

Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 31 August 2021

Determination of a mandatory revision to The Kirklees Admission Arrangements for community and controlled schools for 2021/22 and 2022/2023.

Purpose of report: Kirklees Council is the admission authority for Kirklees community and voluntary controlled schools and has a statutory responsibility to determine admission arrangements annually. This report will detail the statutory revisions that are required to the previously determined and published admission arrangements for Kirklees community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes – affects more than one ward
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	Key Decision – Yes Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Mel Meggs, Strategic Director Children & Families 05 August 2021
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston 12 August 2021
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft 12 August 2021
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Carole Pattison – Learning, Aspiration & Communities Cllr Viv Kendrick - Children

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: NO

Public or private: PUBLIC

Has GDPR been considered? YES

1. Summary

Kirklees Council, as the admissions authority, is responsible for determining the admission policy for the community and voluntary controlled schools it maintains

A new draft School Admissions Code and associated regulations were laid before Parliament on 13 May 2021. The Government Minister signed an Appointed Day Order, which will bring the New School Admissions Code 2021 and all its provisions into effect from 1 September 2021.

The purpose of the Code is to ensure that all school places are allocated and offered in an open and fair way.

This report will detail the statutory revisions that are required to the previously determined published admission arrangements for Kirklees community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

2. Information required to take a decision

2.1 Background information

The new School Admissions Code 2021 and all its provisions will come into effect from 1 September 2021.

The Department for Education (DfE) expect admission authorities to hold a meeting by 31 August 2021 to determine the necessary revisions to admission arrangements for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023.

It is the responsibility of admission authorities to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the new Code

The new provision necessitates variations to determined admission arrangements to take effect from 1 September 2021 and admission authorities need to vary their admission arrangements for 2021/22 (which were previously determined in Kirklees on 25 February 2020) and their admission arrangements for 2022/23 (which were previously determined in Kirklees on 16 February 2021). Without these variations, admission arrangements that have already been determined will not comply with the new 2021 Admissions Code.

Some schools including academies, trusts and voluntary aided schools are their own admissions authority. They will have their own admissions policies they will need to amend.

2.2 The new Admission Code 2021

The main purpose of the changes to the Code 2021 is to improve the in-year admission process, in particular for vulnerable children. The changes include introducing more detail on the process for managing in-year admissions; changes to improve the effectiveness of

Fair Access Protocols; giving children adopted from state care outside of England equal admissions priority as children who were previously looked after in England; and clarification of which address to use for the admission of service or crown servant children. There are also further minor clarification changes.

Admissions priority for children adopted from state care outside of England

The 2021 Admissions Code requires children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted to be given equal first priority in admission arrangements, alongside looked after children (LAC) and children who were previously looked after by English local authorities (PLAC). These children are referred to as internationally adopted previously looked after children (IAPLAC)

The 2021 Code requires that highest priority is given to “looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted”.

In-year admissions

The 2021 Code requires local authorities, admission authorities and governing bodies to publish information about how in-year applications for their school(s) will be dealt with.

For this year only, how in-year applications will be dealt between 1 November 2021 until 31 August 2022 must be published by 31 October. In all subsequent years, information must be published by 31 August each year, to explain how in-year applications can be made and how they will be dealt with from 1 September until the following 31 August.

The 2021 code includes new statutory time scales for dealing with in-year applications and these are included in the revised admission arrangements. This is expected to have a positive impact for families who can now expect the outcome of their in-year admission application in writing within 15 school days, regardless of the admission authority.

Children of Service Personnel and Crown Servants

The 2021 Code requires that children of service personnel and crown servants returning from overseas to live within Kirklees, will be allocated a school place (as long as one is available) in advance of their arrival and that the allocation will be based on the address at which the child will live, as long as parents provide some evidence of their intended address.

2.3 The revised admission arrangements

The revised admission arrangements are shown as Appendix 1 for 2021/2022 and Appendix 2 for 2022/2023 and reflect the mandatory changes to the School Admissions Code 2021.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The Kirklees Pupil Admission Team are available to support parents as required.

3.2 Working with Partners

The Council continues to work closely with all schools in the local area including own admissions authority schools.

3.3 Place Based Working

We want Kirklees to be a place where local people have the chance to develop skills, and where communities have good employment opportunities and wages. In line with this, we are committed to making sure that there are enough high quality school places in the areas where communities and families need them and that we support children to secure a school place.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Whilst parental preference allows applications to be made for any school, Kirklees Council continues to give priority to school admission applications for children living in the priority admission area, where they are able to walk/cycle to their preferred school. If we are unable to offer a place to the parent's preferred school because the school has reached its published admission number with applicants of a higher priority in the oversubscription criteria for the school, Kirklees Council aims to offer an alternative school place within a reasonable distance.

Choosing a school within walking distance of the family home has great health and wellbeing benefits for children and parents and would contribute to the reduction of pollution and CO2 emissions, a key focus of the key long-term priorities for the Council in tackling climate change and improving air quality.

On balance there is no evidence to suggest the proposals contained in this report will have anything other than a neutral impact.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

Our aim is that all children in Kirklees have equal access to, and equal opportunities in education, regardless of where they were born or their start in life. We are committed to improve the quality of education in our schools to give every child the best possible start. In line with this we are committed to ensuring there are enough high quality school and early learning places in the areas where communities and families need them and that we support children to secure a school place. The changes in the Admission Code 2021 are expected to have a positive impact for families.

3.6 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Legal

There are no legal matters arising from this proposal outside the required changes to admission arrangements.

Financial

There are no new financial implications, although additional resources were diverted earlier in 2021 to the pupil admissions team to help ensure they can provide the best possible service for families and work collaboratively with the local school system.

Human Resources

There are no direct HR implications.

Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IAA)? No

4. Consultees and their opinions

Whilst these are mandatory revisions with limited flexibility, conversations have taken place with school representatives at Places, Access and Inclusion Committee (PAIC) and Education Learning Partnership Board (ELPB).

5. Next steps and timelines

Subject to approval the revised admission arrangements will be published on the Kirklees website and communicated with all schools along with a request to place the revised arrangements on their websites.

The next admission consultation for 2023/24 will commence as usual in November or December 2021 with the outcome reported to cabinet in February 2022.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

It is recommended that to comply with the Admission Code 2021 the proposed revised Kirklees Admissions Arrangements for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 are accepted and approved by Kirklees Cabinet.

Officers work with the ELPB to develop protocols to help ensure families receive a service which at the very least complies with the Admission Code 2021 regardless of the admissions authority.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

We, the Cabinet Members for Children and Learning, Aspiration and Communities recommend, to ensure Kirklees Council and Kirklees schools remain fully compliant with the new School Admission Code 2021 that cabinet approve;

- The revised Kirklees Admission Arrangements for community and controlled schools for 2021/2022 as set out in Appendix 1.
- The revised Kirklees Admission Arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 2.

We also recommend Officers are directed to work with the ELPB to develop protocols to help ensure families receive a service which at the very least complies with the Admission Code 2021 regardless of the admissions authority.

8. Contact officers

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Juliet Stott, Strategic Lead Pupil Admissions Manager
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9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

[Decision - Determination of school admission arrangements for 2021/22 | Kirklees Council](#)

[Decision - Determination of School Admission Arrangements for 2022/23 | Kirklees Council](#)

[School admissions code - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

10. Service Director responsible

Jo-anne Sanders, Service Director for Learning and Early Support
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11. Index of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Revised Kirklees Admission Arrangements 2021/2022

Appendix 2 – Revised Kirklees Admission Arrangements 2022/2023