



ACE Report

School Admission amended arrangements 2021-2022 & 2022-2023

For decision For discussion For information

SUMMARY

To advise that School Admissions are requesting the Adults Social Care, Childrens Services and Education (ACE Committee) to determine the amended admission arrangement for 2021-2022 & 2022-2023

OWNER

Victoria Hannington, School Admissions Manager

VERSION 1

DATE

11 June 2021

REVIEW DATE

Yearly for new admission arrangement

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TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDRENS SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	1 July 2021		
TITLE:	SCHOOL ADMISSIONS AMENDED ARRANGEMENTS for 2021/2022 and 2022/23		
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1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 Last year the government consulted on changes to the School Admissions Code (the Code). The new Code and associated regulations have been laid in parliament and are subject to parliamentary procedure. They will come into force 1 September 2021.
- 1.2 This report invites the Committee to determine the amended:
 - Admissions arrangements for Community Primary Schools in Reading for the school year 2021/22.
 - Admissions arrangements for Community Primary Schools in Reading for the school year 2022/23.
- 1.3 Point 1.7 of the new 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). This advice refers to these children as internationally adopted previously looked after children – “IAPLAC”.
- 1.4 These arrangements comply with the new School Admissions Code 2021.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the scheme attached at Annexe A as the admissions arrangements for 2021/22 and that scheme attached at Annexe B as the admissions arrangements for 2022/23 for community schools in Reading be determined as updated arrangements.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 School admissions are subject to detailed requirements, set out in law and particularly the School Admissions Code 2021, published by the Government and approved by Parliament. Reading Borough Council is the admitting authority for community and voluntary controlled schools within the borough.
- 3.2 The Council is also required to determine the admission policy for community schools which includes the number of places to be made available at each school and the oversubscription criteria to be applied where there are more applicants than places available. Where the over-subscription criteria include catchment areas these must also be approved. The governing bodies of academies, free schools, voluntary aided and foundation schools are required to determine their own admission number and oversubscription criteria. Those schools also operate their own arrangements as part of the coordinated scheme – and where they are oversubscribed, continue to decide which applicants best meet their oversubscription criteria.
- 3.3 As the amendment is mandatory for all Admissions Authorities, Reading Borough Council do not need to consult on the amended policies.
- 3.4 Reading Borough Council deliver its school admissions service through Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC). BFfC is an independent, not-for-profit company, wholly owned by Reading Borough Council, set up in December 2018 to deliver children’s services, early help, education and SEND services in Reading
- 3.5 On 26 June 2020, the DfE issued a consultation on a revised version of the School Admissions Code-The consultation ran for 16 weeks until 16 October 2020. The School Admissions Code imposes mandatory requirements and includes guidelines setting out aims, objectives and other matters in relation to the discharge of functions relating to admissions.

Ministers are not proposing a wholesale review of the admissions system. They say that it is clear from feedback that the main round of admissions largely works well, but that there are problems with the in-year admissions processes and Fair Access Protocols. The proposed changes therefore seek to clarify these responsibilities and introduce a more robust process for their management. They also respond to the recent Children in Need Review and the Home Office White Paper on Domestic Abuse. The new code has now been laid down before parliament.

- 3.6 The documents must be determined by the 31 August 2021 to ensure Reading is compliant with the school admissions code and published on the BFfC website by 1 September 2021.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Admission Policy for Community Primary, Infant and Junior Schools 2021-2022

The policy has been amended to reflect that 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). This advice refers to these children as internationally adopted previously looked after children – “IAPLAC”.

4.2 Admission Policy for Community Primary, Infant and Junior Schools 2022-2023

The policy has been amended to reflect that 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). This advice refers to these children as internationally adopted previously looked after children – “IAPLAC”.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The admission schemes contribute to the aims of Ensuring that there is good education, leisure and cultural opportunities for people in Reading
- 5.2 It also contributes to the aims to establish Reading as a Learning City and a stimulating and rewarding place to live and visit

6 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).
- 6.2 Where possible children are placed as near as possible to their local school. Parental choice and the need to divert children to other schools that are not their preference, means that some children are placed in schools outside their local community. This can have an impact on travel by public transport and in cars.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 7.1 Section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on local authorities to involve local representatives when carrying out "any of its functions" by providing information, consulting or "involving in another way".
- 7.2 This duty has been met. We have a statutory duty to consult every 7 years on the coordinated scheme for school admissions. We last consulted between 17 October 2018 and 10 December 2018. The outcome from that was report to ACE on the 14 February 2019.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
 - eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;



- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not relevant to this decision

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Compliance with School Admissions Code (2021)

9.2 Compliance with SEND code of Practice (2015)

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None arising directly from this report

11. HR IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None arising directly from this report

12. COMMUNICATION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The new policies will be shared with all local Schools, neighbouring local Authorities by the School Admission Team. The new 2022 admissions guides will be updated as will the relevant pages on the BfFC website. Own admissions authority schools have been advised of the changes they need to make to their policies.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 [supporting regulations](#), the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) and the [consultation response](#).