

UNAUTHORISED ADDITIONAL ADMISSIONS IN EXCESS OF AGREED SCHOOL PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBERS

REPORT BY ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT MANAGER

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

19 JUNE 2008

Wards Affected

Potentially countywide.

Purpose

To consider unauthorised changes to the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) at St Mary's R C High School and Kingsland C.E. Primary School.

Financial Implications

None

Background

1. Issues: St Mary's RC High School

18 transfer schools appeals for St Mary's R C High School were considered at an appeals panel on Tuesday 29th April 2008. The Headteacher of St Mary's RC High School, acting as the Presenting Officer at the beginning of the Stage 1 of the Appeal process, stated that the school had room for another class in the new year 7 starting September 2008. This would enable the school to take up to 150 pupils, against a PAN of 135. The appeal panel felt that the only action they could take was to uphold 18 appeals because of the position stated.

There were originally 79 applicants on the waiting list. Other applicants on the waiting list (79 - 18 = 61 applicants) may now decide to appeal because the school has stated that they had capacity to take additional pupils above their PAN. It is also the case that the last person on the waiting list, who appealed, has been offered a place. This may prompt others to appeal.

In light of falling rolls the knock on effect is that other high schools will now have less pupils starting in year 7 in September 2008. The school most impacted upon is Aylestone who could lose up to 11 pupils. Also affected are John Masefield and Weobley.

2. Issues: Kingsland CE Primary School

The Kingsland C.E. Primary Governors at their meeting of Monday 14th April 2008 decided, to admit 23 pupils in the Reception Class starting in September 2008, against a Published Admission Number of 18.

At this meeting the Governors considered the 5 appeals submitted by parents who were not offered a place at Kingsland C.E. Primary. Places were not offered as a result of the Co-ordinated Primary Admission Arrangements for Herefordshire.

The Governors decided to uphold the 5 appeals and therefore offered places taking the number of admissions from 18 to 23. This was contrary to standard practice and outside of the Independent Appeal Panel process.

In light of falling rolls the knock on effect is that other primary schools will now have less pupils starting in year R in September 2008. The school impacted upon are Leominster, Luston and Shobdon.

Recommendation

THAT: the LAF consider whether either or both schools should be referred to the Schools Adjudicator.

Considerations

None

Risk Management

None

Background papers

None

Appendices

None