

# VOULNTARY AIDED SCHOOLS RESPONSE TO THE DFES LETTER DATED 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2006

## REPORT BY ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT MANAGER

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2006

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### Purpose

To note which VA Schools have amended their Admissions Policy following DfES intervention

### Financial Implications

None.

### Report

1. Colette Summerson from the DfES School Admission Team wrote to 15 VA Schools in Herefordshire about them not giving top priority to Looked After Children in their oversubscription criteria. The local authority has been aware that these admission authorities were not meeting their statutory responsibilities to look after children. The duty is set out in the 1998 Education Act within the provisions of S89(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006 determine that from 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2006 looked after children must be given first priority in over-subscription criteria. In relation to schools having a religious character first priority must be given to looked after child of that faith. The school may give all looked after children first priority, but must give looked after children priority over all other children not of that faith.
2. No action has been taken in the past as in Herefordshire there are approximately 170 looked after children in the County and over the past few years the authority has attempted to be sure that the small number who enter school or transfer to high school [less than 10 in each cohort] are admitted to schools of their preference. This has been successful and in practice, particularly with falling rolls, the intent of the law has been achieved.
3. For admissions for September 2007, there are 5 'looked after' children who are seeking a place in secondary schools.
4. To date we have received confirmation of amended oversubscription criteria from the following schools in line with the current legislation regarding Looked After Children:

Brampton Abbots C.E Primary School  
Ivington Church of England (V.A.) Primary School  
Staunton-on-Wye Endowed Primary School  
St Francis Xavier R.C. Primary School  
St Paul's Church of England (V.A.) Primary School

5. In addition The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School had previously amended its oversubscription criteria as shown in the Herefordshire Information for Parents Book 2007/2008.

## **Recommendation**

**THAT the report be noted.**

## **Background information**

- None identified.