

Dorset Council

Guidance on Consulting on Admissions Arrangements

1.1 Relevant Area

The School Standards & Framework Act 1998 requires Local Authorities to establish Relevant Area (s) for admission policy consultations. The Relevant Area is the area in which admission authorities must consult with schools regarding their proposed admission arrangements before finalising them.

It is proposed that the Relevant Area for the 2019 and 2020 academic years for Dorset schools, including any schools that may subsequently become academies, be the geographical area of Dorset Council (DC).

Proposed consultation requirements for each type of admission authority are listed below:

The local authority will consult on the admissions arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools with:

- All schools within Dorset
- All neighbouring local authorities
- Any out of county academy, foundation, free and voluntary aided primary schools within 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) of the Dorset Council border
- Any out of county academy, foundation, free and voluntary aided secondary schools within 8 kilometres (5 miles) of the Dorset Council border

1. Having consulted with their Diocese, primary schools designated as having a religious character, will consult with:

- Dorset Council
- All other primary schools whose catchment partially or wholly falls within a 4.8 kilometre radius (3 miles)
- Other local authorities within a 4.8 kilometre radius (3 miles)
- Other faith primary schools within their own deanery, according to guidance issued by their Diocese

2. Primary academies and foundation schools will consult with:

- Dorset Council
- All other primary schools whose catchment partially or wholly falls within a 4.8 kilometre radius (3 miles)
- Other local authorities within a 4.8 kilometre radius (3 miles)

3. Having first consulted with their Diocese, secondary schools designated as having a religious character, will consult with:

- Dorset Council
- All other primary and secondary schools whose catchment partially or wholly falls within an 8 kilometre radius (5 miles)
- Other local authorities within an 8 kilometre radius (5 miles)
- Other primary and secondary faith schools within their own deanery, according to guidance issued by their Diocese

4. Secondary Academies, Foundation, Free and Trust schools will consult with:

- Dorset Council
- All other primary and secondary schools whose catchment partially or wholly falls within an 8 kilometre radius (5 miles)
- Other local authorities within an 8 kilometre radius (5 miles)

Relevant area consultation does not change the duties that an Admissions Authority has in undertaking consultation on changes in admissions arrangements as laid down in 1.42 to 1.45 of the School Admissions Code December 2014¹. (see Section 1.2).


1.2 Partners and Stakeholders

Dorset Council endeavours to consult as widely as possible, and in fulfilling its duty under the Admissions Code, it will notify the following organisations of a consultation on Admissions Arrangements or School Transport Arrangements:

- Elected Dorset Councillors
- Town / Parish Councils
- Relevant Nursery and Pre-School settings

DCC will fulfil its duty to consult with parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen by:

- advertising the consultation on the Dorset Council Website
- Requesting each school to inform parents in their newsletter that DC is consulting on Admissions Arrangements and/or School Transport Arrangements
- Requesting that each school places a notice on their school website that DC is consulting on Admissions Arrangements and/or School Transport Arrangements

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- Requesting each nursery/pre-school setting to inform parents that DC is consulting on Admissions Arrangements and/or School Transport Arrangements
 - Publishing the consultation through the Family Information Service e-Newsletter circulated 20,000+ families across Dorset.

ⁱ See paragraph 1.3 Regulations 12 to 17 of the School Admissions Regulations 2012 which covers consultation arrangements