
**ADMISSION OF PUPILS TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN
DARLINGTON FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/06**

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) – Councillor Stephen Harker, Education Portfolio
Responsible Director(s) – Geoff Pennington, Director of Education**

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Members' approval for the arrangements for admission of pupils to Primary and Secondary Education in Darlington for the Academic Year 2005/06.

Information and Analysis

2. Local Education Authorities are required to consult with other admission authorities, Governing Bodies and the Admissions Forum prior to publishing the admission arrangements.
3. The new arrangements take into account the recommendations made in the revision to the Code of Practice on School Admissions and the Education Act 2002.

Co-ordinated Admission Schemes

4. Under the new Code of Practice, the Authority has set up a scheme covering every maintained school in its area for co-ordinating admission arrangements for 2005/06. This excludes special schools, but includes Aided schools within the Borough, where the governing bodies of these schools are the admissions authority and previously administered their own arrangements. The purpose of the co-ordinated admission scheme is to establish a mechanism, as far as is practicable, where every parent of a child living within this authority's area who has applied for a school place in the 'normal admissions round' receives one offer only of a school place on the same day. The scheme will not affect the rights and duties of the Governing Bodies of Voluntary Aided schools to set and apply their own admission arrangements and over-subscription criteria.

Net Capacity/Admission Limits

5. The system of using standard numbers for setting admission limits has now been abolished and has been replaced by a net capacity calculation. Schools can propose admission numbers that are the same as or different from the net capacity assessment. DfES view a tolerance range of +/- 10% of net capacity measurement as acceptable. As long as there are no objections to the proposed admission numbers, these can be published as the admission number for 2005/06 in the Admissions brochures.

6. If the proposed admission number is lower than the tolerance level indicated by the net capacity, the school's proposal needs to be published in the local newspaper by the LEA outlining the proposed number, the number indicated by the review and the reason for the lower number. There are a small number of Darlington schools in this category. These will be subject of a review of the net capacity assessment in the Summer of 2004, in response to recent advice from DfES.

Outcome of Consultation

7. The LEA has consulted with schools on admission numbers for 2005/06, these are attached at Annex A. The Authority also consulted with the Admissions group of the Schools' Forum on the criteria and new co-ordinated arrangements for schools to be introduced for 2005/06, who have indicated their satisfaction with the arrangements.

Legal Implications

8. 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

9. 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.

Council Policy Framework

10. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

11. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Key Decisions

12. This represents a key decision as it affects more than three wards.

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that Members approve the arrangements for admission of pupils to Primary and Secondary Education in Darlington for the Academic Year 2005/06.

Reasons

14. To allow the authority to publish and disseminate its admissions information brochures to interested parties, which will facilitate the efficient administration of schools admissions for the academic year 2005/06.
15. To allow for the publication of the required notices for those schools' proposals which are outside the net capacity tolerance level.

Geoffrey Pennington
Director of Education

Background Papers

School Admissions Code of Practice

Sue Davison : Extension 2812

PRIMARY SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS 2005/6

SCHOOL	Current Admission Limit	Revised Net Capacity	Net Capacity Range (+/- 10%)	Admission Number Proposed By Governing Body	Recommendation Or Comments
Abbey Infant	90	90	81-99	90	Approve
Abbey Junior	90	89	80-98	90	Approve
Alderman Leach Primary	45	67	59-74	45	Approve in line with new school
Bishopton Redmarshall CE Primary	12	12	11-13	12	Approve
Cockerton CE Primary	30	30	27-33	30	Approve
Corporation Road Primary	60	55	49-61	45	Approve
Dodmire Infant	70	88	79-97	70	Approve
Dodmire Junior	70	74	67-81	70	Approve
Firth Moor Primary	45	45	40-50	45	Approve
Gurney Pease Primary	30	30	27-33	30	Approve
Harrowgate Hill Infant	70	75	67-83	75	Approve in line with new school
Harrowgate Hill Junior	68	75	67-83	75	Approve in line with new school
Heathfield Primary	60	59	53-65	60	Approve
Heighington CE Primary	30	30	27-33	30	Approve
High Coniscliffe CE (Cont) Primary	12	15	13-17	15	Approve
Holy Family RC VA Primary	30	30	27-33	30	Approve
Hurworth Primary	30	30	27-33	30	Approve
Middleton St George Primary	30	45	40-50	45	Approve in line with new school
Mount Pleasant Primary	35	34	30-37	30	Approve
Mowden Infant	60	60	54-66	60	Approve
Mowden Junior	62	60	54-66	60	Approve
North Road Primary	66	60	54-66	60	Approve
Red Hall Primary	30	30	27-33	30	Approve
Reid Street Primary	70	60	54-66	60	Approve
Rise Carr Primary	30	37	33-41	30	Approve
Sadberge CE Primary	15	12		School to close	
Skerne Park Primary	90	77	69-85	60	Approve in line with new school

Springfield Primary	30	47	42-52	30	Approve, in line with new school
St Augustines RC VA Primary	33	32	29-35	30	Approve
St Bedes RC VA Primary	34	34	30-37	30	Discussing with Church
St Johns CE (Aided) Primary	35	33	30-36	30	Approve
St Teresas RC VA Primary	40	38	34-42	40	Approve
Whinfield Infant	90	90	81-99	90	Approve
Whinfield Junior	90	68	61-75	90	Approve, additional temporary accommodation available

Admissions Criteria - Primary Education

The Authority is not proposing to change the admissions criteria for 2005/6 and it will remain as follows:-

- (i) **Pupils with Statements of Special Needs**
Children with statements of special educational needs which specifies the school in the statement.
- (ii) **Looked After Children**
A “looked after” child is a pupil who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that Authority.
- (iii) **Medical Reasons**
Pupils with very exceptional medical factors directly related to the school placement. Applications under this criterion should be supported by written evidence from a doctor.
- (iv) **Family Links**
Either (a) Pupils who have a brother or sister already attending the preferred school and who is expected to be on the roll at the time of admission.
Or (b) In the case of associated schools and schools sharing the same site a family link would exist if a brother or sister would be expected to be on roll of either school at the time of admission.
- (v) **Distance**
Pupils who live nearest the preferred school measured by the shortest walking route judged to be safe. This will be based on the parental address. We will, however, consider the overall availability of school places in an area to ensure that no children have an unreasonable distance to walk. This may override distance to the preferred school. Furthermore, in connection with pupils who are transferring

from Infant to Junior school, those pupils who are attending associated schools, or schools sharing the same site are to be given priority over pupils from other schools.

Late applications

Forms received after the closing date may not be accepted unless there is a good reason for them being sent in late, e.g. families who have moved into the area after the closing date.

In any other circumstances such late applications will be held on a waiting list for consideration once the process has been applied to those applications who had submitted forms by the required deadline.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS 2005/6

SCHOOL	Current Admission Limit	Revised Net Capacity	Net Capacity Range (+/- 10%)	Proposed Admission Number By Governing Body	Recommendation Or Comments
Branksome Comprehensive	185	180	162-198	185	Approve
Carmel RC Technology College	180	176	158-194	180	
Eastbourne School	180	208	187-229	180	Approve
Haughton Community School	180	212	191-233	180	Approve in line with new school
Hummersknott Comprehensive	245	245	220-270	245	Approve
Hurworth Comprehensive	124	124	112-136	124	Approve
Longfield Comprehensive	180	180	162-198	180	Approve

Admissions Criteria - Secondary Education

- (i) **Pupils with Statement of Special Needs**
Children with statements of special educational needs which specifies the school in the statement.
- (ii) **Looked After Children**
A “looked after” child is a pupil who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that Authority.
- (iii) **Associated Transport**
Pupils who live in an area from which the Authority provides designated transport to the preferred school in order to limit travel costs.
- (iv) **Medical Reasons**
Pupils with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement. Applications under this criterion should be supported by written evidence from a doctor.
- (v) **Family Links**
Pupils who have a brother or sister already attending the school and who is expected to be on roll at that school at the time of admission.
- (vi) **Distance**
Pupils who live nearest the preferred school measured by the shortest walking route judged to be safe. This will be based on the parental address. We will, however, consider the overall availability of school places in an area to ensure that

no children have an unreasonable distance to walk. This may override distance to the preferred school.

Late applications

Forms received after the closing date may not be accepted unless there is a good reason for them being sent in late, e.g. families who have moved into the area after the closing date.

In any other circumstances such late applications will be held on a waiting list for consideration once the process has been applied to those applications who had submitted forms by the required deadline.