
**ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOLS
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SCHOOLS ADJUDICATOR**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to share with Members the Annual Report agreed by the Local Admissions Forum which must be submitted to the Schools Adjudicator.

Summary

2. The Government wishes to ensure that all school admission authorities abide by the *School Admissions Code* and the *School Admission Appeals Code*. Every year, the Local Admissions Forum must compile a report for submission to the Schools Adjudicator.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that Members note the report for information.

Murray Rose, Director of Children's Services

Background Papers

School Admissions Code
School Admission Appeals Code

G McQueen : Extension 2847

S17 Crime and Disorder	The Authority must take steps to ensure that parents do not apply for school places on the basis of fraudulent information. Although it has not been necessary in Darlington, some Authorities have taken parents to Court over alleged attempts to be awarded places on the basis of false information.
Health and Well Being	There are no direct implications arising from this report.
Sustainability	There are no direct implications arising from this report.
Diversity	The report to the Adjudicator demonstrates the open

	mechanism used in the Authority to give every family, regardless of circumstance, the best chance of being awarded a school place of their preference.
Wards Affected	All wards in Darlington
Groups Affected	Children of Statutory School Age
Budget and Policy Framework	There are no budget implications arising from this report. The report highlights the Council's admissions Policy.
Efficiency	There are no direct implications arising from this report
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report is consistent with the Aspiring theme in the Sustainable Community Strategy: supporting people to develop long-term aspirations and providing the widest possible range of lifelong learning opportunities to help people pursue their aspirations.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

4. The Government wishes to ensure that parents are treated fairly when they apply for a school place and that Admissions Authorities follow policies that are fair and reasonable. The Government has published a School Admissions Code that sets out clearly acceptable oversubscription criteria. The Code also provides advice on the co-ordinated admissions management system all Local Authorities must operate and highlights the need for cooperation between and amongst school admission authorities in the district.
5. The Local Admissions Forum must compile a report every year, for submission to the Schools Adjudicator. The Adjudicator can pass comment on the report and require admission authorities to review or amend their oversubscription criteria or practices, to bring them up to the nationally acceptable standard. The format of the report and the information to be contained within it is proscribed by the Adjudicator's office.
6. Last year, the Adjudicator recommended minor adjustments to the wording of oversubscription criteria for voluntary aided schools. These adjustments were readily accepted by the authorities concerned and have been put in place for the 2009/10 admissions round.
7. A copy of Darlington's report for the 2008/09 year is **attached** as an appendix.