

# **Cabinet**

## **19 January 2021**

### **Schools Admission Arrangements and Coordinated Scheme 2022-2023**

#### **For Decision**

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr A Parry, Children, Education and Early Help

**Executive Director:** Theresa Leavy, Executive Director People - Children

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**Report Status:** Public

#### **Recommendation:**

A) That the following policies that make up Dorset Council's School Admissions Arrangements and Coordinated Scheme for school place allocations from September 2021 be adopted:

1. Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme Timetable 2022-2023
2. Primary Co-ordinated Scheme 2022-2023
3. Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme 2022-2023
4. In Year Co-ordinated Scheme 2022-2023
5. Admissions Arrangements for Community & Voluntary Controlled Schools 2022-2023.
6. Admissions to Maintained Nursery Units Policy 2022-2023
7. Sixth Form Admissions Policy 2022-2023
8. Guidance on Placement Outside of Normal/Chronological Age Group 2022-2023
9. Armed Forces Policy 2022-2023

#### **Reason for Recommendation:**

- To determine admissions arrangements in accordance with statutory requirements including the Schools Admissions Code December 2014.

- To ensure compliance with the latest legislation and subsequent regulation/statutory guidance.

## **1. Executive Summary**

As a result of successive Acts and associated Regulations, admission authorities are required to consult on proposed admissions arrangements prior to determination. A consultation has to be carried out by the 31st January 2021, with the outcomes to be determined by the 1 March 2021, published by the Local Authority by the 15 March 2021 for admissions into schools in September 2022.

The Department for Education December 2014 Admissions Code requires admission authorities to consult for a minimum period of 6 weeks between 1 October and 31 January in any given year and to include relevant parents and other groups in that consultation.

The consultation on Dorset's Admissions Arrangements for September 2022 was completed on 23 December 2020 after a 6-week period. This report summarises the consultations that have taken place and invites members to approve the policies as a result of those consultations in order to meet the Local Authority's statutory duties.

All Admissions Authorities, of which Dorset Council is one, are required to 'determine' their admissions arrangements on an annual basis.

All policies have been updated with regard to the latest guidance as a result of the UK leaving the European Union as of the 31 December 2020.

## **2. Financial Implications**

None

## **3. Health & Wellbeing implications**

The admissions arrangements and pupil place planning strategy for Dorset is focused on ensuring sufficiency and easy access to local school places, generating close local attachments and promoting the walking to school agenda.

## **4. Climate Implications**

The underlying premise of the School Admissions Arrangements and the criteria for the allocation of places focuses on local schools for local children, minimising

where possible families having to undertake driven journeys to access a school place

## **5. Other Implications**

None

## **6. Risk Assessment**

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

## **7. Equalities Impact Assessment**

A full EQIA has been undertaken and is attached.

## **8. Appendices**

1. Admissions Arrangements for Community & Voluntary Controlled Schools 2022-2023.
2. Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme Timetable 2022-2023
3. Primary Co-ordinated Scheme 2022-2023
4. Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme 2022-2023
5. In Year Co-ordinated Scheme 2022-2023
6. Admissions to Maintained Nursery Units Policy 2022-2023
7. Sixth Form Admissions Policy 2022-2023
8. Guidance on Placement Outside of Normal/Chronological Age Group 2022-2023
9. Armed Forces Policy 2022-2023
10. Full EQIA for the Admissions Arrangements and Coordinated Scheme

## **9. Background Papers**

DFE Schools Admissions Code - *December 2014*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>

DFE Guidance on Summer Born Children - *September 2020*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission>

DFE Guidance on Admissions and The Armed Forces Covenant – *April 2013*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/admissions-to-schools-in-england-and-the-armed-forces-covenant>

### **Co-Ordinated Schemes – Primary, Secondary and In Year.**

- 1.1 The new timetable for the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme meets with the requirements of the Schools Admissions Code of Practice and is attached in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The scheme co-ordinates with neighbouring local authorities and the national offer dates as set out in the Code of Practice. There have been no responses to this consultation.

**Elected members are asked to support the adoption of the co-ordinated scheme in order to meet statutory requirements.**

2. **Admissions Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Dorset 2022-2023 including The Sixth Form Admissions Policy 2022-2023 and the Nursery Admissions Policy 2022-2023**

  - 2.1 Admissions arrangements for all maintained schools are bound by the DFE Schools Admissions Code, which was revised and updated in December 2014.
  - 2.2 Dorset Council (DC) has made no changes to the oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools.
  - 2.3 DC has made no changes to the Sixth Form Admissions Policy nor The Nursery Admissions Policy.
  - 2.5 There were no responses to the consultation.

**Elected Members are asked to adopt the Admissions Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Dorset 2022-2023 and note that Local Authority Sixth Form Admissions Policy, Local Authority Nursery Admissions Policy are unchanged.**

3. **Dorset Admissions of Armed Forces Community Children Policy**
- 3.1 This policy applies to all schools where DC is the admissions authority (community and voluntary controlled schools) – it is also promoted for adoption with Dorset Schools which are their own admissions authorities

(academies, foundation, voluntary aided, studio and free schools). A copy of the policy is found in Appendix 1.

- 3.2 This policy recognises the Armed Forces Covenant and reflects the spirit of DFE Guidance issued in April 2013 that has been withdrawn but Dorset continues to maintain the principles.
- 3.3 The Guidance from the DFE and DC's policy is designed to ensure that admissions arrangements do not disadvantage service families, and the policy provides the admissions authority flexibility in how they may process applications from service families.
- 3.4 The policy ensures that an admission authority has flexibility in determining main residence when managing place allocations using base and future addresses where a family is subject to a new posting/rotation.
- 3.5 There is flexibility in the application of the Infant Class Size (ICS) legislation, which allows admissions authorities to place over number as an 'exception', though it is still incumbent on the admissions authority to respect the philosophy of ICS and not to necessarily make an 'exception' of every service family.
- 3.6 The policy also allows and requires an admission authority to act flexibly when an allocated school place through a future service or base address is then not appropriate to the residential address that the service family has, once they are finally settled.
- 3.7 There have been no responses to the consultation including the Ministry of Defence who were consulted.

**Elected members are asked to adopt the attached policy in order to support military families and to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces Covenant.**

#### **4. Guidance on the Placement of a Pupil Outside His or Her Normal Age Group**

- 4.1 This policy applies to all schools where DC is the admissions authority (community and voluntary controlled schools) – it is also promoted for adoption with Dorset Schools which are their own admissions authorities (academies, foundation, voluntary aided, studio and fee schools). A copy of the policy is found in Appendix 1. There have been no changes to this policy other than wording to reflect changes in September 2020 DFE guidance.
- 4.2 There have been no responses to the consultation

**Elected Members are asked to adopt the policy that relates to the placement of children outside of their normal age group, thus ensuring that DC is adhering to DFE statutory guidance.**

**Footnote:**

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.