



Adult Social Care,
Children's Services and
Education Committee
Report: Reading Borough
Council School Admission
arrangements 2025-2026

For decision For discussion For information

SUMMARY

This report sets out for the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education (ACE Committee) proposed Local Authority community school admission arrangements for 2025-2026

OWNER

Victoria Hannington, School Admissions Manager

VERSION 1

DATE

17 November, 2023

REVIEW DATE

November 2024

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Contents

1	PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT	3
2.	RECOMMENDED ACTION.....	3
3.	POLICY CONTEXT.....	4
4.	THE PROPOSAL	5
4.1	Primary and Secondary School Co-ordinated schemes 2025-26	5
4.2	Admission Policy for Community Primary, Infant and Junior Schools 2025-2026	5
4.3	Relevant Area	5
5.	CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS	5
6	ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS	5
7.	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION	5
8.	EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	5
9.	LEGAL IMPLICATIONS.....	6
10.	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	6
11.	HR IMPLICATIONS	6
12.	COMMUNICATION IMPLICATIONS.....	6
13.	BACKGROUND PAPERS	6



TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDRENS SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	17 January 2024	AGENDA ITEM:	
TITLE:	READING BOROUGH COUNCIL SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2025/26		
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1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report invites the Committee to determine;
- The admission arrangements for Community Primary Schools in Reading for the school year 2025/26.
 - The coordinated scheme for primary schools for the 2025/26 school year.
 - The coordinated scheme for secondary schools for the 2025/26 school year.
- 1.2 These arrangements for 2025/26 comply with the School Admissions Code 2021.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the scheme attached at Annexes A, B and C as the admission arrangements for 2025/26 for community schools in Reading and the local arrangements for complying with the national coordinated primary school admission procedures for the allocation of primary school places for residents of Reading Borough be agreed.
- 2.2 That the scheme attached at Annex D as the local arrangements for complying with the national coordinated secondary admissions procedure for the allocation of secondary school places for 2025/26 for residents of Reading Borough be agreed.
- 2.3 That the relevant area as attached in Annex E which sets out the organisations that must be consulted for any admission arrangements for schools in Reading be agreed.

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. As part of those requirements, local authorities must draw up schemes for coordinating admissions to all maintained schools in their area. The purpose of coordinated schemes is to ensure that every parent/carer of a child living in Reading who has completed and submitted an on time application receives one offer of a school place at the conclusion of the normal admissions round. The schemes set out a process and timescale to enable the offer of a single school place. They do not affect the right of individual admission authorities to set and operate their own admission arrangements but they do include arrangements for resolving multiple offers, where a place can be offered at more than one school. Reading Borough Council is the admitting authority for community, voluntary aided 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 Reading Borough Council last consulted on the policy in 2018 and therefore there is no duty to consult this year.
- 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 The documents must be determined by the 28 February 2024 to ensure Reading is compliant with the school admissions code and published on the BFfC website by 15 March 2024.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Primary and Secondary School Co-ordinated schemes 2025-26

These schemes have been amended to reflect appropriate dates. Policies were approved on the previous consultation for 2018 entry and there are no changes.

4.2 Admission Policy for Community Primary, Infant and Junior Schools 2025-2026

The policy has no changes from the proposals for 2024/25.

4.3 Relevant Area

The Relevant area outlines the organisations that must be consulted by all schools in Reading when consulting on admissions policies. No amendments have been made to this.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The admission arrangements contribute to the aims of ensuring that there are good education, leisure and cultural opportunities for people in Reading.

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 with a local school. Parental preference 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 is met with these proposed arrangements. 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 as per the school admission code. The outcome from that was reported 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 None arising directly from this report

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 and neighbouring local Authorities by the School Admission Team. The new 2025 admissions guides will be updated as will the relevant pages on the BfFC website.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 None