

A G E N D A

Local Admissions Forum

Date: **Thursday, 28th July, 2005**

Time: **7.00 p.m.**

Place: **The Council Chamber,
Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,
Hereford**

Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

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**County of Herefordshire
District Council**

AGENDA

for the Meeting of the Local Admissions Forum

To: Local Education Authority	J.P. Thomas (Chairman) J. Stone and Ms. A.M. Toon
Church Representative	P. Shannon (Roman Catholic Church) and Revd. I. Terry (Church of England)
Headteachers	Mr. J. Barry (Community High School), A Marson (Bishop of Hereford & St Mary's RC Schools) and Julia Powell (Community and VC Primary)
School Governors	A. Ross
Parent Governors	Ms K. Fitch (Primary Schools) and Mrs. C. Woolley (Secondary Schools)
Local Community Rep	Mr. H. Lewis (Looked After Children), Ms. V. Pawsey (Consortium of Special Educational Needs) and Mrs. C. Shaw (West Midlands Service for Travelling Children)

	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
To receive apologies for absence.	
2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES	
To receive details of any persons nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Forum.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
To receive any declarations of interest by Forum Members in respect of items on the agenda.	
4. MINUTES	5 - 10
To receive and sign the minutes of the last meeting held 11th July 2005.	
5. INFORMATION FOR PARENTS BOOKLET	11 - 70
To approve the composite prospectus for the admission/transfer of pupils into Primary and High Schools.	

6.	APPLYING FOR A PLACE IN HIGH SCHOOL	71 - 76
	To consider the format of the simple guidance notes in relation to admission of children into high schools at age 11.	
7.	STANDARD APPLICATION FORMS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2005/06	77 - 82
	To consider the layout of the 'common application form' to be used for the coordinated secondary transfer arrangement for September 2006 (SA1).	

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COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD.

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COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Local Admissions Forum held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Monday, 11th July, 2005 at 4.00 p.m.

Present:	Local Education Authority	J.P. Thomas (Chairman)
	Church Representative	Ms. L. Johnson (Roman Catholic Church), Rev. I. Terry (Church of England)
	Headteachers	A Marson (Bishop of Hereford & St Mary's RC Schools)
	School Governors	(none)
	Parent Governors	(none)
	Local Community Rep	Vanessa Pawsey (Consortium of Special Educational Needs), B. Straker (West Midlands Service for Travelling Children)

In attendance: Councillor R.M. Wilson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from J. Barry, Ms. J. Powell and Mrs C. Shaw.

2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Ms. L. Johnson substituted for P. Shannon and B. Straker substituted for Mrs. C. Shaw.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor J.P. Thomas be appointed Chairman of the Local Admissions Forum for the ensuing year

Councillor J.P. Thomas took the Chair.

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor J. Stone be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Local Admissions Forum for the ensuing year.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July, 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. OUTCOME OF PARENTAL APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 6 PUPIL TRANSFERS TO HIGH SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 2005

The Forum was informed about the outcomes of parental applications for Year 6 pupil transfers into high schools for September 2005, including details of appeals.

The Admissions and Transport Manager reported to the Forum that formal admission appeals had now taken place. He reported that out of 33 appeals 9 had been upheld.

He further explained that the new system of 3 preference applications had produced a considerable improvement in the number of parents satisfied with the allocated school for their child. He reported that 93.4% of parents had received their first preference of school and that 98% of parents had received a place at one of their 3 declared preferences and to date there had been no recorded complaints about how applications had been administered.

The report included a table detailing schools and their respective Published Admission Numbers (PANs) and the number of children on their waiting lists. The Admissions and Transport Manager highlighted the five schools with waiting lists and explained that these waiting lists would remain open until the start of school in September 2005 until all allocated places had been accounted for and currently there was no Year 6 pupil in Herefordshire without a high school place for September 2005.

The Forum discussed the outcomes of Year 6 transfers to high schools. The following are the principal points from the ensuing discussion:

- Concern was expressed that admissions to Haywood High School were falling some way short of its PAN.
- Concern was expressed that a handful of children living in the catchment area for Wigmore High School had not been admitted to the school and at least three non-catchment children had been admitted.

The Head of Policy and Resources reported that schools were provided to serve their catchment areas. However, this year Wigmore had received a number of high priority cases which had seen some catchment children miss out on a place. He informed the Forum that in the light of falling rolls Wigmore High School would not be extended, as there would be places available at other schools in the County for those not admitted to Wigmore. He stated that he believed there were enough places to accommodate all catchment area children over the next 5 years.

The Head of Policy and Resources informed the Forum that the Children's Services Directorate was likely to be performing a review of school catchment areas within the next 18 months.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8. AMENDMENTS TO SCHOOL PLANNED ADMISSION NUMBERS

The Forum considered changes to the PANs at Fairfield High School and Bodenham

Primary School.

The Admissions and Transport Manager reported that the construction of a new teaching block at Fairfield High School had led to a new net capacity assessment being performed which resulted in a revised PAN of 70. He informed the Forum that this new PAN had been used for the current Year 6 transfers.

The Forum were told that Bodenham Primary School wished to increase its PAN from 15 to 17 following its amalgamation with the catchment area for the recently closed school at Hope under Dinmore.

The Admissions and Transport Manager stated that the PAN increases were reasonable.

A view was expressed that as Herefordshire was moving into a position of falling rolls PANs should be falling and not increasing.

RESOLVED:

That (a) the Planned Admission Number for Fairfield High School be raised to 70;

and

(b) the Planned Admission Number for Bodenham Primary School be raised to 17.

9. APPLYING FOR A PLACE IN HIGH SCHOOL

The Forum considered the format of the guidance notes in relation to admission of children into reception class at 4 years of age and the transfer of pupils into high schools at age 11.

The Admissions and Transport Manager reported that since the publication of the Agenda some minor editorial changes had been made to both the 'Starting School' and 'Applying for a Place at High School' documents and he circulated copies of the updated documents.

Some further minor editorial changes were proposed:

- Inclusion of a telephone number for parents to ring for more information on the 'Applying for a Place in High School' document.
- Addition of an explanatory paragraph on denominational transport.

The Head of Policy and Resources informed the Forum that the Children's Services Directorate looked to Teachers at primary schools to identify and assist parents who may need help in completing high school applications. He also informed the Forum that the 'Information for Parents' booklet was available in Braille and other languages on request.

The Admissions and Transport Manager commented that the resources were not available to perform presentations at all primary schools in Herefordshire to explain and help parents with the secondary school application process. It was agreed that it would be beneficial if schools held their own workshops on the secondary application process as a way to help parents who may have problems understanding the process.

The Head of Policy and Resources advised the Forum that if a request was received for a child to attend a denominational school for which there was no suitable school available in Herefordshire, for example a Muslim or Jewish school, then the Council would be liable to provide transport to the nearest suitable school.

RESOLVED: That the 'Applying for a Place at High School in Herefordshire 2006/07' and 'Starting School' documents, as amended, be approved.

10. STANDARD APPLICATION FORMS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2005/06

The Forum considered the layout of the 'common application form' to be used for the co-ordinated secondary transfer arrangements for September 2006 (SA1), and the 'common application form' for primary co-ordination (PA1), also for September 2006.

Regarding the SA1, Members of the Forum felt that it was necessary to state the full amount a parent would be liable to pay under the new arrangements for denominational transport. The Forum believed that the parents needed to know exactly how much they were committing themselves to financially when they applied.

The Head of Policy and Resources agreed that it would be beneficial to include the agreed amount parents would need to contribute towards transport to denominational schools and that he would submit some new wording to the Forum once the final arrangements for denominational transport had been resolved by Cabinet.

The Forum commented that a section should be added to the SA1 regarding banded children. It was agreed that this would be examined at the next meeting of the Forum.

The Forum had discussed agenda item 9 'Information for Parents Booklet' before considering this item. In that discussion it had been agreed that an additional meeting of the Forum needed to be held soon once Cabinet's decision on denominational transport was known. It was therefore proposed that revisions to the SA1 form should be considered at this meeting as well.

RESOLVED:

That (a) the format and contents of the 'common application form' for primary schools for September 2006 be approved;

and

(b) the format and content of the 'common application form' for secondary schools be considered further at the next meeting of the Forum.

11. INFORMATION FOR PARENTS BOOKLET

The Forum discussed the composite prospectus 'Information for Parents 2006/07' for the admission and transfer of pupils into primary and high school.

The Admissions and Transport Manager informed the Forum of various changes which had taken place since the previous edition. The most significant of these changes related to denominational transport and the over-subscription criteria employed by the Council for community and voluntary controlled schools which had been amended to include pupils who received banded funding and those pupils who

had been adopted.

The Forum was also informed of other minor editorial changes and Forum Members suggested a number of further minor changes in addition to the changes highlighted by the Admissions and Transport Manager.

The Church School Headteacher representative stated that the revised denominational transport policy had implications for the admissions policy for the Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School and called for the introduction of the new policy to be delayed until 2007.

The Forum was advised that the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee had called-in Cabinet's decision on the new denominational transport policy, halting the decisions implementation. The Scrutiny Committee was due to meet soon to consider the matter. Cabinet would then meet to consider any recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee and whether it wished to modify its original decision.

The Cabinet Member (Children's Services) informed the Forum that the policy on denominational transport had been reviewed and revised as it had become apparent that the Council was at risk of legal challenge. If the implementation of the new policy was delayed for another year the Council would remain vulnerable. That was why the Council wanted to introduce the new policy as soon as possible.

The Head of Policy and Resources stated that he was happy to amend the 'Information for Parents Booklet 2006/07' in light of the final decision of Cabinet.

The Catholic Church representative commented that if Cabinet did decide to implement the new policy on denominational transport for the 2006 admission round, then the information within the booklet was inadequate. She felt that the booklet needed to contain information on:

- How to apply for denominational transport
- Low income criteria for subsidised denominational transport
- Timescales to apply for denominational transport

The Chairman suggested that, in order to resolve the wording concerning denominational transport, the Forum should meet once the final decision of Cabinet had been made.

The Forum then discussed the admissions policy for the Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School.

A view was expressed that priority 3 of the Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School admissions policy was in breach of section 4.14 of the School Admissions Code of Practice as the definition of a Christian Church was not explicit. Parents did not therefore have all the required information to make an application as required by the guidance.

The Church School Headteacher representative stated that if the parents of a child were active worshippers then they would be aware of which Christian groups were eligible under the schools admissions policy. He also commented that he felt it was inappropriate to publish an evolving list as part of the schools admissions policy.

The Head of Policy and Resources suggested that an addition be made to the schools admissions policy stating that an up-to-date list of all eligible Christian groups was available from the school on request.

The Forum then discussed the admissions policy for St. Mary's RC High School.

A view was expressed that points 6,7 and 11 of the school's admissions policy were in breach of section 3.12 of the School Admissions Code of Practice as they could disproportionately disadvantage families who had recently moved into the area especially those who were ethnic minorities, travellers or refugees.

The Head of Policy and Resources reported to the Forum that the admissions policy was not satisfactory in the long term. He had written to the Governors of the school regarding their admissions policy and had been informed that they were minded to modify their policy. He informed the Forum that ethnic diversity at the school was in line with the average for the County's high schools.

It was proposed that the LEA should consult with the Diocesan Education Authority regarding the admissions policy of St. Mary's RC High School.

RESOLVED:

That (a) the consideration of the 'Information for Parents 2006/07' booklet be deferred until the next meeting of the Local Admissions Forum;

(b) the admissions policy for the Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School be amended to include a sentence informing parents that a list of eligible Church groups was available from the school;

and

(c) the LEA consult with the Diocesan Education Authority regarding the admissions policy of St. Mary's RC High School.

The meeting ended at 6.40 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS BOOKLET

REPORT BY ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT MANAGER

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

13 JULY 2005

Purpose

1. To approve the composite prospectus for the admission/transfer of pupils into Primary and High Schools, which was deferred from the Forums last meeting.

Information for Parents Booklet

2. The document, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1 to this report, has been amended to reflect the change to the provision of denominational transport resulting from the Cabinet Meeting of 14 July 2005.
3. Amendments have also been completed regarding the admissions policies of the Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School and St. Mary's RC High School.
4. The booklet needs to be with parents by early September 2005 so that administrative arrangements for 2006/07 secondary transfers can commence.

Recommendation

THAT the Information for Parents Booklet 2006/2007 be approved.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None Identified

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EDUCATING YOUR CHILD

Starting school, and later moving on to high school, are two of the most important events in any child's life. At those times, parents are naturally concerned to do the best for their children, but many feel uncertain about what to do. Our aim is to make it as easy as possible for parents to understand the procedures involved.

Most parents prefer their children to go to the local school and a place can nearly always be found for them without difficulty. Sometimes, however, parents prefer a school outside their own area but may find that all the places have to be allocated to local children. Inevitably, therefore, some parents have to be disappointed.

This booklet contains all the information parents need to understand the arrangements for the admission of children to Herefordshire schools. It goes into a lot of detail to explain the rules and procedures the Council has to follow to ensure that the system works as fairly as possible. The rules and procedures have been agreed by the Local Admissions Forum through which the Council, Diocesan Education Authorities, Church schools and community schools work closely together to produce the best possible arrangements for parents. The rules and procedures are particularly important when more parents apply for a particular school than there are places available.

In the booklet, you will find details about -

- How the County's admission arrangements work, the admissions timetable for the 2005/2006 school year and the options that are open to you. This will be important for parents whose child will be starting school in September 2006 because of the new co-ordinated primary admission scheme, which will allow parents to express 2 preferences.
- Details of all maintained schools in the County, including the number of children that can be admitted to each primary school and high school in the 2005/2006 school year.
- Information about the Church of England and Roman Catholic aided schools and what you have to do to apply if you would like your child to attend one.
- Information about nursery education and special education
- Information about school and college transport
- Other issues to do with schools – school uniform requirements and how parents can discuss concerns with individual schools

Staff in the Children's Services Directorate do all that they can to offer a friendly and efficient service to parents. Short leaflets are also provided to highlight the most important points parents need to bear in mind when they apply for a place in a primary or secondary school. Please get in touch with us if you need any help or advice, using the contact points shown inside the front cover of this booklet.

SUE FIENNES
DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES

September 2005

1: ABOUT THE EDUCATION SERVICE

Herefordshire has 101 maintained schools - 83 primary, 14 high (all of which are comprehensive day schools for both boys and girls), and 4 special schools, which are also for boys and girls. A full list of maintained schools in Herefordshire is given in Appendix 4 at the back of this booklet.

Admissions to community and voluntary controlled schools are on a non-selective basis. All such schools have defined catchment areas. Different admission arrangements apply to voluntary aided schools where the Governing Bodies make the decisions.

- **PRIMARY SCHOOLS** (age range 4-11 years or 4-7 years)
Of the 83 primary schools, 40 are community, 40 Church of England (20 Aided and 20 Controlled) and 3 Roman Catholic (all Aided). At Leominster and Hunderton (Hereford), primary education is provided by separate infants and junior schools with transfer between them at age 7. 12 of the primary schools have nursery classes for 3 and 4 year olds.
- **HIGH SCHOOLS** (age ranges 11-16 or 11-18)
12 high schools are community schools, while 2 are voluntary aided (1 Church of England, 1 Roman Catholic). The high schools in Kington, Ledbury, Leominster and Ross have their own Sixth Forms. At the other 10 high schools, the pupils generally move at 16+ to a Sixth Form College or to one of the further education colleges.
- **SPECIAL SCHOOLS**
There are 4 special schools for children with Statements of special education needs (SEN). Admissions are arranged in consultation with the parents.

2: EARLY YEARS EDUCATION

2.1 Education For 3 And 4-Year Olds

Local Education Authorities (LEAs) are required to arrange **half-time** education (i.e. 5 half-day sessions per week of 2½ hours each) for 3 and 4 year olds whose parents would like their children to attend. Eligibility is from the term **after** the child's 3rd birthday. Children with April birthdays will be admitted in the September (following their 3rd birthday).

A leaflet entitled "Guide to Early Years Education for 3 and 4 Year Olds" is available from the Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) Childcare Information Service, on request.

Early years education in Herefordshire is provided through a mixture of LEA, private, independent and voluntary settings, which include -

- LEA nursery classes attached to 13 primary schools

- voluntary playgroups

- private nurseries

- LEA reception classes in primary schools (in the school year of the child's 5th birthday only - see sections 4.1 and 4.2 below)

- independent schools

2.2 What Rights Do Parents Have?

Parents have a right to 5 half-day **education places** per week for their 4 year olds and 3 year olds in the term after their 3rd birthday. The places are free of charge provided they have been approved through the Herefordshire EYDCP. Parents are not obliged to take up such places if they do not wish their children to attend.

Parents do **not** have a right to a place in any particular setting. Nor can parents insist on any particular 'pick and mix' arrangement to make up the 5 days (e.g., some half-days in one setting and others elsewhere), **if** that does not fit the way in which the relevant settings work. All settings are allowed to have an admissions policy, and they can also decide the minimum and maximum levels of attendance per week for any child they agree to admit. Parents wanting more than the 5 x 2½ hour education sessions available (for example, full day care) will have to pay for the extra provision where it is available.

Any parent having difficulty obtaining their free provision for 5 half-day education sessions, or the level of provision to suit their needs on a paying basis, should contact the Childcare Information Service (see Section 2.6 below)

2.3 LEA Nursery Classes

The Council maintains nursery classes for pupils aged 3 or 4 years in the following 13 primary schools-

Schools with nursery classes:

Bromyard, St. Peter's Primary School	01885 483237
Hereford, Broadlands Primary School	01432 266772
Hereford, Hunderton Infants' School	01432 274653
Hereford, Lord Scudamore Primary School	01432 273951
Hereford, Marlbrook Primary School	01432 266643
Hereford, St. Martin's Primary School	01432 273633
Kingstone and Thruxton Primary School	01981 250338
Kington Primary School	01544 230363
Ledbury Primary School	01531 632940
Leominster Infants' School	01568 612029
Ross-on-Wye, Ashfield Park Primary School	01989 562738
Weobley Primary School	01544 318273
Withington Primary School	01432 850289

2.4 How Do You Apply For A Place In A Nursery Class At A Primary School?

Each of the nursery classes, at 13 primary schools, serves quite a wide catchment area. The places available are allocated on a half time basis for either the morning or afternoon sessions on all days the nursery class is open. Acceptance of a place in an LEA Nursery is for the full 5 half days of each school week, so that the children can experience the full range of learning activities. However, there can be a flexible induction period for 3 year olds in the first half term, in negotiation with the school, whereby a child may attend for fewer than 5 sessions. This arrangement may be extended to the end of the first term in exceptional circumstances.

You can apply for a place in a nursery class by contacting the headteacher of the school in which it is based. It is advisable to apply as soon as possible **after** your child's 2nd birthday. Some priority is given to children with special needs or according to family circumstances.

It should be noted that admission to a nursery class is quite separate from admission to the main school. Consequently:

- i) there is no guarantee that a child in a nursery class will have a place in the reception class of the same school, especially since nursery classes serve an area that extends beyond the catchment area of the school;
- ii) the school cannot insist that nursery children remain at the school beyond the age of five.

2.5 Primary School Reception Classes

Details of when 4 year olds can be admitted into primary school reception classes are set out in sections 4.1 to 4.4 below.

2.6 Childcare Information Service

The EYDCP provides a Childcare Information Service, the C.I.S., which works to ensure that a comprehensive and accurate record of information is available to parents and carers about childminders, playgroups, nursery education, crèches, parent and toddler groups, before and after school clubs and services available for parents and children throughout the County of Hereford. The service is provided both in person at the Education and

Conference Centre, Blackfriars Street, Hereford, and by telephone on 01432 261681.

2.7 Sure Start Area

A national programme called SureStart aims to improve the health and wellbeing of families and children before and from birth so that they flourish at home and when they go to school. In Herefordshire, the SureStart area covers Leominster and Kington towns and much of the rural area between and around the two. A mini Sure Start programme in Bromyard is also running through voluntary organisations working in partnership with health, social services and education. The programmes aim to reduce child poverty and social exclusion by pioneering new ways of working to improve and sustain service. Sure Start can be contacted at the "Info In Herefordshire" Offices in Leominster by phone on 01432 383340 or in Bromyard on 01885 488495.

2.8 Children's Centres

One Children's Centre is now fully operational at Green Croft in Hereford and two more are currently being developed. One is based upon the local SureStart programme in Leominster and Kington (see above) and the other based around the Hollybush/Hunderton network (ie Hunderton Primary, Hollybush Family Centre and Hunderton Neighbourhood Nursery). Six more Children's Centres will be established in Herefordshire before 2008.

The intention is to offer a seamless service for parents and carers of children 0-4, incorporating integrated care and education, health services, family support and a base for childminders.

This integrated approach that will be easily accessible to families and lie at the centre of their communities, will provide an holistic approach for children's development, support to families with young children and will facilitate the return to training and work for those parents who wish it.

3: GENERAL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS

This short Chapter explains basic terminology and general rules affecting primary schools. Chapters 4 and 5 explain how the specific admissions arrangements work for primary and secondary schools, and include the timetable for entry to schools in September 2006.

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS TO SCHOOLS

- **Catchment Areas**

Each community and voluntary controlled school serves a defined catchment area. That is also the case for most voluntary aided schools, although they also have a commitment to genuine church applicants for which details can be found in their school prospectus. Children whose parents apply on time are given priority for a place at the school serving their ordinary place of residence unless their parents ask for a place at a school in another area. The procedure for expressing a preference is described in chapter 4 (primary schools) and chapter 5 (high schools). **All parents must express a preference.** Catchment areas are kept under review and may be changed from time to time. Changes are made only after careful review and consultation with parents, schools and local communities.

- **Ordinary Place of Residence**

A child's ordinary place of residence is the address at which the child normally lives. **There are some rules which apply when a child moves to a different address.** Those rules may affect a child's entitlement for school admission. Please contact the Pupil Admissions Office if you have any queries about changes of address.

- **Change of Home Address**

If you move house, your child may remain at the school at which they are registered, should you so wish, but you may not be eligible for free transport if the move is to a property outside the catchment area.

- **Published Admission Numbers (PAN)**

Each school has an admissions number, which is the number of pupils that the school can admit each year. **Published admission numbers** for each school are shown in Appendix 4. The admissions number will be taken into account by the Council and the Governing Body of a voluntary aided school when considering applications from parents. Some applications will be turned down if the total number of applications is greater than the published admission number. In such circumstances, parents have a right of appeal.

- **Definition Of 'Sibling'**

Paragraph 6.1 on page 16 sets out the Council's oversubscription policy and category 4 defines the brother/sister qualification. To qualify under this category a child must have a brother or sister at the preferred school both at the time of application and when the younger sibling is due to start. Qualification under this category is not only natural brothers and sisters but also stepbrothers/stepsisters and children legally adopted as well. Those applications which involve partners' children or foster children do not qualify. However, the Council will consider applications for partners and foster children under category 4 of the oversubscription policy if there are special circumstances to maintain the importance of daily family life.

- **Class Size Regulations for Key Stage 1 Pupils (ages 4-7)**

The law requires pupils aged 4-7 generally to be in classes no larger than 30 pupils. However, the law on class size makes sensible allowance for the entry of an additional child in certain circumstances where not to admit the child would be prejudicial to his or her interests ('excepted pupils'). Such circumstances include:

- * where a child moves into an area outside the normal admissions round and there is no other school that would provide suitable education within a reasonable distance of his or her home.
- * where the child receives a Statement of special educational needs naming the school, or a pupil with a Statement naming that school moves into the area, in each case outside the normal admissions round.
- * where a pupil is initially refused admission to a school but is subsequently offered a place there for one of two reasons: the person making the original decision recognises that an error was made in implementing the school's admission arrangements; or an admission appeal panel decides that an error has been made or that the Council or the Governing Body of a voluntary aided school had acted unreasonably in refusing to admit the child to the school.
- * where a child who is normally educated in a special school, or in a special education centre in a primary school, spends part of the school week in an infants class of a primary school.

In the first three of these cases, the class may be above 30, but only for the remainder of that school year.

- **Parental Interviews**

Parents should note that interviews are not part of the admissions process, though it is sensible for parents to visit the school before deciding whether or not to apply.

4: ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

4.1 At What Age Can Your Child Start Primary School?

Children reach compulsory school age at the beginning of the term **following their 5th birthday**. In Herefordshire, however, most children start school at least a term earlier than the law requires. The Council's **standard admissions policy** entitles parents to places for their children, in one of the Council's maintained schools, according to the date of their child's 5th birthday, as follows -

in the Autumn term if 5 between 1st September and 31st December inclusive
in the Spring term if 5 between 1st January and 30th April inclusive
in the Summer term if 5 between 1st May and 31st August inclusive

The autumn term begins after the summer holidays, the spring term after the Christmas and New Year holidays, and the summer term after the Easter holidays.

4.2 Can Schools Let My Child Start Earlier?

If your child has his or her 5th birthday between 1st January and 31st August, your school might allow your child to start earlier. Each school makes its own decision, after considering whether or not they are able to provide the accommodation, staffing, curriculum and care arrangements suited to the needs of the age group. Parents are not entitled to such arrangements for their children. Nor are parents obliged to take up places any earlier than they would wish (see paragraph 4.3 below). **Whatever the arrangements that schools make, allocation of places to individual children will be decided according to the procedures set out in paragraphs 4.5 to 4.10 below.**

You will need to check with the school you would like your child to attend, to see what their admissions arrangements are **for pupils with 5th birthdays on or after 1st January**. Some schools may decide to admit as set out in the Council's **standard admissions policy**. Other schools may allow all children who become 5 during the school year to start in September. Some schools may allow the older children to start in September, with the rest starting in January. Many schools provide for children to attend part-time at first. Any period of part-time attendance could vary according to the circumstances at each school and perhaps also according to the age of the child.

(For details about Early Years education for 3 year olds and younger 4 year olds, please see Section 2)

4.3 Can Parents Keep Their Children Out Of School Until They Are 5?

Parents are not obliged to take up places for their children any earlier than the law requires (i.e. currently from the term following the 5th birthday). Schools cannot require children to start sooner than parents wish. If you do wish to defer taking up a place for your child, you are strongly advised to discuss the matter first with the school or with the Pupil Admissions Office, and you must apply by the closing date for applications (13th January 2006). Parents who have applied for and been allocated a place for a particular school have every right to wait until the term specified in the Council's standard admissions policy (see paragraph 4.1 above) or until compulsory school age. They can do so **without risking the place allocated to their child**, though there will be complications for pupils with birthdays between 1st May and 31st August, as the term for compulsory admission would be in September at the start of the following school year. In the case of a summer born child therefore the admission would normally be directly into Year 1 (i.e. missing the reception class) in order to keep the child in his/her correct year group. In this respect a child would normally be placed directly into Year 1 and therefore would have missed the reception class.

4.4 What If Your Child Is 5 Between 1st September And 31st December?

The Council does not allow schools to admit children before the school year in which they become 5. Children whose 5th birthday occurs between 1st September and 31st December, therefore, could **not** start school until the autumn term in which they become 5. Such children may instead go to one of the nursery units listed at paragraph 2.3 of this booklet, if there are places available, in the period before they are due to start school. They may also attend those playgroups, private nurseries, and independent schools included in the LEA's Directory of Early Years' providers.

4.5 Can I Apply For A Place At Any Primary School?

You may apply for a place at any primary school maintained by Herefordshire Council. For the school year commencing September 2006, you will be able to express two preferences, in ranked order, on the common application form PA1.

4.6 How do you apply for a place at a Primary School?

As previously stated, children who will start school in the reception year after September 2006, the parents will be given the opportunity to express two individual preferences for primary schools of their choice. This position only relates to applications for the initial allocation process for forms received by 13th January 2006, or by September 2006 which will be dealt with as late applications.

Parents should give or send new applications to the Admissions Office of the LEA, for their highest preferred school, using the form (PA1) available from the Pupil Admissions Office. Applications are required from all parents, including parents whose preference will be for the school provided for the child's home address and parents whose preference is for a Voluntary Aided (church) School.

It is advisable to **apply as soon as your child is 3 years old** and no later than the date indicated in paragraph 4.8. **Late applications are always considered, though it might not be possible to allocate a place in the school you prefer, if it is over-subscribed, even if the school is the one provided for your home address.**

It would be very helpful if you would let the Pupil Admissions Office know in writing if you are withdrawing your application for any reason. **You should notify the Pupil Admissions Office of a change of address immediately.**

4.7 When Are Decisions Made?

Community, Voluntary Controlled and Voluntary Aided Primary Schools

Places in reception classes in community, voluntary controlled and voluntary aided schools are allocated on the basis of applications received by the school or by the Pupil Admissions Office on or before:

13th January 2006 for admissions in school year September 2006 to August 2007

That date applies for all admissions during that school year, **including** children who might not be entitled to start school until January 2007 or April 2007. Parents who do not wish their children to start until the statutory school age (i.e. the term **after** the 5th birthday) should discuss their intentions with the school, and must also apply for a school place by the date above, so that their application can be considered.

All offers of places, including voluntary aided schools, will be made by the Pupil Admissions Office on **Tuesday, 21st March 2006**.

4.8 What Happens If I Apply After The Closing Date Of 13th January 2006?

Applications received after 13 January 2006 will be allocated to the preferred school on the understanding that admissions do not exceed the published admission number or conflict with the requirement not to exceed 30 pupils in a key stage one class. When considering the late application the Council or the relevant Voluntary Aided School will have regard to the reason for the delay in applying together with the distance to the nearest alternative school. However, the formal offer date for primary places will be 21st March 2006, so late applications received between 13th January and 21st March 2006, if the reasons are acceptable, will be able to be considered in the formal application process.

4.9 What Happens If You Are Moving Into A New Area and Your Child Is Beyond Reception Age?

When families with children of school age move into a new area, and wish to transfer their children to a different school, parents should at the earliest opportunity either ask at schools in the area or contact the Pupil Admissions Office.

Even if parents apply for the school provided for the child's home address, a place cannot be guaranteed if the year group is overcrowded. In these situations the Council may designate an alternative primary school or the parents may decide to use the appeal process.

4.10 How Many Children May Be Admitted To Each Primary School?

The Council has a duty to ensure the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of resources. Schools cannot be allowed to become overcrowded. The number of pupils that may be admitted to a school in the relevant year group is known as the **Published Admission Number (PAN)**. Details for each school are given in Appendix 4.

The law on Key Stage 1 class size requires the Council and the Governing Bodies of voluntary aided schools to adjust standard admission numbers so that they are suitable for the class size limit of 30 pupils per class. The new law also introduces different arrangements for the consideration of parental appeals where the child concerned is in a relevant age group, to prevent the appeals panel from allowing appeals that would cause the class size limit to be exceeded.

For further details about the allocation of places, the appeals procedure and transport arrangements which might affect your decisions, you should refer to chapters 6 and 7 of this booklet.

4.11 Can Applications Be Considered For Pupils Who Do Not Live In Herefordshire?

In the case of primary school admissions, parents should approach their preferred school who will provide the necessary information and advice. Parents will need to complete an application form (PA1) indicating the Herefordshire school and formally apply by the 13th January 2006. The offer of a place will be made by Herefordshire LEA, on 21st March 2006, and not the Council in which the parents live.

5: TRANSFER TO HIGH SCHOOLS

Children are normally admitted to high school at the beginning of the school year following their 11th birthday. In very exceptional cases, early or late admission is possible, where it is agreed between the school, the parents and the Council that this would be in the best interests of the child. However, it is rarely advisable for a child to transfer early to high school. When making its decision the Council would have regard to the child's physical, mental and psychological well being before agreeing to the request.

5.1 When And How Should You Apply For A Place In A High School

During the child's last year in primary school (i.e. Year 6) the following action is taken:

Parents will be invited to indicate **3 preferences** on the common application form (SA1). Parents will be able to give reasons for their preferences and will also be asked to name their chosen schools in order of preference.

Early September The Pupil Admissions Office sends parents, via the child's current school:

- ❖ Information about the school provided for the child's home address
- ❖ The official application form (SA1)

28 October 2005 Closing date for parents to return the application form to the Pupil Admissions Office, via the child's current school. Applications are needed from all parents, **including** those parents who want their catchment school or The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat and St Mary's R C high schools. This form will also be used by parents living in Herefordshire seeking a school in another Council area. Herefordshire has an agreement that the Herefordshire closing date of 28th October 2005 will also be acceptable in Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, Powys, Shropshire and Worcestershire even if their closing dates are different.

1 March 2006 This is the "**national offer day**" for secondary schools. All parents who complete a secondary application form will be told of the allocated high school for their child on this day.

Late Applications Late applications received between 28th October 2005 and the national offer date will be included **only if** the reason for the delay was genuine and acceptable. Late applications, including applications received after 1st March 2006, will be considered only after the initial offers to parents who applied in time have been decided.

5.2 How Many Pupils May Be Admitted To Each High School?

The Council has a duty to ensure that schools are not overcrowded. The number of pupils that may be admitted to a school is known as the **Published Admission Number (PAN)**. Details for each school are given in Appendix 4 of this booklet. The admission number is critical to the admissions process, as the relevant admission authority has to offer places to all applicants within the admission number. An applicant for a place cannot be refused if the admission number has not been reached. The Department for Education and Skills have indicated in their Code of Practice that these numbers should not be exceeded unless the circumstances are exceptional and only then after the matter has been considered by

the Local Admission Forum.

5.3 How Do Parents Apply For A High School?

Having read all the information available from the Council and from individual schools, and, if possible, having visited schools by attending open evening or by making other arrangements with the headteachers, parents should indicate **three preferences in priority order** on the SA1 application form.

However, you need to consider carefully **how your child will travel to school** as you will not normally be eligible for transport assistance if your child is offered a place at a high school which is not your catchment school for your home address (See Chapter 7 for details of the Council's School Transport policy).

5.4 Can we apply for a place at a Church School?

Yes. There are 2 Church Schools in Herefordshire: Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School, which is Anglican, and St. Mary's R.C. High School, Lugwardine, which is Roman Catholic. You can include one or both of these schools **within** the 3 preferences you are able to express on the SA1 form. If a school requests that you provide additional supporting information please make sure you supply it. The school's own form requesting further information, is obtainable from the school or your local priest/vicar. This form must also be returned to the Pupil Admission Office with the SA1 form by 28th October 2005 via your child's present school.

5.5 What Are The Possible Difficulties If Your 3 Preferences Do Not Include The School Provided For Your Child's Home Address?

As previously stated, parents will be able to express 3 preferences for the September 2006 transfer. In practice, a parent applying for their catchment school by 28th October 2005 is most likely to be granted their local school, irrespective of the priority order in which the school has been placed on the application form, as local children fill most of the places in high schools. However, if parents do not include their catchment school in the 3 preferences they may lose their priority for that school if all their chosen schools are oversubscribed and they fail to gain a place. The child may then have to attend another school altogether which may involve the parents having to meet any additional transport costs. For these reasons, it is advisable for parents to include the catchment area school as one of the 3 preferences.

5.6 Who Will Make And Announce The Decision, In Response To My 3 Preferences?

Herefordshire Council will make the decision on school places in the 12 community high schools based on the criteria defined in paragraph 6.1. In the case of the Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat and St. Mary's R.C. Schools, the Governing Body will make the decision based on the application forms (SA1) and additional supporting information that the Council receive by 28th October 2005. Once the Governing Body have made their decision the Council will be given the school allocation list and it will be the Council **NOT** the Governing Body that will announce the offer to parents on 1st March 2006.

A parent living in Herefordshire, but wanting a place in another Council area, should nevertheless state their preferred out-county school(s) on the standard application form (SA1). The Herefordshire Pupil Admissions Office will notify the other Council(s) of the preference after the 28th October 2005 even if the closing dates are different. Although

Herefordshire LEA implemented the co-ordinated scheme from September 2004, this is not the case with all Local Education Authorities. Monmouthshire and Powys have decided to delay the co-ordinated scheme until 2006 or later which means that parents could receive an offer or refusal of a place before 1st March 2006. However, this will not be the position in Shropshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, where a parent seeking a school place in that Council area would receive an offer or refusal from Herefordshire Council on 1st March 2006.

5.7 What Is the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme?

The 1998 Act, as amended by the Education Act 2002, requires every LEA to draw up a scheme (or schemes) covering every maintained school (but not special schools) in its area. Regulations also require LEAs to exchange specified information on applications with their neighbours. The Herefordshire Scheme is set out at Appendix 3 of this Booklet.

Parents must be invited to express at least 3 preferences, which may be for schools within or beyond their home LEA's area, on a 'common application form' which the LEA should provide and make available to all parents resident in its area. This may be complemented by a form on the LEA's website for online applications. The Herefordshire Website address is www.education.herefordshire.gov.uk The common application form can be supplemented (but not replaced) by additional forms where particular schools in the area might need extra information, e.g. to assess denominational commitment or in relation to testing. The LEA must ensure that the form enables parents to:

- express their preferences, i.e. name the schools they are applying to;
- give the reasons for applying for their preferred schools; and
- rank those preferences – parents must be allowed the opportunity to rank their preferences, even if other admission authorities in the area do not use a ranking system as part of their individual admission arrangements.

5.8 If My Preferred School Is Independent Should I Include It On The Application Form?

No, you should make direct application to the headteacher of the Independent school not Herefordshire Council. **However**, we would recommend that you still indicate three preferences for maintained schools on the application form just in case you decide not to go forward with your application or do not accept an offer of a place at an Independent School. If you gain a place at an Independent school, you will be responsible for your own transport costs together with any fees associated with your child's attendance at that school. If you are offered, but turn down, a place at an independent school, the LEA accepts no responsibility for any financial loss incurred.

5.9 If My Preferred School Is In Another LEA, Should I Include It On The Application Form?

Yes, the co-ordinated admission scheme allows parents to express a preference for any maintained school including those administered by another Council. If you wish your child to be considered for a school in Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, Shropshire, Powys or Worcestershire, please include the name of the school and its ranked position on the application form SA1.

5.10 Can Applications Be Considered For Pupils Who Do Not Live In Herefordshire?

Any applications for the admission of pupils who live outside the county are always

considered on an equal basis. In the case of secondary transfer for children at age 11, parents should apply to their home LEA who will send the details to Herefordshire LEA after the closing date for that Council area. If the preferred school in Herefordshire is oversubscribed, such applications will be determined in accordance with the priorities listed in paragraph 6.1. In the case of Shropshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire residents, those Councils will make any offer for a Herefordshire high school on 1st March 2006.

6: ALLOCATION OF PLACES IN PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Although the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 gives parents the right to express preferences for their child to be admitted to any school maintained from public funds, there are 4 reasons why one or more of their 3 preferences might have to be refused:

- i) the school(s) might be oversubscribed;
- ii) the classes for infants (aged 4-7) in primary schools have reached the legal limit of 30 pupils;
- iii) the child does not meet the requirements of the admissions policy or subsequently fails to do so;
- iv) information provided by the parents (including information about addresses) is found to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading (such information may also be grounds for withdrawal of any place that has been allocated, even after the child has started at the school).

6.1 What happens if the school is oversubscribed?

When there are more applications than places, in a community or voluntary controlled school, children are admitted on the basis of the published policy listed in the following order of priority:

- i) pupils with a Statement of **special education need** which names the school and those pupils in receipt of banded funding where the LEA believes a particular school should be named; (see Footnote 1)
- ii) pupils in the '**looked after**' system and children who are adopted where the approved agencies agree that the preferred school meets the child's needs; (see Footnote 2)
- iii) pupils whose principal home address is within the **catchment** area of the school; sorted firstly by sibling connection by distance and then by distance only (see Footnote 3)
- iv) pupils **not living in catchment** who have a **brother or sister**, at the preferred school not only at the time of application but also when the younger child is due to start; (see Footnote 4)
- v) pupils with exceptional **medical, social or compassionate** grounds for admission and whose parents can show that entry to a particular school is necessary for the well being of their child. Parents are required to produce a medical certificate or other appropriate information preferably from an independent source. The Director of Children's Services or her advisory panel will not consider applications on such grounds unless this supporting information is attached to your application form when you apply – 28th October 2005 (high schools) and 13th January 2006 (primary schools); (see Footnote 5)
- vi) pupils who live **nearest** to the school by the shortest available walking route. (See paragraph 7.1 for how walking distance is measured). (see Footnote 6)

General notes:

No priority is given to pupils living outside, but attending a primary school within, the catchment area of the relevant high school, i.e. the determining factor is the child's home address.

Footnote 1: This is the first priority because the Council must comply fully with the requirements of the Statement of SEN.

Footnote 2: This is the 2nd priority because the Council wishes to protect children in public care from further disadvantage that can arise from possible changes of school when

the care placement changes.

Footnote 3: This is the 3rd priority because the Council gives high importance to trying to ensure that children are able to attend the school within their local community.

Footnote 4: This is the 4th priority to recognise the importance to daily family life, including travel arrangements, of having brothers/sisters at the same school where possible. The rule is **not** intended to favour parents with a previous but no longer current family connection with the school (see also Section 3 for definition of 'sibling').

Footnote 5: This is the 5th priority to be sensitive to exceptional needs that individual children and families may have.

Footnote 6: The 6th priority is a measurable, objective way of allocating the remaining places.

Where, at any school, applications exceed the number of places, the priorities will be applied in the sequence indicated above, i.e. after SEN and children in the 'looked after' system it will be catchment area children 3rd, brothers and sisters 4th, special reasons 5th, then according to distance, each assessed as indicated above.

If the admission of the top 3 categories can be satisfied, but there are insufficient places for all out-area brothers and sisters, priorities will be decided first by reference to special reasons, then according to distance (as defined under paragraph 7.1.).

Following the allocation of the top 2 categories, there may be an occasion when it is not possible to offer places for all children living in the catchment area. In that situation, the places will be allocated in the sequence of the criteria listed above, i.e. first to children with brothers and sisters who would still be at the school in September 2006, next to pupils with validated medical, social or compassionate grounds, and finally according to distance from the school.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ALLOCATIONS AT RECEPTION AGE

6.2 Who determines the allocation of places?

STAGE 1 All the applications received from parents, by the closing date of 13th January 2006, will be analysed together, along with any late applications for which there are good reasons (see paragraph 4.8). The applications for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools will be considered against the 6 priorities explained in paragraph 6.1. The Governors of Voluntary Aided Schools will make their decisions based on the published admission criteria defined in Appendix 5. At this stage, the two preferences are each treated as a first preference, i.e. the priority order shown by parents will not count at this point.

STAGE 2 Following analysis, lists will be drawn up of all parents who have applied (whether as first or second preference) for each school. At the top of each list, for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, will be the applicants whose children live in the catchment area and living nearest to the school. At the bottom of the list will be the applicants whose children live outside the catchment area and live furthest from the school. Voluntary Aided Schools will define their order as indicated in Appendix 4.

STAGE 3 Each parent will then be offered a place at the highest of their 2 preferences (if any) that is available after all higher priority applicants have been allocated places. At this stage applications for Community Voluntary Controlled and Voluntary Aided will be considered together.

STAGE 4 It is possible that some parents will not be offered a place at either of their 2

preferred schools. That could happen only in the case of parents who have applied for 2 over-subscribed schools and have not included their catchment area school as one of the 2 preferences or parents who have submitted a late application by the offer date without good reason. In such circumstances, the parents will be offered a place at the nearest or most accessible school that still has places available, taking account of any information the parents may have already provided.

6.3 When, and by whom, will the offers to parents be made?

Offers will be made on the same day to all parents who have applied in time. The day will be:

TUESDAY, 21st March 2006

The Council, including in the case of Voluntary Aided Schools and schools in other LEA's, will announce all offers. Please note that only one school will be offered on the 21st March 2006, which will be the highest ranked, with spaces available, that you have defined on your application form. **The Council is unable to provide any information about places to be offered before this date.**

6.4 Is there a waiting list for primary schools that have too many applicants?

A waiting list will be maintained for primary schools for the reception allocation year only. This waiting list will remain open until the start of term commencing September 2006.

6.5 Can you appeal if your request is unsuccessful?

If parents are sent a refusal letter after the 21st March 2006, for either the first or second school preferred, they would be able to appeal. Appeals by parents, setting out the grounds upon which the appeal is made, should be submitted in writing, using the form sent to all unsuccessful applicants, to the Children's Services Directorate **within three weeks of the date of notification of the refusal of a place.** All appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel which holds most of its meetings between April and July, though meetings are arranged at any time of year, when necessary. Separate hearings are held for each school. Further information about the appeals procedure is available from the Pupil Admissions Office or from the County Secretary and Solicitor, The Herefordshire Council, PO Box 185, Hereford HR4 9ZR. In the case of voluntary aided Schools the parents will appeal to the Governing Body which in the case of a Church of England Primary School will be through the Diocesan Education Office, The Palace, Hereford.

HIGH SCHOOL ALLOCATIONS

6.6 How will the decisions be made about parents' 3 preferences for high schools?

STAGE 1 All the applications received by the closing date of 28th October 2005 from parents will be analysed together, along with any late applications for which there are good reasons. The applications for the 12 community high schools will be considered against the 6 priorities explained in paragraph 6.1. The Governors of the Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat and St Mary's R.C. High Schools will make their decisions based on the published admission criteria defined in Appendix 4. At this stage, all 3 preferences are treated as a 1st preference, i.e. the priority order shown by parents will not count at this point.

STAGE 2 Following analysis, lists will be drawn up of all the parents who have applied (whether as 1st, 2nd or 3rd preference) for each school. At the top of each list will be the applicants whose children live in the catchment area, and living nearest to the school. At the bottom of the list will be the applicants whose children live outside the catchment area, and live furthest from the school.

STAGE 3 Each parent will then be offered a place at the highest of their 3 preferences (if any) that is available after all higher priority applicants have been allocated places. At this stage, applications for Community Voluntary Aided and schools in other LEA's will be considered together, i.e. all schools are within the 3 preferences.

STAGE 4 It is possible that some parents will not be offered a place at any of their 3 preferred schools. That could happen only in the case of parents who have applied for 3 oversubscribed schools and have not included their catchment area school as one of the 3 preferences, or parents who have submitted a late application by the offer date without good reason. In such circumstances, the parents will be offered a place at the nearest or most accessible school that still has places available, taking account of any information the parents may already have provided.

6.7 When, and by whom, will the offers to parents be made?

Offers will be made on the same day for all parents who have applied in time. The day will be –

1 March 2006

All offers will be announced by the Council, including in the case of voluntary aided schools (see paragraph 5.4 above) and records in other LEA's. **Please note that only one school will be offered on the 1st March 2006, which will be the highest ranked with spaces available that you have defined on your application form.**

6.8 Is There A Waiting List For High Schools That Have Too Many Applicants?

The position of waiting lists for high school is complex because of the co-ordinating scheme, which will allow parents to express 3 preferences by 28th October 2005.

If parents are not able to receive their first preference, the child will be placed on the waiting list after the 1st March 2006 according to their admission qualifications. If vacancies occur after that date the Pupil Admissions Office will make offers, including in the case of voluntary aided schools.

The waiting will be kept open until the start of the school year in September after the registration of pupils has been confirmed. It is possible that vacancies may occur and places offered at this late stage but the lists will be closed down after this initial checking. If your child has still not received a place at one of your preferred schools, the LEA would expect that your child should be enrolled at the school offered by the Council, an independent school, or be educated otherwise.

6.9 Can You Appeal If Your Request Is Unsuccessful?

Community High Schools

If parents submit 3 preferences by 28th October 2005 and include their local catchment school, it is highly likely that an offer for one of the preferences will be made on 1st March 2006. However, if the 1st or 2nd parental preference cannot be met, you may, if you wish, appeal against the decision. Appeals by parents, setting out the grounds upon which the appeal is made for a named school, should be submitted in writing, using the form sent to all unsuccessful applicants, to the Children's Services Directorate **within three weeks of the date of notification of the refusal of a place**. All appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel which holds most of its meetings between April and July, though meetings are arranged at any time of year, when necessary. Separate hearings are held for each school. Further information about the appeals procedure is available from the Pupil Admissions Office or from the County Secretary and Solicitor, The Herefordshire Council, PO Box 185, Hereford HR4 9ZR.

Voluntary Aided High Schools

As previously stated, offers of all places for high schools, including voluntary aided schools will be made by the Council on 1st March 2006. However, separate appeals procedures and arrangements exist to consider decisions by voluntary aided schools. The arrangements are published by the governors of the relevant schools and should be obtained from them direct.

ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PLACES OUTSIDE NORMAL ADMISSIONS ROUND

6.10 Can a child transfer to another school at any age other than the normal transfer age?

If parents wish to transfer their child to the same age group in another school, parents should discuss the transfer with the Headteacher of the pupil's present school in the first instance. If it is then decided to make a formal request for transfer, parents should complete an application form PA2 for primary school available from the school to which you are applying and SA3 for a secondary school from the Pupil Admissions Office. Parents should be aware that any information provided on the application form will be crosschecked and any fraudulent or misleading statement will result in the school place being refused.

The Council's policy in such circumstances is essentially the same as for admissions to schools at the normal age and time of transfer (i.e. as in paragraph 6.1 above). However, when determining the number of places available in the relevant age group, the Council will refer to the Published Admission Number (PAN) that was in operation when that year group was at the normal transfer age, in order to judge whether or not admission would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources. In the case of primary schools, the Council will also take into account the regulations that limit to 30 the size of classes for children under the age of 7 at the start of the school year. Parents should note that interviews are not part of the admissions process, except in the case of Church place applications to a voluntary aided school, where the sole purpose of any interview would be to establish the denominational qualification of the parents. In no other circumstances

should interviews be held before a place has been allocated, though it is sensible for parents to visit the school before deciding whether or not to apply. Headteachers of Community Schools are unable to offer places.

6.11 Can a child be allocated a school place following permanent exclusion?

If a child has been excluded from two separate schools it is unlikely that another primary or secondary school will be provided. The Council will arrange alternative provision through the Medical and Behavioural Support Service.

However, where possible the authority will try to place a pupil at a suitable alternative school at a reasonable distance from the home address. Currently, the Council has a rota system working with the high schools in order to ensure a fair distribution of pupils. In certain cases, the Council may direct the Governors to accept a pupil even though this may take the year group above the agreed PAN.

7: SCHOOL TRANSPORT UP TO THE AGE OF 16

The policies set out in this Section are the general policies in force, but the Council also considers individual circumstances that may justify a variation in policy.

7.1 For whom is assistance with transport provided?

Free transport is provided for children who are attending the designated school provided for their home address and who live beyond walking distance from the school they attend.

Walking distance is defined in law as up to 2 miles for children under 8 years of age and up to 3 miles for older children. It is always assumed that a child will be accompanied as necessary. The distance is measured by the shortest available walking route along a road or made up footpath, as measured from the nearest pedestrian access to the school site to the nearest entrance to the external boundary of the pupil's home address.

(NB: In general, children eligible for free transport may be required to walk or be taken by parents up to one mile to or from a designated boarding or alighting point.)

7.2 What happens if there is disagreement about walking routes?

In cases of disagreement about walking routes, you may consult the Admissions and Transport Manager, The Herefordshire Council, PO Box 185, Hereford HR4 9ZR (01432 260927).

7.3 Is transport provided for under 5s?

The Council does not provide transport for under 5s, until the term in which children are entitled to start school under the Council's **standard admissions policy**, as described in paragraph 4.1. In other words, transport is not provided for children attending nursery classes, or for children attending reception classes under earlier admission arrangements allowed by schools, as described in paragraph 4.2 above.

7.4 What types of transport assistance are available?

The Director of Education decides on the most suitable transport arrangements, bearing in mind all relevant factors, including cost.

Depending on individual circumstances, transport is arranged usually by contract bus, service bus or rail, though sometimes other individual arrangements have to be made. Transport is provided at the beginning and end of the normal school day, but is not provided for out of hour's activities.

7.5 How far will I need to walk to the nearest boarding point?

In general, children, accompanied by their parents where appropriate, may be required to walk up to one mile to or from a designated boarding or alighting point. (In the case of denominational transport the distance to the boarding could be further than one mile) However, in certain circumstances the cost of redesignating a new boarding point may not be economic or cost effective and therefore parents may be expected to take their child up to the limit of the statutory walking distances.

7.6 If I move home whilst my child is engaged on an examination course will I continue to receive free transport?

Each year, some Year 10/11 pupils and Year 12/13 students engaged in examination courses move home address into another part of the County (i.e. into the catchment area of a different school). In such situations, which arise from decisions taken by parents, the normal expectation is that parents will take responsibility for getting their son/daughter to the school (including under the vacant seats payment scheme, if available) at which the pupil is enrolled, or make arrangements for the pupil to transfer to another school. Only in exceptional family circumstances, would free transport assistance be offered, on an individual basis. Even in such situations, transport assistance would normally be allowed only where provision could be made within an existing Home to School Transport route, with the parent being responsible for taking the pupil to and from the relevant boarding point.

7.7 Will travel assistance be given to a school other than one provided for the home address?

Assistance with transport is normally given only to pupils attending the school(s) **provided** for their home address. Parents are responsible for transport when their child attends, by parental preference, an alternative school. However, some exceptions may be made in the following circumstances:

- (a) The distance between the home address and the nominated alternative school is situated beyond the defined walking distance (see paragraph 7.1 above);
- (b) a pupil with problems associated with special education needs for whom attendance at a particular school is considered to be appropriate and the school is situated beyond the defined walking distance, or if walking is too difficult for the pupil.

7.8 What travel arrangements apply to Aided church schools?

The Council will provide assistance with transport where a child attends, on **denominational grounds**, the nearest appropriate or designated voluntary aided church school, **and** it is beyond statutory walking distance from the home address.

Parents will be asked to pay a contribution towards the cost of providing such transport subject to the following criteria:

1. Parents to pay contributions towards the cost of transport for the first two children attending any denominational school from any one family (at the same address) with any subsequent children having a denominational place entitled to free transport, so long as those other children remain in receipt of transport under this scheme.
2. Free transport for those children entitled to free school meals. (Entitlement can be checked by contacting the Free School Meals team on 01432 260921)
3. A contribution of 50% of the set contribution rate per term for those not entitled under 2 above but whose parent(s) are entitled to Housing or Council tax benefit.

A child is deemed to attend a local Church School on denominational grounds where the denomination of the parents is the same as the denomination of the school and the child is offered a denominational place.

As in the case of transport to community schools, statutory walking distance is up to 2 miles for children under 8 years of age, and up to 3 miles for older children.

The Children's Services Cabinet member will set the level of parental contribution in

January 2006. For budgetary purposes the charge will be linked to the level of contribution paid by parents utilising the Vacant Seat Payments Scheme, which for the 2005/2006 school year is £100 per term.

For information the list of Aided Church Schools is as follows;

Roman Catholic

St Mary's R.C. High
Our Lady's R.C. Primary
St Francis Xavier's R.C. Primary
St Joseph's R.C. Primary

Church of England

The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat High
Bodenham, St Michael's C.E. Primary
Brampton Abbots C.E Primary
Bridstow C.E Primary
Cradley C.E. Primary
Fownhope, St Mary's C.E. Primary
Hereford, St James' C.E. Primary
Hereford, St Paul's C.E Primary
Hereford, St Thomas Cantilupe C.E. Primary
Kimbolton, St James' C.E. Primary
Kingsland C.E. Primary
Lea C.E. Primary
Leintwardine Endowed Primary
Leominster, Ivington C.E. Primary
Llangrove C.E. Primary
Much Marcle C.E. Primary
Pembridge C.E. Primary
Pencombe C.E. Primary
Weston-under-Penyard C.E. Primary
Whitchurch C.E. Primary

7.9 Can children who do not qualify for assistance with transport take up spare seats on school buses?

Each term, the Admission and Transport Section identifies any spare seats on school buses. Spare seats are sold at either the current standard rate for each child (£100 per term in 2005/2006) or at the lesser rate for each child (£35 per term in 2005/2006) who is in receipt of free school meals. There is no guarantee that a seat will be available at the start of the following term, or continued throughout a term. In the event of more applicants than vacant seats being available, the allocation of places will be on the basis of nearness to the provided/preferred school. It is also important to note that the Council is reviewing all routes now that pupil numbers are falling and there are likely to be an increasing number of

situations in which routes will be combined or simplified, and this may mean that vacant seats will reduce in number.

7.10 Will transport be provided for medical reasons?

The Council may provide free transport for medical reasons, if necessary, on the

recommendation of the Senior Clinical Medical Officer.

7.11 Will transport be provided to and from Independent Schools?

No travel assistance will be given to pupils attending Independent primary and secondary schools.

7.12 What happens if a pupil/student is disruptive on the provided transport?

Parents must appreciate that the authority will not tolerate anti-social behaviour on its home to school transport. The authority has issued various sanctions to deal with these situations which in the most serious of cases could result in the pupil/student being banned from all authority transport. In these situations the parents will become responsible for transporting the child to school.

7.13 How do I apply for transport?

At the time an offer of a place at a high school is made (1st March 2006) included with the offer letter will be a Transport Application form (Blue "T Form") if you are either being offered a place at your catchment school (and live more than 3 miles from that school) or have been offered a place at The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School or St Mary's RC High School on denominational grounds. Please complete this form and return to the Children's Services Directorate.

If you do not receive a Transport Application form with the offer letter and wish to apply for a seat under the Vacant Seat Payment Scheme please either email a request for a form to schooltransport@herefordshire.gov.uk or ring one of the contact numbers on the inside cover of this booklet.

8: POST 16 TRANSPORT

This section has been amended because of the changes under the Education Act 2002. The Act required the Council to set up a Post 16 Transport Partnership which included the colleges, public transport and representatives from the schools with sixth forms and the Connexion Service.

This Transport Partnership has defined a number of policies, which are listed below, and full details can be found in Appendix 8. In addition the Partnership has defined a standard charge of £85 for all students, there will be no reduced rate from the commencement of this academic year.

- **Policy One** - concerns students living in Herefordshire and attending Post-16 provision within the County (and the provided places at Ludlow);
- **Policy Two** - deals with students resident out of county who seek a place within the County;
- **Policy Three** - concerns Herefordshire students seeking Post-16 provision elsewhere or training out of County;
- **Policy Four** - relates to students who are over 19 years of age on 1 September;
- **Policy Five** - relates to overseas Post-16 students.

8.1 What education opportunities are there after the age of 16?

There are four high schools with Sixth Forms offering 'A' level study and also, in some cases, vocational qualifications. The schools with Sixth Forms are at Kington, Ledbury, Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. The DfES Access Fund now provides limited grants to assist Sixth Form students with necessary expenditure such as equipment, materials and visits. Students applying for this fund should do so on application forms supplied by the Council through the Sixth Forms. The grants are means tested.

Alternatively, there are Sixth Form Colleges and Colleges of Further Education offering a wide range of 'A' level and vocational study, as shown at the end of this section.

All enquiries for admission to School Sixth Forms or colleges should be made direct to the school or college. The admission policies of school Sixth Forms together with their PANs can be found in Appendix 6.

Entry To Employment (E2E)

The E2E programme aims to help those young people who are not ready at age 16 to go onto modern apprenticeship programmes, further education or employment and helps them to prepare for entry into employment or learning. E2E develops learners' motivation, confidence and personal effectiveness. They may gain qualifications in basic and/or key skills and acquire vocational knowledge, skills and understanding through sampling a range of work and learning contexts. Ideally, all the young people involved in E2E will work towards some form of qualification. E2E is not time-bound but based on the needs of each individual learner. The minimum allowance is currently £40 per week. In addition, expenses are met in full.

To find out more about E2E and how to apply, contact your local Connexions office and ask for details.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships enable young people to combine work and study to gain qualifications, while they are earning. They can choose from a wide range of apprenticeships in Herefordshire covering many different occupations, from business administration to engineering, beauty therapy or health and social care.

All apprenticeships include key basic elements including an opportunity to study to gain nationally recognised qualifications including a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) at Level 2 or Level 3, a chance to develop key skills such as communication and using new technology and the opportunity to get a technical certificate such as BTEC or City & Guilds Progression Award. Most young apprentices in Herefordshire are employed and paid the rate for the job whilst they are training.

Apprenticeships are offered by a wide range of providers across the county including:

Acorns to Oaks (Care)

Constant Browning Edmunds (Admin & Retail)

Hotel and Catering (Hospitality & Catering and Retail)

Herefordshire College of Technology (Admin, Construction, Hair, Mechanics, Retail)

Herefordshire Group Training (Admin, Engineering, Manufacturing and Retail)

Herefordshire Primary Care Trust (Admin, Care and retail)

Keith St Peter Academy (Hair, Beauty and Retail)

Pershore College - including Holme Lacy College (Agriculture & Horticulture, Animal Care and Retail)

PGL (Travel and Hospitality)

Riverside Training (Admin, Hospitality and Retail)

Shropshire County Training (Admin, Hair, Hospitality & Catering and Retail)

The Farriery Group (Equine Studies)

Touchstone (Admin and Retail)

VT Plus (Health & Care, Hospitality & Catering, Retail)

To find out more about Apprenticeships and how to apply, contact your local Connexions office and ask for details.

8.2 What are the normal associated feeder areas for Sixth Form provision?

Catchment areas served by 11-16 age range High School	Designated Post-16 Establishment
All Hereford City High Schools Bromyard, Queen Elizabeth High Kingstone High Peterchurch, Fairfield High	Hereford VI Form College or Herefordshire College of Technology or Herefordshire College of Art and Design or Holme Lacy College

Weobley High	Kington, Lady Hawkins (see footnote*)
Wigmore High	Ludlow College of FE (see footnote*)
Catchment areas served by 11-16 age range High School	Pupils served
Kington, Lady Hawkins Ledbury, John Masefield Leominster, The Minster Ross-on-Wye, John Kyrle	All pupils living in the relevant school Catchment area including pupils who attended an 11-16 high school

***Footnote: Some civil parish areas within Weobley and Wigmore relate to the Sixth form at the Minster College, Leominster - see Appendix 4 for details.**

8.3 Colleges of Further Education, Hereford Sixth Form College and School-based Sixth Forms

Colleges	Address	Tel:
Hereford Sixth Form College	Folly Lane, Hereford HR1 1LS	01432 355166
Herefordshire College of Art and Design	Folly Lane, Hereford HR1 1LT	01432 273359
Herefordshire College of Technology	Folly Lane, Hereford HR1 1LS	01432 352235
Holme Lacy College	Holme Lacy, Hereford HR2 6LL	01432 870316
Ludlow College of FE	Mill Street, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1BE	015484 872846

School-based Sixth Forms:

Lady Hawkins' High School	Church Road, Kington, Herefordshire HR5 3AG	01544 230441
The John Masefield High School	Mabel's Furlong, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2HF	01531 631012
The Minster College	South Street, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 8JJ	01568 613221
The John Kyrle High School	Ledbury Road, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 7ET	01989 764358

9: NATIONAL CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Education Reform Act (1988) introduced a National Curriculum for all pupils aged 5-16 years in all publicly funded schools, including special schools. The main aims of the National Curriculum are to provide pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, social, mental and physical development. The following information explains the position for the school year 2005-2006.

9.1 What must pupils aged 5 –11 study?

Pupils in Key Stages 1 (ages 5-7) and 2 (ages 7-11) must study English, mathematics, science, design and technology (D&T), information and communication technology (ICT), history, geography, art and design, music, physical education (PE) and religious education (RE).

Although it is not statutory most schools provide lessons in personal, social and health education.

From September 2009 it will be compulsory for all pupils in Key Stage 2 (KS2) to study a modern foreign language (MFL); it is anticipated that many schools will begin to introduce a MFL to some pupils in KS2.

9.2 What must pupils aged 11-14 study?

Pupils in Key Stage 3 (KS3, ages 11-14) must study English, mathematics, science, careers education, citizenship, design and technology (D&T), information and communication technology (ICT), history, geography, art and design, a modern foreign language, music, physical education (PE), religious education (RE) and sex education.

Although it is not statutory most schools provide lessons in personal, social and health education.

9.3 What must pupils aged 14-16 study?

All pupils at Key Stage 4 (KS4, ages 14-16) must study English, mathematics, science, careers education, citizenship, enterprise, information and communication technology (ICT), physical education (PE), religious education (RE), sex education and work related learning.

At KS4, the arts, design and technology, humanities and modern foreign languages must be available for pupils to choose.

Schools are increasingly expanding the number and range of vocational courses that pupils can choose in line with the national strategy to modernise education for the 14-19 age group. Some of these courses may be taught in other educational institutions or by work based learning providers and provide a flexible range of pathways into further and higher education and training.

9.4 What about pupils with special education needs?

Pupils with special education needs also follow the National Curriculum so that they have similar education opportunities. However, in particular circumstances, parts of the National Curriculum can be withdrawn for short periods of time. This is known as 'disapplication'. (See Chapter 12 of this booklet about Special Education Needs.) Pupils attending Pupil Referral Units follow a broad and balanced curriculum which includes important aspects of the National Curriculum.

9.5 What else is taught in addition to the National Curriculum?

Many schools provide opportunities for pupils to study other areas of the curriculum besides those laid down by the National Curriculum - for example, business, drama, environmental education, careers, personal, social and health education and economic and industrial understanding.

9.6 Specialist Schools

In schools that are designated and funded as specialist because they are centres of excellence for a certain subject, the government requires enhanced provision and opportunities for pupils in that subject.

9.7 Who makes the decisions about the curriculum in schools?

The content and assessment procedures of the National Curriculum are determined by the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, and are overseen by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (Q.C.A.). In all parts of the curriculum, the manner in which the curriculum is taught is a matter for individual schools, taking account of external guidance which includes the national literacy and numeracy strategies. It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to ensure each school has a curriculum policy, which must include the National Curriculum determined by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills.

9.8 What do you do if you are unhappy about the curriculum your child is studying?

Most problems can be solved by discussing them with your child's teacher and/or headteacher. If a problem cannot be solved in that way, please contact the Inspection and Advisory Service at the office of the Education Directorate, P.O. Box 185, Hereford HR4 9ZR, telephone: 01432 260813.

9.9 How is the National Curriculum assessed?

The National Curriculum is organised into the Foundation Stage and four other Key Stages.

Foundation Stage for pupils age 3-5 years
Key Stage 1 for pupils aged 5-7 years
Key Stage 2 for pupils aged 7-11 years
Key Stage 3 for pupils aged 11-14 years
Key Stage 4 for pupils aged 14-16 years

Regular assessment is not new; it lies at the heart of effective teaching and helps in the planning of the next stage of a pupil's learning programme. During each school year, teachers continually assess pupils' work.

National Curriculum statutory assessment takes place at the end of the Foundation Stage and at the end of Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 (i.e. for pupils aged 7, 11, and 14). It includes both teacher assessment and externally set tasks/tests in the core subjects of English, mathematics and science as follows:

End of Foundation Stage	*	Teacher assessment using the Foundation Stage Profile
End of Key Stage 1	*	Externally set tests and tasks in reading, writing, handwriting, spelling and mathematics.

	* Teacher assessment in English, mathematics and science.
End of Key Stage 2	* Externally set tests in English, mathematics and science.
	* Teacher assessment in English, mathematics and science.
End of Key Stage 3	* Externally set tests in English, Mathematics and Science
	* Teacher assessment in all subjects.

For pupils aged 16 years, GCSE continues to be the main examination although a growing number of pupils will gain accreditation in vocational qualifications such as the new, applied GCSE's, National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), ASDAN life skills courses and entry-level qualifications such as Certificates of Achievement (COAs).

9.10 Where can you find out more about the curriculum your child will study and how will you be kept informed of progress?

Each **school's prospectus and governors' annual report** must include information about what is taught and how the curriculum is arranged. Schools must also provide information about examinations and vocational qualifications, school results in tests, and teacher assessments at the end of each Key Stage.

Schools must provide a written **annual report** for your child, detailing attendance and progress, with comments on all National Curriculum subjects. At the end of the Key Stage, the report must give your child's National Curriculum assessment results in Mathematics, English and Science and how these compare with the results of pupils of the same age in the school and, where relevant, nationally. The results of any public examinations taken by your child must also be given. Schools must give general information about the attainment of other pupils of the same age, so that you can compare your child's results with those details.

All schools must also make **arrangements for parents to discuss their child's progress with appropriate teachers, at least once a year.**

9.11 How can you best help your child?

There are many ways in which you can assist your child's progress, including:

- looking at books and reading to and with your child before and after they first start school;
- talking to your child about school;
- contacting the school about any concerns or worries you or your child have;
- keeping in touch with teachers who are in the best position to answer questions about what pupils are learning and the progress they are making;
- attending open evenings;
- encouraging your child to do homework the school has set.

Headteachers and teachers are always willing to discuss your child's progress with you, by appointment.

10: CHARGES, SCHOOL MEALS AND MILK, AND ALLOWANCES

10.1 Are any charges made for school activities?

In general, schools may not charge for the education of pupils, but there are some circumstances in which charges may be made, as explained below.

Instrumental Music Tuition

Charging arrangements exist for parents to pay part of the cost, if their children receive instrumental music tuition in a small group (up to and including 4 children) or have individual lessons with one of the County's specialist teachers. The Authority also provide an instrument leasing scheme which is chargeable

Residential Activities

Parents will be required to pay all or part of the cost of accommodation and meals for residential activities organised by the school as part of the curriculum. Transport for curriculum activities is provided free of charge by the school, though schools may ask parents for voluntary contributions.

Swimming

No charge is made to parents for swimming instruction organised by the school, though schools may ask for voluntary contributions towards the cost of pool fees and transport.

Examinations

Fees for public examinations are usually paid by the Council. Entry for approved public examinations is encouraged as long as pupils have a reasonable chance of success. Decisions on such matters are normally left to the professional judgement of the headteacher and staff. Parents might be asked to pay fees if pupils fail to attend an examination for which they have been entered.

Milk

Milk is not provided free of charge by the Council. However, some schools choose to operate a European Community Scheme where milk is provided at subsidised rates, and a Department of Health Scheme which provides free milk for Under 5s.

Meals

Although the Council does not have a school meals service, many schools have arrangements with private caterers to provide food for sale to pupils. Children who are eligible for free meals receive either a sandwich pack or a contribution towards the cost of a meal available at the school. Free school meals are available only to pupils whose parents are receiving a Department of Social Security Award of Income Support or Job Seeker's Allowance (Income based). Application forms are available from all schools and from the Free Meals Unit, The Herefordshire Council, PO Box 185, Hereford HR4 9ZR or 01432 260921.

10.2 Are there any allowances available?

The only allowance available is for essential clothing. In the most recent financial year, the essential clothing allowance was available only for a limited range of items such as shoes. Grants are considered only for children as they start school and later when they move on to each stage of schooling. The scheme is subject to revision each January. Applications for assistance should be addressed to the Director of Education, The Herefordshire Council, PO Box 185, Hereford HR4 9ZR or 01432 260000.

Education Welfare Service

The Education Welfare Service provides support to children, families and schools ensuring school attendance. Each Education Welfare Officer works with particular high schools and their local primary schools.

The Service advises on pupil welfare matters and issues related to attendance at school, including child employment matters.

Should you experience problems which directly or indirectly affect your child's attendance, a Welfare Officer will be pleased to provide advice and support.

The Home School Liaison Service works alongside the Education Welfare Service providing similar support and advice aimed at targeted primary Schools.

Information about both these services can be obtained from:

Principal Education Welfare Officer,
Education Directorate,
P.O. Box 185,
Hereford HR1 9ZR.

Tel: 01432 260861

School Uniform and Appearance Codes

Many Governing Bodies have made a policy to define a 'school uniform' as it can make a considerable contribution towards the school's ethos or image. Schools, in setting their uniform policy, must act reasonably. Recently legal advice has been given indicating that it would be inappropriate for any school to have a policy for uniform which did not include provision for girls to wear trousers.

The policy on uniform varies between schools and parents should seek information on the policy by reference to the school prospectus. Prospectuses are supplied to parents by the individual school concerned. Any parent wishing to know more about the uniform policies of a particular school should make inquiries at the school.

School Leaving Date

Following the Education (School Leaving Date) Order 1997, which came into effect from 1998, the school leaving date is the last Friday in June for all pupils who will be 16 by 31st August.

12.1 What are Special Educational Needs?

It has been estimated that about one child in every five may have some form of special educational needs during his or her school life. More often than not, such difficulties are short term or are not severe and can be dealt with appropriately by school staff, sometimes with the occasional help of outside specialists. Less frequently, children may have educational difficulties which can be complex and severe in nature. They may have moderate or severe learning difficulties, a specific learning difficulty, language difficulties, physical, visual or hearing difficulties or significant behavioural/emotional problems. Some children may suffer from a combination of two or more such difficulties.

12.2 How are Special Educational Needs Identified?

Children's special educational needs may be identified and brought to the attention of the Education Directorate through a number of sources - by a medical officer, doctor, health visitor, school staff, teaching support staff, an educational psychologist, a social worker or Education Welfare Officer. In each case, parents should be involved in discussions before any action is taken. Parents should always feel free, however, to make a direct approach to the Children's and Student's Services of the Education Directorate if they have any concerns about their child's special educational needs.

12.3 What provision is made for children with Special Educational Needs?

In the majority of cases school staff, working in co-operation with the Council's support services (Learning Support Service, Medical and Behavioural Support Service, Physical and Sensory Support Service, Herefordshire Psychological Service and Pre-School area SENCO's) will be able to identify, assess and provide for children with special educational needs. All schools and early years' settings use the Code of Practice on Special Educational Needs, to guide their procedures for deciding which children need special help and their arrangements for providing that help.

The Code of Practice recommends that schools should deal with children's needs in stages, matching the level of help to the needs of the child. Most children with special educational needs will have these needs met at 'Early Years School Action' and 'Early Years School Action Plus'. These stages are school based. A small minority of children with special educational needs may require a statutory assessment. The Council has also put into place a system of banded funding in primary schools to simplify and speed up the way in which schools can make a range of special needs' arrangements for children with significant needs. Banded funding will apply to some pupils in High Schools by September 2004. School staff will talk to you about your child's special educational needs and keep you fully involved if particular support arrangements are to be provided.

Schools must consider what the Code of Practice says when they draw up their policies for children with special educational needs and must include within the school's policy the name of the teacher who is responsible for children with special needs (often called the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator or SENCO).

12.4 What is a statutory assessment and Statement of Special Educational Needs?

Where it appears that a child's special educational needs are likely to be severe or complex, a Statutory Assessment may be requested following a standard procedure set out in the Education Act 1996. The parents of children whose needs are assessed in this way are asked for their views and can submit any information they may wish about their child's educational needs. Parents also have the right to be consulted throughout the assessment process and can also make a parental request for statutory assessment.

During a Statutory Assessment, the Council is legally bound to seek reports about a child from certain professionals, such as school staff, teaching support services, an educational psychologist, a medical officer and Social Services staff. When all these reports have been made available, the Council will consider them and decide how the child's needs might best be provided for.

If the child's needs are severe and complex and require special educational provision the Council will issue to parents a 'Proposed' Statement of Special Educational Needs. The Statement proposal will outline both the child's special educational needs and the provision which it is assessed ought to be made. Each assessment report about the child's needs and the written comments provided by the parents will form part of the proposed statement. When they receive a proposed statement, parents will be asked to express a preference for the school they would like their child to attend.

A Statutory Assessment will usually lead to agreement that the child's special educational needs can be properly met in a local primary school or high school, perhaps with the assistance of a specialist, such as a teacher from the Physical and Sensory Support Service or other resources including classroom support. Sometimes it will be clear that the child would be appropriately placed in the school's special needs support group or department, if the school is large enough to have one.

Alternatively, the Assessment may lead to the conclusion that the child's special educational needs can more suitably be met by placement in a special school.

If there is some disagreement between parents and the Council over the child's special educational needs and the most appropriate provision for him/her, the Council will reconsider all the evidence submitted as part of the Statutory Assessment together with the views of the parents. Any parental concerns will usually be resolved following meetings with an officer of the Council or with the professionals who have assessed the child's needs. However, if it is not possible to come to an agreement about the child's special educational needs and/or a school placement, or the Council does not feel that a statement of special educational needs should be issued, parents have the right to appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal. The Tribunal is an independent body set up to consider cases where parents and the Council have not been able to reach agreement. However, the vast majority of cases are resolved through consultation between the parents, Council Officers and, in some cases, the Parent Partnership Service.

12.5 School Placement

It is usually possible, at an early stage, for parents to visit any new school that may be suitable for their child's special educational needs. Such visits give parents the opportunity to resolve any concerns they may have and to gather additional information from the Headteacher or school staff. The date of admission will depend upon availability of places. Assistance with travel will be considered where attendance at a particular school is agreed to be appropriate (see chapter 14).

On the rare occasions when it is impossible for the Council to make placements within LEA schools, it may be necessary to consider an independent school that is privately owned or owned by a Trust or a Charitable Society. Such placements may involve a residential element which will be made only with the agreement of parents and, in some cases, with the County's Social Services Directorate and/or the Primary Care Trust (PCT). All fees incurred where such placements are made for Education reasons will be met by the Education Directorate, although in some circumstances the Social Services Department and the PCT may also be involved. Where placements are made for children with statements of special educational needs in independent privately owned or Trust Schools, the school must either have been approved by the Secretary of State for Education and Employment under Section 347 of the Education Act 1996 or consent must be sought separately from the Secretary of State.

The Council will arrange for the progress of each child with a statement of special educational needs to be reviewed annually by the school. The Annual Review held during the school year in which a child reaches the age of 14 is particularly important in beginning to prepare for his/her transition into further education and adult life.

12.6 In Conclusion

When parents consider that their child may have special educational needs their first step, where the child is already attending school, should be to discuss those needs with staff of the school.

Parents are also entitled to ask the Council to carry out a Statutory Assessment including where a child is below school age. In considering whether or not to do so the Council will usually seek further advice from the PCT, an Educational Psychologist and, where appropriate, the Herefordshire Teaching Support Services, before proceeding with the statutory assessment.

The most important law in dealing with special educational needs is the Education Act 1996. Under the Education Act, all schools and LEAs must have regard to the 2001 Code of Practice which gives practical guidance on how to identify and assess special educational needs. All schools must have a policy on Special Educational Needs to guide their practice and must report annually to parents on the implementation of that policy.

Further information and advice on all aspects of Special Education is available from The Education Directorate, The Herefordshire Council, PO Box 185, Hereford HR4 9ZR. Telephone 01432 260869.

13: SPECIAL SCHOOLS, CLASSES AND CENTRES

SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

HEREFORD	Barrs Court School (40 places) Barrs Court Road Hereford HR1 1EQ Tel: 01432 265035 Age range 11 - 19
	Blackmarston School (40 places) Honddu Close, Hereford HR2 7NX. Tel: 01432 272376 Age range 2 – 11
LEOMINSTER	Westfield School (30 places) Westfield Walk Leominster Herefordshire HR6 8HD Tel: 01568 613147 Age range 2 - 19

(Leominster Early Years Centre is based at Leominster Infants School and provides assessment and education for children in the 3 - 5 age range who may have special educational needs).

SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DIFFICULTIES

HEREFORD	The Brookfield School (48 places) Grandstand Road, Hereford. HR4 9NG Tel: 01432 265153 Age range 5 - 16
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PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH RESOURCED PROVISION FOR CHILDREN STATEMENTED UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT 1996

DESIGNATED SCHOOLS WITH PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Hereford, Trinity Primary	01432 266268	Age range	3-11
Hereford, Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat	01432 357481	Age range	11-16

SCHOOL WITH A RESOURCE BASE FOR CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

Weobley High 01544 318159 Age range 11-16

SCHOOL WITH A CLASS FOR CHILDREN WITH LANGUAGE DISORDERS

Hereford, Hampton Dene Primary 01432 273232 Age range 5-11

INFANT SCHOOLS WITH ASSESSMENT CLASSES FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN

Hereford, Hunderton Infants' 01432 274653 Age range 5-7
Leominster Infants' 01568 612029 Age range 3-7

PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS

Hereford, St. David's Centre 01432 274485 Age range 14-16
(KS4)

Hereford, The Aconbury Centre 01432 341096 Age range 11-14
(KS3)

Leominster, The Priory Centre 01568 610733 Age range 14-16
(KS4)

SCHOOL WITH A CLASS FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Hereford, Hampton Dene Primary 01432 273232 Age range 5-11

14: TRANSPORT FOR PUPILS AND STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

14.1 What transport assistance is available for pupils attending Special Schools and Centres?

Special education provision in Herefordshire is explained in Chapter 12.

In the case of pupils with statemented special education needs the Council may when appropriate:

- i) provide free daily transport to the nearest appropriate school/centre if they live more than the normal walking distances defined for primary and secondary pupils, or if walking is too difficult for the child (there may be advantages for a child's development if they are able to make their own way to school, accompanied by a parent if necessary);
- ii) provide transport at the beginning and end of terms and at half terms for pupils attending residential establishments;
- iii) provide other types of transport assistance where necessary in relation to residential schooling, including transport for parents and children for pre-admission assessments (in-County and one out-County) and for subsequent case conferences/reviews - if necessary reasonable overnight accommodation costs will be met by the Council.

Parents often prefer to make their own arrangements to take their children to special schools and centres, rather than use the transport provided by the Council, to enable daily contact with the school staff to be maintained more easily. Where that is agreed to be more appropriate for the child, a mileage allowance would be available to the parents if walking were too difficult for the pupil.

It is important to note, however, that parents have full responsibility for transport arrangements when their child attends, by parental preference, a school other than the one provided for their child's home address, or for their child's type of statemented special need. In a few such cases, it may be possible for parents to pay to use spare seats that are occasionally available on school transport on the terms indicated in paragraph 7.9 above.

In most cases where transport is provided:

- escorts are employed, if necessary, to supervise the children on their journeys to and from school;
- safety equipment, such as harnesses, is made available on all vehicles if needed.

14.2 What transport assistance is available for post-16 Students with Special Education Needs?

In the case of students with special education needs, in the age range 16 years to 25* years on 1st September, free transport is provided to the appropriate school or further education institution, irrespective of the normal statutory walking distances defined for primary or secondary pupils, if walking is too difficult for the student. Students cease to be eligible at 31st August following their 25th birthday. Some further education institutions consider that use of public transport is part of independence training for a student with special educational needs.

The range and nature of help provided with transport for out-County placements is outlined in the following paragraphs.

14.3 Journeys supported for post 16 students (and parents where appropriate)

Transport assistance may be given, in appropriate cases:

- (a) to view a college prior to a firm application;
- (b) to and from college each day or (in the case of residential courses) at the beginning and end of terms and at half terms;
- (c) to attend a period of assessment required as part of the application and recruitment process;
- (d) to attend any necessary case conferences and reviews.

The location of some colleges occasionally requires reasonable overnight accommodation costs to be met. Such costs are limited to the student and his/her parents only.

14.4 Types of travel assistance for post 16 students:

- (a) if the Council provides transport through the Post 16 Partnership, students are expected to use it;
- (b) if students are capable of using public transport independently, they are expected to do so - some colleges regard use of public transport as part of their students' training;
- (c) minibuses or taxis are arranged, with escorts when necessary, by the Education Department's Admissions and Transport Section;
- (d) if it is necessary for private transport to be used, a mileage rate is paid.

15: DO YOU HAVE A CONCERN OR COMPLAINT ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

If your child attends a maintained school in Herefordshire and you are unhappy about any aspect of their education, you should refer to the school's prospectus. The prospectus will tell you how to register a concern or complaint. However, schools and local authorities are expected to provide parents with good opportunities to raise issues of concern through the following general procedures.

Step 1

- **Talk to the teacher about your concerns** and explain them carefully. (Often this is all that is needed to find a solution)

Note: In large primary and high schools it may be appropriate for your concerns to be dealt with by a senior member of staff such as a Deputy or Head of Year. This procedure may be necessary before the Headteacher becomes involved.

If you still have concerns and do not feel that the teacher has addressed them adequately

- **Make an appointment to talk to the Headteacher.** Say that you have already talked to the teacher but you still have concerns.
- Discuss the matter with the Headteacher.

If you still have concerns and do not feel that the Headteacher has addressed them adequately

Step 2

- **You should write to the Chair of Governors** of your child's school. The address is available from the school or from Governor Services in the Children's Services Directorate, on 01432 260929. Depending on your complaint, the chairman may refer the matter to a committee of the Governors.
- Your letter should state clearly the concerns that you have and should contain all the relevant facts of which you are aware. If possible, include dates, times and the names of staff and/or pupils who know about the matter.

If you do not feel that the Governors have addressed and dealt with your concerns to your satisfaction.

Step 3

- You can refer your concerns to the Children's Services Directorate (contact details on the front of this leaflet) who will look into the matter. Sometimes the Diocesan Director of Education may also become involved in Catholic or Anglican Church schools.

Your letter should state clearly the concerns you have and should contain all the relevant facts. If possible, include dates, times and the names of staff and/or pupils who know about the matter.

- Your letter of complaint will be acknowledged and will be passed to an appropriate member of staff for their attention.
- This officer will investigate the complaint and speak to the people involved.
- You will receive a written response to your complaint letting you know what action, if any, will be taken.

We will deal with your complaint as quickly as possible. However, in some cases, when complex issues are involved, it may take some time to complete the inquiries.

There may be other areas of concern which do not directly involve a school and do not need to be dealt with as outlined in this leaflet. In such cases you are advised to telephone the following numbers:

Early Years and Childcare:

Herefordshire Childcare Services 01432 261681

Exclusions from Schools

Manager of Pupil, School and Parent Support 01432 260816

Pupil Admissions to Schools

Admissions and Transport Manager 01432 260927

School Transport

Admissions and Transport Manager 01432 260927

Advice and support can also be obtained from the **Parent Partnership Services** on 01432 260995

ADMISSION POLICIES OF VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOLS

The following are the oversubscription criteria for the Voluntary Aided Schools within the County of Herefordshire. The decision on admissions is the responsibility of the Governors, not the Local Education Authority.

Parents are therefore advised to refer to the school prospectus, which may provide additional information about the admission arrangements.

The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat (PAN 235) – this figure also includes children stated under the Education Act 1996

1. **Special Needs:** Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school (see footnote ¹).
2. **Open Place:** Available to children ordinarily resident within the designated area:
 - Tupsley, south of the Ledbury Road and east of the Eign Brook (the centre of the road and the brook being the boundary).
 - The designated civil parishes of Hampton Bishop, Mordiford, Fownhope, Woolhope, Lugwardine/Bartestree and Dormington.
3. **Church Place:** Available to children of families resident within the Archdeaconry of Hereford and actively involved in the worship, life and work of a Christian Church (see footnote ²), supported by the endorsement of the parish priest or minister of that church (see footnote ³). A points system is used to ascertain involvement with the local church. Points are gained for child's attendance in relation to frequency of services, child's support of the church, parents' attendance in relation to frequency of services, parent support of the church, and for strength of clergy reference. The details of the scoring system are available on request.
4. **Open Place – Sibling:** Children resident outside the designated area who have brothers or sisters (see footnote ⁴) currently attending the school and will still be registered pupils at the time of admission.
5. **Open Place – Feeder School:** Children resident outside the designated area who nevertheless attend one of this school's feeder primary schools (St Paul's, Hampton Dene, St Mary's Fownhope, Mordiford and Lugwardine).
6. **Open Place:** Children with exceptional medical, social or compassionate grounds for admission and whose parents can show that entry to the school is necessary for the well being of their child. Parents are required to produce a medical certificate or other appropriate information preferably from an independent source.

¹ This is the first priority because the Governors must comply fully with the Statement of Special Educational Needs.

² For the purposes of this policy "A Christian Church" is taken to mean an organised body subscribing to the Doctrine of the Trinity, which is either a member of a local Christian Council/Council of Churches or affiliated to "Christians Together in England". (Further information is available by contacting the school direct)

³ An SA1 must be completed together with a general information sheet for Church Place applicants. This form is available from your local Minister and should be completed with their assistance.

⁴ See the definition of "Sibling" in Chapter 3 of the Information for Parents Booklet.

7. **Open Place – other:** Children who live closest to the school by the shortest available walking route (see paragraph 7.1 of the Information for Parents Booklet for details of how walking distance is measured). (See footnotes⁵)

St Mary’s R.C. High (PAN 135) – this figure also includes children statemented under the Education Act 1996.

1. Baptised Catholic children in the 3 designated feeder primary schools (Our Lady’s, St Francis Xavier’s and St Joseph’s RC Primaries) with admission signed by their Parish Priest.
2. Baptised Catholic children in other schools with a Certificate of Baptism and admission form signed by their Parish Priest.
3. Other Christian denomination whose parents wish their children to receive a Christian education and who have a letter of support from a Minister of Religion or Religious Leader and who have a sibling at St Mary’s at the time of admission.
4. Other Christian denomination whose parents wish their children to receive a Christian education and who have a letter of support from a Minister of Religion or Religious Leader and who have had a sibling at St Mary’s within the past two years.
5. Other Christian denomination whose parents wish their children to receive a Christian education, which are in attendance at one of the three Herefordshire designated feeder primary schools and who have a letter of support from a Minister of Religion or Religious Leader.
6. Other Christian denomination whose parents wish their children to receive a Christian education and who have a letter of support from a Minister of Religion or Religious Leader and who have had a sibling at St Mary’s in the past.
7. Other Christian denomination whose parents wish their child to receive a Christian education and who have a letter of support from a Minister of Religion or Religious Leader and one or both of their parents attended St Mary’s, or who are currently paid to work at St Mary’s.
8. Other Christian denomination whose parents wish their children to receive a Christian education and who have a letter of support from a Minister of Religion or Religious Leader.
9. Other Christian denominations whose parents wish their children to receive a Christian education and who have a letter of support from a Headteacher, Scout Leader or a person in a position of responsibility that knows the child and family.
10. From other religions where the Governors are satisfied that the ethos and Christian teaching of the school is of prime importance to those making the application and who have a sibling at St Mary’s at the time of admission.
11. From other religions where the Governors are satisfied that the ethos and Christian teaching of the school is of prime importance to those making the application and who have had a sibling at St Mary’s in the past.

⁵ In the event of Category 4,5, or 6 being oversubscribed the Governors will use a “tie breaker” of the measured distance to school as defined in Category 7.

12. From other religions where the Governors are satisfied that the ethos and Christian teaching of the school is of prime importance to those making the application and where one or both of their parents attended St Mary's.

13. Pupils who have a special reason for admission e.g. children in the "looked after system". Applications for admission on social, physical or medical grounds will be at the discretion of the Governing Body. Applicants are required to produce a medical certificate or other appropriate supporting information at the time of application.

14. Pupils who live nearest to the school by the shortest practical walking route.

For the purpose of the Policy, other Christian denominations under categories 3 to 9 of the admissions criteria means a "Christian Church" which is an organised body subscribing to the Doctrine of The Trinity, which is either a member of a Local Christian Council/Council of Churches or affiliated to "Christians Together in England".

Bodenham, St. Michael's C.E. Primary School (PAN 15)

1. A child residing in the school's catchment area.
2. A child who would have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. A church place for genuine candidates and then only on the recommendation of the Vicar of the Parish.
4. A child who has special reason for admission. This reason will probably be of a medical, physical or social nature, and production of a medical certificate or other appropriate information is required. Parents claiming such special reason should inform the Pupil Admissions Office in writing at the time of application.
5. A child who lives nearest to the school by the shortest available walking route.

Brampton Abbotts C.E. Primary School (PAN 20)

There are approximately 140 pupils on roll and 20 reception age children are admitted each year. We normally admit children at the beginning of the term in which their 5th birthday occurs and parents are requested to register their children for admission well in advance.

Children enter the reception class during the academic year in which they celebrate their 5th birthday. The intakes are organised in 2 phases. Children with birthdays from 1 September to 31 March may start full time schooling in the autumn term, and children with birthdays from 1 April – 31 August may start in the spring term. Children are invited to a 'taster' day prior to entry and prospective parents are notified of these dates in advance. Contact with our feeder playgroup is encouraged and an Early Years Partnership that has recently been formed continues to thrive. There are regular termly meetings between staff to ensure a smooth transition for the children.

Our 'designated area' lies within the following boundaries:-

How Caple crossroads to the north, Greytrees to the south, Rudhall Farm to the east and the River Wye to the west. This means we actually lie outside our own 'catchment area' which must make our school unique. In practice a great majority of our pupils come from outside our normal 'designated area'. This causes very few problems, but it does mean that most parents need to contact the Herefordshire Education Directorate to advise the Authority of their choice of school, stating their reasons for that choice.

The address is:-
Education Directorate
P O Box 185
Blackfriars Street
Hereford
HR4 9ZR

The school believes in equal opportunities for all prospective pupils regardless of disabilities and special educational needs and applies the following policy in considering priority in the granting of places:-

1. Children from the 'designated area'.
2. Children who have brothers and sisters at the school.
3. Children whose parents are actively involved in the life and worship of a Christian Church and wish their children to be educated at a Church school, supported by the endorsement of the priest or minister.

4. Children with particular medical, social or educational needs. Production of a medical certificate or other appropriate information may be required.
5. The location of the home in relation to the school (i.e. children who live nearer to the school will be given priority if the school is oversubscribed).

Parents considering sending their children to join us may visit the school at any time by making an appointment with the Headteacher.

Bridstow C.E. Primary School (PAN 15)

Bridstow is a voluntary aided school which means that the Governing Body is responsible for admissions. The overall capacity of the new school is 105 places which allows 15 children to be admitted into the reception class each year. This figure of 15 is known as the published admission limit and is formally published by the Herefordshire Council in their information for parents booklet.

1. The Governors consider applications each year in line with the Local Education Authority's timetable, which for the 2005/2006 school year will be 14 January 2005.
2. In the event of more applications being received above the published admission limit the Governors have decided the following policy in the allocation of places:
3. Pupils living within the catchment area of the school as defined by the Herefordshire Council.
4. Pupils who would still have a brother or sister at Bridstow School at the time of admission.
5. Pupils of families who are actively involved in the worship, life and work of a Christian Church, supported by the endorsement of the parish priest or minister of that church.
6. Pupils who have medical, social or compassionate grounds for admission (the validity of such reasons will be determined by a committee of the Governing Body).
7. Pupils who live nearest to the school by the shortest available walking route (note – the Governing Body use the policy of Herefordshire Council in determining measured distances).

Cradley C.E. Primary School (PAN 20)

1. Children living in the areas contributory to the school, i.e. Cradley, Mathon and Storridge.
2. Children of families who are active members of a religious denomination. The Governors will give preference to the children of families who regularly attend Cradley, Mathon or Storridge churches.
3. The presence of brothers or sisters in the school at time of admission.
4. The nearness of the home to the school.
5. Those whose older brothers or sisters are former pupils of the school.
6. Special medical or social needs.

Fownhope, St. Mary's C.E. Primary School (PAN 15)

1. Pupils living within the catchment area of the school.
2. Pupils who would have a sibling at the school at the time of admission.
3. Pupils who would have a special reason for admission. Such reasons may be medical, physical, or other personal circumstances. Medical certificates or other relevant information should be sent with the application form.
4. Pupils whose parents wish to apply for a church place. These are allocated to children whose parents have an active link with their local church.
5. Pupils who live nearest to the school by the shortest suitable walking route.

If the number of children seeking admission exceeds the places available in categories 1-3 then priority will be given to children who live nearest the school by the shortest walking route. Not all places are allocated at the beginning of the Academic Year as we reserve places for the January admission. Places may be refused to both September and January children who live outside the catchment area if there are only sufficient places to admit catchment area children or other higher priority children expected in the course of the year.

Hereford, Our Lady's R.C. Primary School (PAN 30)

If any of the following criteria are over-subscribed the governors would admit pupils who live nearest to the school by the shortest available walking route.

Priority for admissions will be given:

1. Children in the "looked after" system, where the approved agencies agree that the school meets the child's social, pastoral, educational and religious beliefs of the carers.
2. Baptised Catholic children living or worshipping in the parishes of Our Lady's and Belmont, Hereford.
3. Baptised Catholic children living or worshipping in the parishes adjoining Our Lady's and Belmont, Hereford.
4. Baptised Catholic children living and worshipping in the county of Herefordshire.
5. Baptised brothers and sisters of children who are already pupils at the school.
6. Baptised children of non-Catholic parents who have expressed a preference for education in a faith school.
7. Non-baptised children of non-Catholic parents who have expressed a preference for education in a faith school.

Hereford, St. Francis Xavier's R.C. Primary School (PAN 30)

1. Baptised Roman Catholic children residing in St. Francis Xavier, Hereford, parish.
2. Baptised Roman Catholic children residing in parishes in the County of Herefordshire.

3. In the event of there being any non-allocated places, the Governors may consider applications from non-Catholic parents desirous of seeking a Christian education for their children. Such applications will only be agreed where the Governors are satisfied that the religious and moral atmosphere of the school are of prime importance to those applying.

Hereford, St. James' C.E. Primary School (PAN 30)

1. All children living within the catchment area of the school .
2. Children from outside the catchment area who have siblings in the school .
3. Two places will be reserved for children whose parents wish them to attend the school through a 'church' place providing that the number of in-catchment children permits.
4. Any other applications received from parents who live outside the catchment area will be considered by the governors who will take into account the distance from home to school and ease of travel to and from school.

Hereford, St. Paul's C.E. Primary School (PAN 68)

1. Children of families residing in the ecclesiastical parish of Tupsley and having a genuine commitment to a Trinitarian church.
2. Children with a brother or sister already attending St. Paul's School.
3. Children with special medical or social needs.
4. Children of families residing in the ecclesiastical parish of Tupsley, judged by proximity to school.
5. Children of families residing outside the ecclesiastical parish of Tupsley and having a genuine commitment to St. Paul's Church, Tupsley.
6. Children of families residing outside the ecclesiastical parish of Tupsley and who worship in a Church of England congregation and for whom St. Paul's is the nearest Church of England School.
7. Children living beyond the parish boundary judged by proximity to school.

Hereford St. Thomas Cantilupe C.E. Primary School (PAN 30)

The admission arrangements for the school year 2005/2006 are as follows:

1. Children whose 5th birthday is between 1 September and 31 December will be admitted full time from September.
2. Children whose 5th birthday is between 1 January and 30 April inclusive will be admitted for mornings only until autumn half term. For the second half of the autumn term parents can decide whether to send their children mornings only or full time.

3. Children whose 5th birthday is between 1 May and 31 August inclusive will be admitted for mornings only until half term. For the second half of the autumn term and spring term parents can decide whether to send their children mornings only or full time. From April 2005 these children must attend full time.

There will be a staggered entry of the children during the first three weeks of the autumn term.

If the school becomes oversubscribed, then priority at the present time will be given as follows:-

- Children from the designated area (Millbrook Street forms the boundary to the west, St Owen's Street to the East and Penn Grove Road to the North).
- A maximum of four children of Church-going families whose application is supported by their parish priest or minister. Priority for these places will be given to families who attend the Churches of All Saints', St Barnabas and St Peter's. In addition, children whose parents attend any Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Trinity and which is a member of Churches Together in Hereford may also receive consideration.
- Children resident outside the designated area who have brothers or sisters currently attending the school.
- Children with special medical or social needs. Parents must provide supporting documentation to prove this.
- Children whose elder brother or sister has attended this school in times past.
- Children who have attended St Thomas Cantilupe Playgroup.
- Other children from out of area who are not included in any of the above categories.
- Pupils completing their primary education in this school transfer to a High School at the beginning of the autumn term following their 11th birthday.

Kimbolton, St. James' C.E. Primary School (PAN 15)

1. Children resident within the catchment area.
2. Children who would have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Children of committed Christian families.
4. Children who live nearest to the school by the shortest available route.

Kingsland C.E. Primary School (PAN 17)

1. Firstly, to a child in the school's catchment area.
2. Secondly, to a child who would have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.

3. Thirdly, to a child from outside the catchment area having special social, medical, physical or religious needs, supported by special documentation. If you are applying for a category 3 place you must specify your reasons for your application. It is necessary to attach appropriate supporting information to the application. Closeness to Kingsland will be taken into account when considering applications under this heading.
4. Fourthly, other applications will be determined by those being nearest to the school by the shortest available walking route.

Lea C.E. Primary School (PAN 15)

1. Children living in catchment area.
2. Siblings of children already in school.
3. Children of regular communicants of Lea Church irrespective of catchment area.
4. Social needs.
5. Distance of home from school.

Leintwardine Endowed Primary School (PAN 15)

1. Children resident in the catchment area.
2. Siblings of children already admitted to the school.
3. Children of committed Christian families.
4. Children resident outside the catchment area subject to there being spaces in the year group(s) concerned.

Leominster, Ivington C.E. Primary School (PAN 15)

The following criteria are used when deciding on admissions:-

1. A child whose principal home address is within the catchment area of the school.
2. The presence of associated siblings in the school at the time of admission.
3. Children of families who are actively involved in the worship, life and work of the Church supported by endorsement of their priest or minister.
4. Special medical or social needs of the pupil. Parents must provide supporting documentation to prove this.

If an over-subscription situation arises, priority for admission will be decided using the following further criteria:-

- Children associated with the school through the adjoining nursery/playgroup.
- Those residing nearest to the school by the shortest available route.

Whilst using the above criteria, all applications for admission are considered equally and without discrimination against; race, gender, special educational needs, disability or family background/circumstances.

Admission decisions are at the sole discretion of the Governors. Applications are considered annually in March.

Our school's published admissions number is 15 pupils per year group.

Llangrove C.E. Primary School (PAN 15)

1. The school is the one designated for the area in which the child lives.
2. The presence of older brothers or sisters in the school at the time of admission.
3. Special medical or social needs of the pupil. Production of a medical certificate or other appropriate information is required.
4. Children of families who are active members of the Church of England or who are committed to the practice of the Christian religion.
5. The location of the home in relation to the school, i.e. children who live nearer to the school will be given priority if the preferences exceed the admission level.

Much Marcle C.E. Primary School (PAN 17)

Parents considering sending their children to the school are welcome to arrange to meet the Headteacher and staff and to look around the school at a mutually convenient time. The Local Education Authority sets an admission limit for every school which controls the number of children to be admitted in a school year. The following admissions policy has been drawn up by the Governing Body of the school.

All applications must be made to the Chairman of Governors at the school for admission during the following academic year. Any late applications will be considered but will depend on the availability of places. At present the school admission limit to the reception class is 17.

Places will be allocated on the following basis only:

1. To children who are permanently residing in the catchment area at the date of allocation.
2. The catchment area is defined as the civil parishes of Much Marcle, Little Marcle, and Yatton.
3. The Local Education Authority is able to determine which is the provided school in any cases of doubt by reference to postal codes.
4. To brothers and sisters of children already in the school.
5. At the sole discretion of the Governors to the children of families out of the catchment area wishing their children to attend the school for religious reasons, supported by such appropriate documentation and on such conditions as the Governors shall decide.

6. At the sole discretion of the Governors to children of families out of the catchment area showing significant, medical, educational or social reasons, supported by such appropriate documentation and on such conditions as the Governors shall decide.

If the number of applications exceed the number of places available for the academic year for which the application is made, places will be allocated to those children living nearest the school, this being determined by the nearest walking route.

Pembridge C.E. Primary School (PAN 13)

1. Children for whom Pembridge is the designated school.
2. Siblings.
3. Church places.
4. Social/Medical reasons.

Church Places

When applying for a church place, the family will need to be reasonably regular and long standing church members, and the application will need to be supported by a letter from the local vicar/minister.

Medical reasons

Parents, who wish their children to be admitted on medical grounds will be required to produce a medical certificate, or other appropriate information, preferably from an independent source.

Your application, on either religious or medical grounds, WILL NOT be considered unless this supporting evidence is attached with your application form.

In line with DFES guidelines, priority may not be given to parents based on the date order in which applications were received before the deadline.

Over subscription within the first criteria
(children for whom Pembridge is the designated school)

If an over subscription situation arises within this area, priority for admission will be decided using the following criteria:

- Siblings.
- Medical reasons (again, accompanied by appropriate information).
- Walking distance – pupils who live nearest to the school by the shortest available walking route.

'Out of Area' children

For the academic year 2005/2006, 'out of area' children will not be considered unless they have brothers and sisters in the school already.

Pencombe C.E. Primary School (PAN 8)

Children will be considered for admission if they qualify under one of the following categories and accept the Christian aim of the school. Governors give order of priority to applicants with children who qualify for the following:

- Catchment places.
- Church places.
- Siblings who have a brother or sister currently attending the school who live outside the catchment area.
- Out of catchment area places.

CATCHMENT PLACES are available to children resident within the Civil Parish boundaries of Pencombe with Grendon Warren and Little Cowarne.

CHURCH PLACES available to children of families who are resident within the ecclesiastical catchment of the seven parishes namely Bredenbury with Grendon Bishop and Wacton, Collington, Little Cowarne, Edwyn Ralph, Thornbury and Pencombe with Marston Stannett; and are actively involved in the worship, life and work of a Christian Church, applications should be in letter form and supported by the endorsement of the Parish Priest or Minister of that Church.

SIBLINGS

Governors will also give consideration to children other than those in above categories who are resident outside the designated area who have brothers and sisters currently attending the school at the time of admission. Parents should notify the school of their wish for a 'sibling place' in good time for the admission panel meeting, but this does not guarantee places for future siblings.

OUT OF CATCHMENT PLACES

Application, by letter, for places made by families residing outside the catchment area will be considered by the Governing Body. Families will have made clear their sympathy with the aims, objectives and mission statement of the school. The parents of these pupils will understand and accept that they have the responsibility to transport their child to and from school.

RESOLUTION

If there are too many places for each category, places will be awarded to the children who reside nearest the school.

All 'catchment', 'sibling' and 'church' places should be applied for by letter in the first instance stating reasons for choice.

Applications for 'church' places should be endorsed, or referenced by, the Parish Priest or other Minister.

Any parent wishing to view the school or discuss admission with the Headteacher should write or telephone for an application form.

School prospectus are available from the school secretary.

Ross-on-Wye, St. Joseph's R.C. Primary School (PAN 20)

Children are admitted according to the following order of priority:

1. Children of the Roman Catholic faith.
2. Children who are not Roman Catholic and have siblings at the school, provided there is a place.
3. Children in the order in which they appear on the waiting list.
4. Children who have medical, social or compassionate needs. In such circumstances parents are required to produce a medical certificate or other appropriate information.

Parents considering sending their child to the school are requested to fill in an application form, available from the school, and return it to the headteacher no later than the September of the year before the child is due to start school. Along with the application form parents must also produce the child's Birth Certificate and, in the case of Roman Catholics, a Certificate of Baptism.

Children who are not of the Roman Catholic faith are only admitted when the Governors are satisfied that the religious and moral ethos of the school is of prime importance to those making the application.

Governors will decide who is to be admitted following the 14th January 2005 closing date. Parents are then informed of whether or not they have been successful in their application, by the LEA.

Staunton-on-Wye Endowed Primary School (PAN 10)

1. The criteria is to be applied in the event of an oversubscription, listed in order of priority:
2. A child residing in the catchment area.
3. A child who has siblings in the school.
4. Those children who are within walking distance of the school.
5. Have had a brother or sister in the school in the past.
6. Social and medical problems with written evidence.

When applications are considered in each of the categories 1-3, if the number of children seeking admission exceeds the places available, allocation will be made with preference being given to a child who lives the shortest walking distance.

Weston-under-Penyard C.E. Primary School (PAN13)

1. Children who live in the School's designated area.
2. Children who have siblings currently attending the school.

3. Children whose parents apply expressing a religious preference.
4. Children with special social and/or medical reasons.
5. Children who live outside the designated area but who live nearest to the School by the shortest suitable walking route.

Whitchurch C.E. Primary School (PAN 17)

1. Children living in the catchment area of the school i.e. Whitchurch, Symonds Yat West, Doward and Ganarew;
2. Children with older brothers and sisters in the school at the time of admission;
3. Children whose parents wish them to have a denominational education based on the broad Christian family principles outlined in our school aims and associated with a Church of England school. Any applications made under this preference will have to be supported by references from the family's local clergy at the time of application;
4. Children who live nearest the school by the shortest available walking route.

APPLYING FOR A PLACE AT HIGH SCHOOL AND STARTING SCHOOL

REPORT BY ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT MANAGER

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

13 JULY 2005

Purpose

1. To consider the format of the simple guidance notes in relation to admission of children into high schools at age 11, which was deferred from the Forums last meeting.

Apply for a Place at High School

2. This document, attached at Appendix 1, has been amended to reflect the decision taken by Cabinet at its meeting on 14 July 2005 regarding denominational transport.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the document 'Applying for a place at High School in Herefordshire 2006/07' be approved.

**APPLYING FOR A PLACE
AT
HIGH SCHOOL
IN
HEREFORDSHIRE
2006/2007**

Important information if your child is eleven before
September 2006

**Apply on or before
28th October, 2005**



**HEREFORDSHIRE
COUNCIL**

Children Services Directorate
P.O. Box 185
Blackfriars Street
Hereford HR4 9ZR

**To be read with the
Information for Parents
Booklet 2006/2007**

APPLYING FOR A PLACE AT A HIGH SCHOOL IN HEREFORDSHIRE

1 How do we apply for a High School place?

You should begin by reading the information available from the Council and from individual schools. It is also advisable to visit schools in which you are interested in by attending open evenings (details of the agreed Open Evenings will be sent with the individual letters addressed to Parents) or by making other arrangements with the headteacher. Having considered the possibilities, parents should indicate **three preferences in priority order** on the SA1 application form, and return it by 28th October 2005 (see paragraph 5 below), including any school you wish to apply for in **other LEA** areas. Please note that your 3 preferences will not be formally analysed until after the closing date of 28th October 2005.

When deciding your preferences you may need to consider carefully **how your child will travel to school**. You will not normally be eligible for transport assistance if your child is offered a place at a high school that is not the local school for your child's home address (See Chapter 7 of the Information for Parents Booklet for details of the Council's School Transport policy).

2 Where can we find more detailed information?

Chapters 3, 5 & 6 of the Information for Parents Booklet 2006/2007 contain more information about applying for a school place, and Appendix 4 gives details about the 14 Herefordshire High Schools. The information is also on the Council's Education Website (www.education.herefordshire.gov.uk). Please read all those sections **BEFORE** completing the SA1 form.

3 Which is the High School for the address where we live?

The local school based on your child's home address is named in the letter provided by the Children Services in September 2005. If you apply for that local school by **28th October 2005**, as one of your 3 preferences, you are most likely to be granted a place there irrespective of the priority order in which the school has been placed on your application form. The reasons for that are explained in section 5 of the Information for Parents Booklet. Please note that, in cases where the family is living apart or has more than one property, it is the child's principal home that decides which school is the one for his/her area. If you need further help, contact the information line.

4 When do we apply for a place at High School?

There is one date by which you need to apply if they wish to be included in the initial consideration for places in the school year that starts in September 2006. That one date, which also applies to Church schools, is **28th October 2005**. Late applications received between 29th October and the national offer date of 1st March 2006, may be included in the initial consideration but **only if** the reason for the delay was genuine and acceptable. Applications received after 1st March 2006 will be considered only after initial offers have been decided.

5 Where do we send the completed SA1 form?

The form should be returned to the Headteacher of your child's present primary school. If your child attends an Out of County School or Independent school the form should be returned to Admissions Children Services PO Box 185 Blackfriars Street Hereford HR4 9ZR by 28th October 2005. **Remember**, if your form is late, or simply not returned, you could lose priority for a place at any of your 3 preferred schools, including the one for your home address and any in other LEAs.

6 Are interviews or ability/aptitude selection part of the admissions process?

No. Interviews by school must not be part of the admissions process. Similarly, no places are allocated in Herefordshire schools according to ability or aptitude including schools with specialist college status.

7 Can we apply for a place at an Aided church school?

Yes. There are 2 Church Schools in Herefordshire: Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School, which is Anglican, and St. Mary's R.C. High School, Lugwardine, which is Roman Catholic. You can include one or both of these schools **within** the 3 preferences you are able to express on the SA1 form. You will be required to provide additional information if your request is based on denominational reasons. The school's own form, requesting further information, is obtainable from the school or your local priest/vicar. This **must be** returned **with the SA1** form by 28th October 2005 via your child's present school, as explained in 5 above.

What travel arrangements apply to Aided church schools?

The Council will provide assistance with transport where a child attends, on **denominational grounds**, the nearest appropriate or designated voluntary aided church school, **and** it is beyond statutory walking distance from the home address.

Parents will be asked to pay a contribution, related to the payments under the vacant seat policy (2005/2006 £100 per term), towards the cost of providing such transport subject to the following criteria:

1. Parents to pay contributions towards the cost of transport for the first two children attending any denominational school from any one family (at the same address) with any subsequent children having a denominational place entitled to free transport, so long as those other children remain in receipt of transport under this scheme.
2. Free transport for those children entitled to free school meals. (Entitlement can be checked by contacting the Free School Meals team on 01432 260921)
3. A contribution of 50% of the set contribution rate per term for those not entitled under 2 above but whose parent(s) are entitled to Housing or Council tax benefit.

A child is deemed to attend a local Church School on denominational grounds where the denomination of the parents is the same as the denomination of the school and the child is offered a denominational place. As in the case of transport to community schools, statutory walking distance is up to 2 miles for children under 8 years of age, and up to 3 miles for older children.

8 Why am I allowed 3 preferences?

The Government has decided that all parents must be given the opportunity to express 3 preferences, shown in priority order, for any maintained school within the County of Herefordshire **or in an adjoining County**. Herefordshire welcomes the wider opportunity this gives parents.

9 What happens if too many parents apply for a school?

Places are allocated strictly according to the sequence set out in paragraph 6.1 of the Information for Parents Booklet. High priority is given first to pupils with SEN Statements, then to children in public care, then for pupils living in the school catchment area. Children with brothers and sisters who would still be at the school in September 2006 come next, followed by pupils with validated medical, social or compassionate grounds, and finally according to distance from the school.

10 How do you decide what places to offer taking account of our 3 preferences for high schools?

Everyone who has applied by 28th October 2005 will be told the decision on 1st March 2006, which is the national date for all such announcements. The decision will be reached via the following steps:-

STAGE 1 All applications received by the closing date of 28th October from parents will be analysed together, but only after that date, along with late applications for which parents have provided good explanations. Applications for the 12 community high schools will be considered against the 6 priorities listed in paragraph 9 above. The Governors of the 2 voluntary aided schools will make decisions based on their criteria shown in Appendix 5 of the Information for Parents Booklet. At stage 1, all 3 preferences are treated as a first preference (i.e. the priority order shown by parents will not count at this point).

STAGE 2 Following analysis, lists will be drawn up of all the parents who have applied (whether as 1st, 2nd or 3rd preference) for each school. At the top of each list will be the applicants whose children live in the catchment area, and living nearest to the school. At the bottom of the list will be the applicants whose children live outside the catchment area, and live furthest from the school.

STAGE 3 Each parent will then be offered a place at the highest of their 3 preferences (if any) that is available after all higher priority applicants have been allocated places. In the case of parents living in Herefordshire, but applying for a school outside the county. The notifications in 2006 will be given by Herefordshire LEA for Gloucestershire, Shropshire and Worcestershire schools. Parents living outside the County but applying for a Herefordshire school must send the details to their home LEA who will send the information direct to the Pupil Admissions Office based in Hereford. Therefore where you live will determine the LEA who gives notification of places offered.

However, this position will **not apply** in the case of Monmouthshire and Powys schools for whom we will still offer the places.

STAGE 4 It is possible that some parents will not be offered a place at any of their 3 preferred schools. That usually happens only in the case of parents who have applied for 3 oversubscribed schools and have not included their local school as one of the 3 preferences or parents who have submitted a late application by the offer date without good reason. In such circumstances, the parents will be offered a place at the nearest or most accessible school that still has places available, taking account of any information the parents may already have provided.

11 What are the possible difficulties if our 3 preferences do not include the local school provided for our child's home address?

Parents will be able to express 3 preferences for the September 2006 transfer. In practice, parents applying for their local school by 28th October 2005 are most likely to be granted their local school, irrespective of the priority order in which the school has been placed on the application form. Most of the places in high schools are filled by local children. However, if parents do not include the local school in their 3 preferences, they will lose their priority for that school if all their chosen schools are oversubscribed. The child may then be required to attend another school altogether, which may involve the parents having to meet any additional transport costs. **For these reasons, it is advisable for parents to include the catchment area school as one of the 3 preferences.**

12 Can we make a case for personal or particular circumstances?

If you wish to apply for a school place for medical, social or compassionate reasons, you **must** send written evidence with your application. Such evidence may include supporting letters from a doctor, social worker, etc. Such reasons will be considered **only if** supporting information is included with your application **and** received by 28th October. We shall advise you of the outcome of the determination of your Special Reasons category by mid January 2006.

13 My child attends a primary school associated with my preferred High School - do I have any additional priority?

No – the local school is based on your child’s home address. The fact that your child attends an associated primary school will not give your application any higher priority.

How can we get further help?

The Council has an information line for parents who would like more details. The staff will not advise you about whether or not to apply for a particular school, but are able to provide the following facts:

- The number of parents who applied in the previous year, and (where relevant) the number of children admitted later from the waiting list or after appeal following an initial refusal of a place
- The number of children in Year 6 currently known to be living in the school’s catchment area who would be in the first priority group if their parents apply
- The schools that have had vacancies in previous years

Admissions Information Lines - 01432 260925/260926
Herefordshire Council: schooladmissions@herefordshire.gov.uk

REMEMBER:

- You should read the Information Booklet, especially chapters 3, 5, 6 and 7, **BEFORE** applying for a place.
- You must complete an SA1 form to apply for a place at any of the County’s 14 high schools, **including** if you are applying to the Bishop of Hereford’s Bluecoat School or St. Mary’s R.C. High School. You may also be required to complete additional information if applying for a Church place, which needs to be attached together with SA1 form.
- The Governors of church schools make the initial decisions on all their admissions and will inform the Council who will make the formal offer on the 1st March 2006.
- The closing date for applications is 28th October 2005.
- Late applications, without good explanation, will have lower priority.

MISLEADING OR FRAUDULENT INFORMATION

The Council will take very seriously any fraudulent or intentionally misleading application. In such cases, the Council could decide to withdraw a school place that has been offered or taken up.

STANDARD APPLICATION FORMS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2006/07

REPORT BY ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT MANAGER

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

13 JULY 2005

Purpose

1. To consider the layout of the 'common application form' to be used for the coordinated secondary transfer arrangement for September 2006 (SA1), which was deferred from the Forums last meeting.

2. Co-ordinated Secondary Transfer Scheme

2. Herefordshire LEA introduced the Co-ordinated Secondary Transfer Scheme from September 2004. As required by Statutory Instrument 2002/2004 and the Code of Practice on School Admissions, the Council produced a common application form covering all community and voluntary aided schools. The SA1 form enables all parents to express at least 3 preferences, which could include schools within or beyond the Herefordshire area.
3. The SA1 form has been amended to reflect the decision of Cabinet on 14 July 2005 regarding denominational transport.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Local Admission Forum approves the format and contents of the 'common application form' for secondary education for the year September 2006.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL – CHILDREN’S SERVICES DIRECTORATE

APPLICATION FOR A PLACE AT A HIGH SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2006

Please read notes overleaf of this form and information for parent’s booklet before completing and returning this form. Please ensure that you answer all questions and sign the declaration on page 2

(Applications to be returned to your child’s primary school no later than 28th October 2005)

If your child attends an Out-of-County/Independent School, Please return the form to Children Services Directorate PO Box 185 Blackfriars Street Hereford HR4 9ZR no later than 28th October 2005

PART A - ABOUT YOUR CHILD

Child’s Surname First Name.....Other Name.....

Gender: M F DOB..... Age.....

Childs Home Address (see notes 4 and 5 overleaf).....

.....Post Code.....

Home Tel. No..... Work Tel.No..... Mobile No.....

Has your child any Special Education Needs involving either Banded Funding or formal Statementing under the Education Act 1996, and did he/she require an assessment by an outside professional? Yes/No (please delete as appropriate)

Is your child (or has your child ever been) in care/looked after by Herefordshire Council or any other local authority? Yes/No (please delete as appropriate)

If yes, what is the name of the Social Worker.....

PART B – YOUR CHOSEN SCHOOL (S)

TO INCLUDE ANY VOLUNTARY AIDED AND OUT-OF-COUNTY SCHOOLS (SEE NOTES 2 AND 3 OVERLEAF)

If you are applying for a place at The Bishop of Hereford’s Bluecoat School or St Mary’s RC High School, it will be necessary for you to complete an additional application form which will request more information about your religious commitment. These forms can be obtained by contacting the school direct and should be completed **in addition** to this form. These forms should be attached to and returned with the SA1.

Even if you wish your child to attend the local school based on your child’s home address, you must complete and return this form to ensure that consideration is given for a place for your child. It is advisable to include the local school one of your 3 preferences (see point 11 in enclosed leaflet), as you would have low priority for that school if your first 3 preferences are for other schools and these cannot be met.

TRANSPORT: Note that your local school is the only school for which free transport is provided, if you live more than 3 miles from the school (see Note 4). However, the Council will provide transport to pupils who gain a Church place at Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School or St Mary’s R.C. High School, but only if you live more than 3 miles from the school. A parental contribution towards the cost of transport will be payable.

Please show in order, your preference(s) for 3 schools

1	
2	
3	

Reasons for your preferences:

If you wish to do so, you may give your reasons for your choice of school(s) see note (5d) overleaf

.....
.....

SIBLINGS -

Please give full name and date of birth of any brothers and sisters who, in September 2006, will still be attending a school for which you are now applying (see note 5a)

Name of Pupil(s)

School currently attending

=====
If you are not applying for a place on social, medical or compassionate grounds or for a place at The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School or St Mary's RC High School, please go straight to Part E – the declaration.
=====

PART C – APPLYING FOR A PLACE ON SOCIAL, MEDICAL OR COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS

Complete this section **ONLY** if you are applying for a place on medical, social or compassionate grounds.

Do you have any medical, social or compassionate reasons to support any of your preference(s)? YES/NO (please delete as appropriate)

(Note: A request for a placement on medical, social or compassionate grounds **will not be considered** unless you attach supporting information, preferably from an independent source – see Section 6.1 of Information for Parents Booklet).

Please give details of information you have attached

..... No. of pages attached

Please indicate to which high school(s) this supporting information relates to

PART D– APPLYING FOR A PLACE AT THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD BLUECOAT SCHOOL / ST MARYS RC HIGH

Complete this section **ONLY** if you are applying for a place at The Bishops of Hereford's Bluecoat School or St Mary's RC High School. You will also need to contact the school direct to ask what additional information (if any) they require about your Christian commitment. It may even be necessary to complete one of their own church application forms **in addition** to this SA1form.

Are you applying for any or both of the VA schools named above? YES/NO (please delete as appropriate)

If yes, please state the name of the school(s).....
(this must be one or both of the school(s) stated overleaf)

Please give details of any additional forms/supporting evidence you have attached

..... No. of pages attached

Please indicate to which school(s) this supporting information relates to.....

PART E – THE DECLARATION

I confirm that the information given in this form is correct and that I have received the **Information for Parents Booklet** and have read the conditions stated overleaf. I understand that a place may be lawfully withdrawn if it is proved to have been offered on the basis of a fraudulent or misleading application.

Signed: Parent/Guardian Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Date:.....
(please delete as appropriate)

Please print your surname

IMPORTANT NOTES - To be read in conjunction with the "Information for Parents" booklet

NOTE 1 – CHANGE OF ADDRESS/WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION

You must immediately notify the Pupil Admissions Office of any change of home address prior to the date of admission as it might affect entitlement to a place at the school. It would also be very helpful if you could let the Pupil Admissions Office know if you are withdrawing your application following a change of address, or for any other reason.

Please note: The Council will take very seriously any fraudulent or intentionally misleading application which could result in a school place being withdrawn.

NOTE 2 – LIST OF HEREFORDSHIRE HIGH SCHOOLS

There are 14 High Schools in the County. They are: Queen Elizabeth High School, Bromyard; Aylestone High School, Hereford; Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School, Hereford; Haywood High School, Hereford; St. Mary's R.C. High School, Lugwardine; Whitecross High School, Hereford; Kingstone High School; Lady Hawkins' High School, Kington; The John Masefield High School, Ledbury; The Minster College, Leominster; Fairfield High School, Peterchurch; The John Kyrle High School, Ross-on-Wye; Weobley High School and Wigmore High School.

NOTE 3 – APPLYING FOR SCHOOLS OUTSIDE THE COUNTY

If you wish to apply for a High School outside the County, e.g. in Worcestershire, Shropshire, Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire or Powys you must name the school overleaf and its priority order, within your 3 preferences.

NOTE 4 – SCHOOL TRANSPORT

At the time an offer of a place at a high school is made (1st March 2006) included with the offer letter will be a Transport Application form (Blue "T Form") if you are either being offered a place at your local school (and live more than 3 miles from that school) or have been offered a place at The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School or St Mary's RC High School on denominational grounds. Please complete this form and return to the Children's Services Directorate.

In the case of denominational transport parents will be asked to pay a contribution towards the cost of providing such transport subject to the following criteria:

1. Parents to pay contributions towards the cost of transport for the first two children attending any denominational school from any one family (at the same address) with any subsequent children having a denominational place entitled to free transport, so long as those other children remain in receipt of transport under this scheme.
2. Free transport for those children entitled to free school meals. (Entitlement can be checked by contacting the Free School Meals team on 01432 260921)
3. A contribution of 50% of the set contribution rate per term for those not entitled under 2 above but whose parent(s) are entitled to Housing or Council tax benefit.

For budgetary purposes the charge will be linked to the level of contribution paid by parents utilising the Vacant Seat Payments Scheme, which for the 2005/2006 school year is £100 per term.

If you do not receive a Transport Application form with the offer letter and wish to apply for a seat under the Vacant Seat Payment Scheme please either email a request for a form to schooltransport@herefordshire.gov.uk or ring 01432 260931/260928.

NOTE 5 – OTHER NOTES ABOUT ADMISSIONS

- (a) Admission of a child to a school does not guarantee admission of brothers and/or sisters.
- (b) The allocation of places will be undertaken solely by Herefordshire Council, including Voluntary Aided Schools, with an offer being made on 1 March 2006. In addition the Council may also allocate places in schools in other counties, with the agreement of that Local Education Authority.
- (c) Details of the Council's transport policy are given in the Information for Parents booklet.
- (d) Interviews are not part of the admissions process, except in the case of Church place applications to a voluntary aided school, where the sole purpose of the interview is to establish the denominational qualification of the parents. In no other circumstances should interviews be held before a place has been allocated, though it is sensible for parents to visit the school before deciding whether or not to apply.

