
Meeting: CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE ADMISSIONS FORUM
Date: 1 November 2011
Subject: Admission Arrangements September 2013 - Admission Numbers
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services
Summary: The purpose of this report is to inform the Forum that currently no changes are proposed to the admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled schools and that changes have been made to the exceptions which may result in the admission number for a school being exceeded.

Contact Officer: Rosa Bonwick

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That the amendments to the exceptions which may result in the admission number being exceeded be agreed.**
- 2. That the governing bodies of foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools be recommended to adopt the exceptions.**
- 3. That, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, academies be recommended to adopt the exceptions.**

Changes to Admission Numbers

1. There are currently no proposals to increase the admission number at any of the community and voluntary controlled schools.
2. The Local Authority will, however, be writing to community and voluntary controlled schools about the arrangements proposed for September 2013. This may result in some changes which will be reported to the next meeting of the Forum.

Admissions above the published admission number

3. At the last meeting of the Forum on 28 June 2011, members discussed the exceptions which may result in the admission number for a school being exceeded. It was agreed at that meeting that the exception relating to 'looked after' children be amended to remove reference to the direction by the local authority acting as corporate parent. 'Looked after' children are required to be admitted and therefore a direction is not required.
4. The exception relating to twins or children from multiple births has also been amended to remove the proviso that the admission should not breach infant class size limits. This is in accordance with the draft School Admissions Code which proposes that two new categories are added to the list of exceptions which permit an infant class to be over 30. Those categories are twins (and other multiple birth children) and service children. Service children have now been included as an additional exception which may result in the admission number being exceeded. A copy of the revised exceptions is attached at Appendix A.
5. Members of the Forum will recall from the previous meeting that the draft School Admissions Code proposes that schools will no longer need the approval of the local authority to admit pupils in-year above the published admission number. These exceptions would, therefore, only apply to the normal admissions round and to in-year admissions at community and voluntary controlled schools.
6. Members of the Forum are, however, asked to recommend to the governing bodies of foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools that they consider adopting these exceptions with a view to maintaining a consistent approach across the local authority area. Members are asked also to recommend the exceptions to academies, subject of course to their approval by the Secretary of State.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Admissions above the published admission number

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