

HEREFORDSHIRE LOCAL ADMISSION FORUM - ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT BY ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT MANAGER

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

19 JUNE 2008

Wards Affected

Countywide.

Purpose

To consider the annual report shown below as required by The Education (Admission Forums) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007.

Financial Implications

None.

Background

For ease of reference, the information in this report (as required by The Education (Admission Forums) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007) is set out using the order in the regulations.

For each section, there is a brief analysis of the information in Appendices 6.1 to 6.4 and where appropriate, recommendations for the future are suggested.

- 1. The number and percentages of first, second and third preferences met (or more if applicable) and the main factors that affected whether preferences were met;*
Appendix 6.1 sets out the number and percentages of first, second and (in the case of secondary schools) third preferences met in each of the schools covered by the forum. Allocated places refer to places offered where either none of the preferences stated could be met or where no application had been received by the Local Authority.

As in any Local Authority, the popularity of schools and the level of over subscription have a major impact on the number of first, second and third preferences for each school.

Across secondary schools Bishop's as usual attracted the highest number of first preferences, 261 followed by Whitecross High School 181, John Kyrle 196 and St Mary's 194.

A further significant downturn in popularity is evident at Aylestone, only 86 first preferences compared to 126 in the 2007/2008. 91.7% of the pupils to be admitted are for the first preference school.

There were in total 6 over subscribed schools, namely: Bishop's, St Mary's, Weobley, Whitecross, Fairfield and Wigmore.

There are currently 258 spare places (12.6 % of PAN) available in secondary schools within Herefordshire.

Across primary schools there are currently 398 spare places (18.9% of PAN) available in primary schools within Herefordshire. 93.6% of the pupils to be admitted are for the first preference school.

2. *The number of appeals made to the appeal panel within the area of the authority;*
The number of appeals made to appeals panels within Herefordshire is shown in Appendix 6.1 for each school.

In the secondary sector, there were a total of 60 appeals (compared to 60 in the 2007/2008 round and 41 in the 2006/2007 round) for Bishop's, St Mary's, Weobley, Whitecross, Fairfield and Wigmore.

In the primary sector there were significantly more appeals this year, a total of 59 for 18 schools, compared to 11 appeals for 4 schools last year. This is despite there being 398 (18.9%) spare places.

3. *The ethnic and social mix of pupils attending schools in the area of the authority and the factors that affect this;*
The degree of ethnicity within Herefordshire schools is given in appendix 6.2. As might be expected the largest group is "white" (97.2%) followed by "Asian" (0.49%).

The social mix of pupils attending Herefordshire schools is shown in appendix 6.3.

4. *The extent to which existing and proposed admission arrangements serve the interests of looked after children, children with disabilities and children with special educational needs;*
In both primary and secondary sectors, existing admission arrangements appear to have served the interests of looked after children, children with disabilities and children with special educational needs well during the past year.

The local authority has worked in partnership with the schools in the area and satisfactory arrangements were made to admit pupils in these categories.

5. *How well the hard to place pupil protocol has worked and how many children have been admitted to each school under the protocol;*
Details of the placement of pupils at both secondary and primary schools in Herefordshire following permanent exclusion are shown in appendix 6.4.

The existing arrangements appear to be working well as numbers of exclusions for 2007/08 are significantly less than 2006/07 and excluded pupils are found receiving schools.

6. *Whether primary schools are meeting their statutory duties in relation to infant class sizes;*
All primary schools in Herefordshire are meeting their statutory duties in relation to infant class sizes. There are very occasional exceptions to this, usually as a result of an appeal panel's decision (which are exempt from the requirement).

7. *Details of other matters that might affect how fairly admission arrangements serve the interests of children and parents within the authority; and*
Two schools have not complied with the work on the Admissions Code of Practice, St Mary's RC High School and Kingsland C.E VA Primary School. These are covered in a separate agenda item.

8. *Any recommendation or recommendations that the forum wishes to make in order to improve parental choice and access to education in the area of the authority.*
It is recommended that the LAF reiterate the importance of adherence to the Admissions Code of Practice and the local Code of Practice in Appendix 1 of the Information for Parent Booklets to all schools, including Governing Bodies.

This would reinforce the national message that was issued earlier this year.

Recommendation

THAT:

(a) **That the draft report is noted and any changes requested by the Local Admission Form be adopted.**

(b) **The Forum is requested to suggest actions to take forward, particularly relating to 7 and 8 above if it is felt to be appropriate.**

Considerations

None.

Risk Management

None

Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendices 6.1 to 6.4