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**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2009/2010**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Members on the current 2009 intake for school admissions for both primary and secondary schools across Darlington.

**Summary**

2. This report provides a summary of the admission process for the 2009/10 intake and includes a breakdown of the applications received, the number of successful applications and the number of appeals requested.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

**Murray Rose,**  
**Director of Children's Services**

**Background Papers:**

Admissions Policy

George McQueen Ext 2847

S17 Crime and Disorder	Not relevant to this report
Health and Well Being	Offering a school place to meet parental preference and close to a child's address enhances safeguarding and provides security for the child.
Sustainability	Darlington's communities are enhanced through the provision of school places to meet locality needs.
Diversity	There are a range of schools in Darlington with Governance ranging from Community Schools to Voluntary Aided, Foundation and an Academy. Parents have a wide choice of schools to match the diverse needs of a pluralistic community.
Wards Affected	The admissions arrangements affect children living in all wards across Darlington
Groups Affected	Parents, Pupils, Schools, Neighbouring Authorities, other Admission Authorities.

Budget and Policy Framework	There are no budget implications.
Efficiency	The Admissions Policy and management of school places ensures that the Local Authority complies with statutory guidance on Surplus Places. This enables parents to have a choice in a school place but ensures resources are not wasted and school budgets are not overcommitted.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Provision of an Admissions System ensures sufficient places are available in each community so that children can attend a school of their choice.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

4. The Local Authority acts as a ‘clearing house’ for all applications for a place at a primary school in Darlington. This is part of a co-ordinated scheme where the Local Authority is the admissions authority for community, voluntary controlled schools and acts on behalf of the admission authority of voluntary aided schools, for the Borough. The Authority will make a single offer of a school place each academic year, to parents who have expressed a preference for their child to be admitted to a maintained school within Darlington. Although all applications will be considered on an equal weighting basis, should a child be eligible for a place at more than one school, parents/carers are requested to rank their order of preference on the ‘Primary/Secondary School Admissions Form’ in order that only one offer will be made. The relevant admissions criteria will be applied to all schools that are oversubscribed.
5. The Local Authority operates a co-ordinated scheme for the majority of school applications, although the Governors Voluntary Aided Primary Schools and the Governors of Hurworth School, Carmel College and Eastbourne Church of England Academy act as the Admission Authorities for their own schools.
6. The equal preference system operates to give parents choice in their selection of schools, allocating their highest ranked preference wherever possible.

### School Admissions 2009/10

7. Attached at **Appendix A** is a table indicating the preference data for secondary school intake and primary school intake, for 2009 admission round. Both tables also indicate the current number of appeals received to date, a final figure will be available at the end of June.

### Outcome of Consultation

8. During the summer of last year the Admissions Team and Choice Adviser were available at ‘Connecting with the Community’ sessions held in the market square. It was the first of many opportunities for parents to engage with Children’s Services in relation to school admissions. There were also visits to 98% of both primary schools, maintained nursery schools and independent nursery settings across the Authority, open evenings at the

secondary schools in September and the Choice Adviser offered sessions to all schools for Yr5 children in preparation for the September application process.

9. These information sessions were held to provide greater support to parents when considering their applications for a school place. Initial analysis of the applications received would indicate that parents were supported by these information sessions and helped to make a more informed choice of a school place.
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