
ADMISSIONS FOR THE RECEPTION CLASS AND YEAR 7 IN SEPTEMBER 2008

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the numbers of applications made for school places for the 2008/09 year.

Information and Analysis

2. Secondary schools

Darlington's Scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions invites parents to make a preference for up to three secondary schools, ranking schools in order of preference, and stating reasons for their choice. It is the Council's aim to comply with the highest ranked preference indicated by parents.

3. Any parent who is not successful in gaining a school place can exercise a Right of Appeal to an Independent Appeal Committee. It is only when all appeals have been heard that a final picture can be drawn up of Year & allocations for 2008. (If a parent is successful in their appeal, their child moving to the roll of another school creates a vacancy, allowing another parent to move their child to a higher preferred school).
4. At the time of writing, the situation for secondary schools is shown in Table 1 below:

<u>Secondary Schools</u>	
Total number of applications	1112
Total number of first preferences	952
% getting 1 st preference	85.6
% getting one of their preferences	93.7
No. who did not apply	44
No. who failed to get any of their preferences	86

5. Primary Schools

Parents can express a preference for up to five primary or infant schools. As with secondary schools, it is not possible to give absolute figures until appeals have been determined. The current situation for Primary and Infant schools is shown overleaf:

<u>Primary Schools</u>	
Total number of applications	1079
Total number of first preferences	1007
% getting 1 st preference	90.1
% getting one of their preferences	96.7
No. who did not apply	34
No. who failed to get any of their preferences	67

6. Appeals

At the time of writing, 20 families have lodged appeals in respect of secondary places at Community schools. This figure does not include appeals that have been made for places at Hurworth, Carmel or Eastbourne CofE Academy, as the Governors of these schools are the Admissions Authorities for the schools.

So far, two appeals have been received in respect of Primary places but parents still have time to register their intention to appeal against decisions relating to primary schools.

7. Inward Migration

Inward migration is still a trend in Darlington. In the six months since September 2007 there has been an increase of 102 secondary pupils and 190 primary pupils.

Location	Secondary	Primary
Moved into Darlington from other UK locations	88	154
Military Personnel Relocation from abroad	4	10
Moved into Darlington from Europe	10	26
	102	190

8. Officers are continuing to revise the Primary And Secondary Capital Strategies in light of increased pressure of pupil numbers.

Legal Implications

9. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

10. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Impact on Looked After Children

11. Looked After Children are given first priority when applications for school places are being considered. Looked After Children in Darlington have received their first preferences, without recourse to appeal.

Recommendation

12. Members are asked to:
 - (a) note the contents of the report; and
 - (b) refer it on to the Local Admissions Forum.

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Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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