

CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

Admission Arrangements for Brighton & Hove Schools 2010/11

Parents and carers resident in Brighton & Hove with children between the ages of 2 and 16 are invited to give their views on the proposals for admission arrangements to Community Schools and Voluntary Aided Schools in the City. The responses to this consultation will be presented to the Cabinet Member for CYPT at a meeting in March 2009. This is the first year in which the consultation has included parents and carers and takes place under new regulations arising from the Education and Skills Act 2008. **Parents and carers are invited to return their comments on the proposed admission arrangements by 1st March 2009.** Responses are welcome by email to schooladmissions@brighton-hove.gov.uk or in writing to:

School Admissions Consultation 2010/11
King's House
Hove
BN3 2LS

Following this consultation, admission authorities that do not change their admission priorities and arrangements will not need to consult again until arrangements for the 2012/13 admissions exercise are due.

Final admission arrangements and right of objection

Once the Council and Voluntary Aided schools have determined their admission arrangements following this consultation, the Council will publish a public notice before 1st May confirming those arrangements and setting out where they can be viewed. Once they have been published then parents and carers will have a right of formal objection to the Schools Adjudicator. Details of that objection process will be given in the public notice.

Secondary Schools

This part of the consultation is about the process for the secondary schools admissions system which remains a catchment area system with ballots being used as the tie breaker in each admission priority in the event of oversubscription.

No changes are proposed to the over subscription priorities which are applied in the context of an equal preference system as required by the Admissions Code. They are:

1. Children in the care of a local authority (looked after children).
2. Compelling medical or other exceptional reasons for attending the school.
3. The sibling link.
4. Those pupils living in the designated catchment area for the school.
5. Other children.

A separate consultation process has been taking place at the suggestion of the Schools Adjudicator as to whether the designated catchment area for Patcham High School should be extended to include the Brangwyn/Westdene area, which is currently in the joint catchment area for Hove Park and Blatchington Mill. This has taken place through a series of public meetings in November and December 2008 and the distribution of consultation documents to those living in the areas affected by the proposal, which are Westdene, Brangwyn, Patcham and the current Hove Park/Blatchington Mill catchment area. This process came to an end on 5th December, the final date for the return of the consultation documents. A decision will be made on this proposal by the Cabinet Member for CYPT in January, based on

those consultation responses. For the purposes of this consultation it should be noted that the Patcham catchment area could either stay as it is or be extended as described above depending upon the decision in January. No other changes to catchment areas are proposed for the 2010/2011 admission year.

Another school specific change relates to Falmer High School which will become an Academy with effect from 2010/2011. Whilst it will be retaining the same admission priorities as secondary age Community Schools in Brighton & Hove, its admission number will be reduced from 211 to 180, and it will have a sixth form.

Admissions Arrangements for Community Infant, Junior and Primary Schools

No changes are proposed for the admission arrangements to Community Infant, Junior and Primary schools. The over subscription priorities are applied in the context of an equal preference system as required by the Admissions Code. They will retain the current over subscription priorities of:

1. Children in the care of a local authority (looked after children).
2. Compelling medical or other exceptional reasons for attending the school.
3. The sibling link. (For infant, junior and primary schools the sibling link only applies where the home to school distance as measured by the Council's admissions software is less than 2 miles.)
4. Home to school distance (measured by the shortest available route).

More detail about the primary and secondary admission arrangements can be found in the two school admission booklets. Schools have copies of the booklets which can also be viewed on the Brighton & Hove City Council web site.

Relevant Area for Consultation

The relevant area for school admissions in the city is currently defined as the area within the city boundary. This is the area which the Local Authority (LA) uses when consulting on admissions arrangements, and can include other admission authorities and voluntary aided schools outside the city. The area can be larger than LA boundary, or smaller through the operation of a number of different relevant areas within the LA. The use of a relevant area was a requirement of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and this requirement remains in force. It is currently defined as the area within the Brighton & Hove city boundaries, so all voluntary aided schools within the city are required to consult all schools within the city boundary about their proposed admission arrangements. No change is proposed to the relevant area for 2010/11.

Voluntary Aided Schools Consultation

Voluntary Aided (VA) schools are required to consult with all other city schools, the LA and parents and carers about their proposed admission arrangements for 2010/11. In order to allow the parental consultation the Council will publish VA schools proposed admission arrangements on the Council's website (see link). Schools not wishing to use this method of consultation must conduct their own consultation process. Consultation must be completed by 1st March 2009, and the Governors must have settled the final version of their admission arrangements by 15th April 2009.

Published Admission Numbers

The proposed admission numbers for each school are attached to this document. These numbers are based on the net capacity range of each school or in some cases a higher figure. This list includes the expected admission numbers for voluntary

aided schools, which act as their own admission authorities and set their own admission number.

Please note that the published number of 120 for Davigdor Infants will be subject to the separate public consultation process on enlarging the school which has already started. If the outcome of that process is a decision not to extend the school premises then the number will return to 90 for 2010/11.

Another separate consultation process will also be taken forward on the possibility of the St Luke's Infant and Junior schools being reconfigured as an all through primary school. Parents and other interested parties will be invited to comment on the proposals through the publication of a separate public notice. For the purposes of this consultation separate admission numbers have been given for the Infant and the Junior schools which are unchanged from those published last year.

With regards to Balfour Junior School, a separate consultation is under way which could lead to an increase in the school's admission number from 96 to 128. This is dependent upon changes to the school premises. If the increase in admission number is approved it will be introduced for the 2010/11 admission year.

Co-ordinated Admission Schemes for 2010/11

The coordinated schemes are attached for comment. They set out the arrangements, including dates, for the coordination of secondary and primary admissions. The purpose of this coordination is to ensure that all parents and carers receive one offer of a school place for their child within published timescales.

The Admission Timetable for 2010/11

The dates for applications and allocations for admission for the 2010/11 school year will be:

Infant and Primary Schools:	Closing date	5 th February 2010
	Letters to parents/carers	4 th May 2010
Junior Schools:	Closing date	13 th November 2009
	Letters to parents/carers	22 nd January 2010
Secondary schools:	Closing date	23 rd October 2009
	Letters to parents/carers	1 st March 2010

These dates are set out in more detail in the co-ordinated schemes.

Other Linked Documents

1. Proposed Admission Numbers – Primary
2. Proposed Admission Numbers – Secondary
3. Coordinated scheme – secondary
4. Coordinated scheme - primary

