



EXECUTIVE 22nd February 2022

Report Title	Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled North Northamptonshire schools for 2023 intakes and the Primary and Secondary Co-ordinated Schemes for the 2023 intakes
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Lead Member	Cllr Scott Edwards – Executive Member for Children, Families, Education & Skills

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – “Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in North Northamptonshire for 2023 intakes”.

Appendix B – “NNC Primary Co-ordinated Scheme for 2023 Intakes”

Appendix C – “NNC Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme for 2023 Intakes”

Appendix D - A copy of the EqlA screening assessment

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The Council has a duty to act in accordance with the statutory provisions of the School Admissions Code (2021) and legislation relating to school admissions.

School admission arrangements for all schools must be agreed annually and it is the duty of admission authorities to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the School Admissions Code. The purpose of this report is to

provide the necessary information to allow the Council to determine the admission arrangements for its schools (Community and Voluntary Controlled schools) for the 2023 intake.

- 1.2 Each year, all local authorities must formulate and publish on their website, a scheme to co-ordinate admissions to the normal year of entry for all publicly funded schools within their area. Applications will be processed in accordance with the timetables set out in these schemes. The purpose of the report is to allow the council to agree the co-ordinated schemes for the 2023 intake.
- 1.3 The School Standards & Framework Act (1998) requires local authorities to define the parameters of a 'relevant area'. The 'relevant area' is defined as the area for a school within which the admission authority for the school must consult all other prescribed schools on its admission arrangements for maintained schools.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Council has proposed to change the Published Admission Number (PAN) for some of its schools and also to add a criterion to the oversubscription criteria for Little Stanion Primary School giving some priority to children of staff members. There were no other proposed changes. The consultation took place from 8th November to 31st December 2021 and no objections were received.

Appendix A "Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in North Northamptonshire for 2023 intakes".

- 2.2 Co-ordinated schemes:
The dates in the co-ordinated scheme timetables are set annually. The scheme then details how applications will be processed. The LA have proposed to remove the 5pm deadline from our application closing dates. This means parents/carers will be able to apply up until midnight on the closing dates for both Primary and Secondary applications. The consultation took place from 8th November to 31st December 2021 and no objections were received.

Appendix B to this Executive Report is the "NNC Primary Co-ordinated Scheme for 2023 Intakes".

Appendix C to this Executive Report is the "NNC Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme for 2023 Intakes".

- 2.3 The "Relevant Area"
The new relevant area for North Northamptonshire schools will be the North Northamptonshire Council area and its neighbouring local authorities.

The consultation took place from 8th November to 31st December 2021 and no objections were received.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive;
- i) Agree the admission arrangements as detailed in Appendix A
 - ii) Agree the two co-ordinated schemes for the 2023 intake as detailed in Appendix B and Appendix C.
 - iii) Agree the “Relevant Area” for all North Northamptonshire schools.
- 3.2 Reasons for Recommendations:-
- It is the duty of admission authorities to determine the admission arrangements for all their schools annually. Revised PANs have been proposed in line with falling admission numbers.
 - It is the duty of local authorities to formulate and publish a co-ordinated scheme for the admission of pupils to all schools in the area. The amendment to closing dates for Primary and Secondary applications to remove the 5pm deadline allows parents to apply until midnight on the closing date making the process easier and fairer for parents.
 - It is the duty of local authorities to set the relevant area for its schools.
- 3.3 All the above are statutory requirements.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 All admission authorities must determine admission arrangements every year, even if they have not changed from the previous year and no consultation has been required. This is a statutory requirement that must be carried out by 28th February in the determination year. It is the duty of local authorities to formulate and publish a co-ordinated scheme for the admission of pupils to all schools in the area.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 Admission Arrangements

The Council has a duty to manage the supply and delivery of school places to ensure sufficiency and avoid surplus capacity. In this instance it is proposed that several schools reduce their Published Admission Number (PAN) to reflect falling projected admission numbers. These schools are:

Alfred Street Junior School (reduce from 60 to 30)
Mawsley Primary School (reduce from 60 to 45)
Tennyson Road Infant School (reduce from 60 to 30)
Titchmarsh Primary School (reduce from 20 to 15)

The reasons for these changes are set out in Appendix A which provides background details on why this decision has been reached.

5.2 It is proposed that Little Stanion include a new criterion in their oversubscription criteria giving priority to children of staff. This will be criterion 3, following Looked After Children (LAC), Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) and children living in the linked area of the school with a sibling at the school. This change is proposed to support recruitment and retention of key staff at the school.

5.3 Following a review of existing admission arrangements, no further changes are proposed for the coming year.

5.4 Co-ordinated Schemes:

The timetable has been set in line with nationwide deadlines and time constraints, e.g.: appeals deadlines. The amendment to closing dates for Primary and Secondary applications to remove the 5pm deadline allows parents to apply until midnight on the closing date making the process easier and fairer for parents.

6. Next Steps

6.1 If approved by the Executive then the admission arrangements and co-ordinated scheme will come into effect from September 2022 for the September 2023 admission year.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources and Financial

7.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

7.2. Legal and Governance

7.2.1 The legislative requirements are set out in the body of the report.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1 There are no links between the corporate policies and plans and the report. The determination of admission arrangements and setting of co-ordinated schemes are annual statutory requirements which must be carried out by admission authorities as per the School Admissions Code (2021).

7.4. Risk

7.4.1 Risk – That NNC does not fulfil statutory obligations as required by the School Admissions Code (2021).

7.4.2 Mitigation - NNC must determine the admission arrangements for its Community and Voluntary Controlled schools by 28th February 2021 and must publish a co-ordinated scheme for admission to the normal points of entry to all schools in the area.

7.4.3 Risk - Admission arrangements may be considered to be unfair or not compliant with the School Admissions Code. A consequence of this could be that NNC would be reported to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

7.5. Consultation

7.5.1. The admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in the North Northants area for 2023 and the primary and secondary co-ordinated schemes were consulted on from 8th November – 31st December 2021.

7.5.2 As per the School Admissions Code, the following groups were consulted:

- a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
- b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
- c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools);
- d) whichever of the governing body and the local authority is not the admission authority;
- e) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority

As well as through the NNC website, social media and press releases were used to notify of the consultation as well as certain parties being emailed directly, i.e. neighbouring authorities, local schools, other admission authorities, governing bodies.

7.5.3 No comments of objections were received to any of the proposals.

7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 The report was deemed not necessary to take to EAP

7.7. Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 This report has not been taken to scrutiny

7.8. Equality Implications

7.8.1 Equality Screening Assessment completed and there is no negative impact on any of the protected equality groups.

7.8.2 A copy of the EqIA screening assessment is included with this report (**Appendix D**).

7.9. Climate Impact

7.9.1 No implications arising from any recommendations that are being proposed.

7.10. Community Impact

7.10.1 No implications arising from any recommendations that are being proposed.

7.11. Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 No implications arising from any recommendations that are being proposed.

8. Background Papers

8.1 School Admissions Code (2021) [School admissions code 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92121/school-admissions-code-2021.pdf)

Applying for a Primary School Place in North Northamptonshire 2022-23
[Applying for a Primary School Place in North Northamptonshire \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/primary-school-places)

Applying for a Primary School Place in North Northamptonshire 2022-23
[Applying for a secondary schools place in north northamptonshire 2022 \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/secondary-school-places)