

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CABINET MEMBER**

**SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR
2023/24 COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY
CONTROLLED SCHOOLS**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of the outcome of the consultation with schools in respect of admission arrangements for 2023/24.
- 1.2 To seek approval to implement the proposed admission arrangements for the 2023/24 academic year.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The local authority is required to determine by 28th February 2022 its admission arrangements for the academic year 2023/24, including admission numbers, for each community and voluntary controlled school.
- 2.2 Admission arrangements are to describe how school places are allocated, especially with reference to the oversubscription criteria. This confirms how applications are prioritised when the number of applications exceeds the number of places available.
- 2.3 The admission number refers to the number of school places that the admission authority must offer in the relevant age group of the school.
- 2.4 The School Admissions Code 2021 requires that oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation.
- 2.5 Changes were made to the arrangements for 2019/20 after a full public consultation.

- 2.6 Having consulted publicly for the 2019/20 arrangements, the council is not required to consult again for seven years (ie until the 2026/27 arrangements) unless it makes changes to its arrangements such as changing the oversubscription criteria or seeking to reduce a school's admission number.
- 2.7 Mandatory changes to the 2021/22 and 2022/23 arrangements, regarding the treatment of Internationally Adopted Previously Looked After Children, were required as a result of the publication of the new School Admissions Code in June 2021. As these revisions were required for compliance with the new code no public consultation was necessary. The revisions have been carried forward into the 2023/24 arrangements.
- 2.8 One further change is suggested for 2023/24. The insertion of a paragraph confirming that the council will meet the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021 in using an intended address or unit or quartering address when allocating places to the children of service personnel or crown servants returning from overseas. The council was already complying with the code in this respect however it is good practice to explicitly state that will be the case in the published arrangements. Again, no public consultation is required.
- 2.7 Without exception, governing boards supported both the admission arrangements and the proposed admission number for their school.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the proposed admissions arrangements for the 2023/24 academic year contained in Appendix 1.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Following the consultation with schools, the council has not received any requests to amend the proposed arrangements.
- 4.2 The main provisions of the oversubscription criteria (eg catchment, siblings and distance) are well established and clearly understood across the area.
- 4.3 With regard to the proposed admission numbers, all are the same as for the 2022/23 academic year, apart from Baysgarth School which rises from 180 to 210 as the capacity of the school has increased due to recent building works.
- 4.4 If any more changes are proposed at this time it would be more appropriate to consider them for the 2024/25 academic year due to the need to consult publicly for at least six weeks between 1st October and 31st January prior to the determination taking place.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 There are no financial or other resource implications.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 There are no other relevant implications.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not required. The arrangements will not alter the pattern of where children attend school.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 The following have been consulted on the proposed 2023/24 admission arrangements:

- Each community and voluntary controlled school governing board

8.2 Consultation on Proposed Admission Arrangements: Following consultation with the above stakeholders regarding the admission arrangements in Appendix 1, no objections or representations have been received.

8.3 Consultation on Proposed Admission Numbers: Following consultation with the above stakeholders regarding the admission numbers in Appendix 1, each governing board recommended accepting the proposed admission number.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the proposed admissions arrangements for the 2023/24 academic year contained in Appendix 1.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –
School Admissions Code 2021**