apply to a school without any restrictions. Where a school or college is co-educational, the gender a person associates with has no</p>	None	None	None

	<p>bearing on an admissions application. Plymouth's application forms ask for the child's gender. At this point, the gender appropriate to the birth certificate should be entered. Further information relating to gender identity and the reasoning for selection of a particular school can be given on the application form.</p> <p>In the case of transgender applicants, where a parent selects a placement in a single sex school opposite to the birth gender, the application will be considered and a decision made on the individual circumstances of the case. This is a complex decision and not all children will be competent to take it at the time of transfer. As part of the case consideration, we would seek evidence from the family that they have thought through the issues carefully and in most cases would expect them to be able to provide us with some independent evidence from a medical professional or other worker who has been involved in the situation.</p>			
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STAGE 3: ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING? IF SO, PLEASE RECORD ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Local priorities	Implications	Timescale and who is responsible
Reduce the gap in average hourly pay between men and women by 2022.	None	N/A
Increase the number of hate crime incidents reported and maintain good satisfaction rates in dealing with racist, disablist, homophobic, transphobic and faith, religion and belief incidents by 2022.	None	N/A
Good relations between different communities (community cohesion)	None	N/A
Human rights Please refer to guidance	None	N/A

STAGE 4: PUBLICATION

Responsible Officer: Amanda Paddison

Date 18 January 2021

Head of Service Business and Access