

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL IN - YEAR ADMISSIONS



Background

In September 2010 the responsibility for allocating places for in - year admissions (those pupils applying for places outside of the normal point of entry co-ordinated scheme) moved to the Local Authority. It is therefore illegal; under the Admissions Code of Practice for a school to allocate any school places to parents for their children, all applications are processed through the Admissions Team.

In – year co-ordinated scheme

Since September 2010 the Admissions Team have dealt with 1,770 primary and 711 secondary allocations.

Voluntary Aided, Controlled, Foundation, Trust and Academies are all responsible for their own admission arrangements and in such cases in – year applications are forwarded to the individual schools concerned based on the parents preference. Where a place is available in the year group concerned the place will be allocated following discussion with the school.

Under the terms of the in – year co-ordinated admission scheme all places should be allocated within 20 days. Every effort is made to keep within this timescale, but it can take considerably longer where schools are their own admissions authority.

In the case of maintained schools, the Local authority is the Admission Authority and in such cases where a place is available it will be allocated and the school and parent informed.

Details of the pupil will then be emailed to the school with a copy of the allocation letter, to enable contact to be made concerning the pupil's start date.

Current Position

The Admissions Team currently have a backlog of 2 week, the LA are dealing with applications dated 22 June 2011.

In the primary sector as at 23 June 2011 there are 2,042 places available from Yr R to Yr 6 and of this number there are 47 spaces in Yr R this is based on an overall Planned Admission Number of 20,112.

In the secondary sector as at 23 June 2011 there are 569 places available from Yr 7 to Yr 11 based on a Planned Admission Number of 14,815.

Primary Sector

Due to the increase in the birth rate the Local Authority is expanding 5 primary reception classes in the city in the North West, South West and South East localities in September 2011. These are in Wave 1 of the Primary Basic Need Programme. A report will be presented to Cabinet in September 2011 outlining the plans for expansion from 2012 onwards.

Secondary Sector

Secondary establishments in the city are currently experiencing falling rolls and numbers will be at their lowest in January 2016.

The Future

The DfE are currently consulting on the new admission arrangements for 2013 onwards. Part of the new arrangements if implemented could be to transfer the responsibility for allocating in – year places from the Local Authority to individual schools which could result in further delays in some cases.

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