

CO-ORDINATED PRIMARY ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS REPORT BY SCHOOL SERVICES MANAGER

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

29 JANUARY 2004

Purpose

1. To consider the implementation of a co-ordinated primary admissions arrangement from September 2005

Co-ordinated Primary Admissions

2. The Education Act 2002 sets out the requirements to co-ordinate admissions in both the secondary and primary sector. The statutory instrument 2002/03 defined the process for implementing a qualifying primary scheme and gave LEAs the opportunity to commence the scheme from September 2005, which could be delayed a year if that was appropriate.
3. Paragraph A.41 of the School Admissions Code of Practice defined the statutory requirements of a primary scheme, which is shown as Appendix 1, together with paragraph A.38.
4. In view of the successful implementation of the secondary co-ordination scheme from September 2004 and with the new Foundation software in place within the Directorate, it seems logical to implement the primary scheme from September 2005.
5. Herefordshire has 84 primary schools (this includes the 2 Infant and Junior schools), 41 are community, 40 Church of England (20 Aided and 20 Controlled) and 3 Roman Catholic (all Aided). Any co-ordinated scheme will need the support of the Governing Bodies of the 23 Voluntary Aided schools, together with the approval of the two Diocesan Authorities.
6. To enable the LEA to finalise a draft scheme to present to the Local Admission Forum, it was felt that a Working Party of Headteachers, Chairman of Governors and the two Diocesan Authorities should meet to identify proposals to recommend. The first meeting was held on 15 December 2003, and a second, ratifying meeting, was held on 14 January 2004.
7. The group were unanimous in supporting the proposed draft scheme, which is attached as Appendix 2. The main points of the scheme will be:-
 - Two first preferences, in ranked order, on a common application form.
 - Closing date of 14 January 2005.
 - Offer date for all 84 primary schools of 21 March 2005.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Mark Chamberlain, School Services
Manager on 01432 260923

Recommendation

THAT:-

(a) the proposed co-ordinated policy be approved with any detailed amendments that might strengthen or further develop the arrangements;

and

(b) the Forum determine whether the co-ordination scheme for primary admissions be introduced for admissions in September 2005.