

CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2016-17

This document outlines the proposed changes to admissions policy of community and voluntary controlled schools in the City for September 2016 and provides you with the opportunity to comment.

Admission authorities are required to consult for a minimum period of eight weeks between 1 November and 1 March in the determination year if they are changing their admission arrangements. The consultation period will commence on 31st December 2014 and will close at midnight on 28th February 2015

The general information about Leicester City Council's policies and arrangements for School Admissions can be found within our three information booklets ('Starting School', 'Transfer to Junior School' and 'Admission to Secondary School'). These booklets can be obtained from the School Admissions Service and are available online at: www.leicester.gov.uk/admissionsonline

Leicester City Council is not proposing any changes to its Relevant Area, which remains as the Leicester City administrative area.

Closing dates for applications for a school place in 2016:

The national closing dates will be 31 October 2015 for entry into Year 7 at secondary schools and 15 January 2016 for entry into Reception at primary schools.

Leicester City Council Proposals:

1. Removal of Permanent Waiting Lists: Currently the local authority keeps waiting lists for community and voluntary controlled schools on a year by year rolling basis. The School Admissions Code states that waiting list must be kept for a minimum until the end of the first term of the year of application. It is proposed, for community and voluntary controlled schools, to operate a waiting list for the first term only. Waiting lists will then be deleted. The waiting lists for voluntary aided, academy, trust and free schools will continue to be held by those individual schools from the allocation date. These schools may continue to operate their waiting lists past the end of the first term.

2. 2. An additional 'fourth' preference to allow parents to 'opt out' for their Catchment area school: Currently parents can make a maximum of three preferences, however, some parents, who decide not to use one of their three preferences for their catchment area school, can end up being allocated a school a long way from their home address. The inclusion of the catchment school is important as it places a child in a higher priority group for a place at a local school – this means they stand a better chance of getting a place in their catchment school which will be a reasonable distance from their home. There is a concern that parents/carers are unaware of the significance of including the catchment school within their preferences (i.e. a school allocated close to home). At the same time there is no requirement to insist parents/carers put down their catchment school as one of their three preferences. These two factors can create the unhelpful situation of a child being allocated a school place which is a considerable distance from home. It is therefore proposed that a 'fourth and final' preference be available for the *catchment area school only*. Parents will still be able to put their catchment area school as a first, second or third preference, and in these circumstance this fourth and final preference would not be available. But

if their catchment school does not appear as one of their top three choices there will be a fourth option which appears as their catchment school only and which parents/carers will specifically have to decline.

The proposed scheme of co-ordination for Primary, Secondary, First Time and In-Year admissions is available at <http://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/education-and-childrens-services/admission-arrangements-for-2016-17/> or from the School Admissions Service.

Comments on these proposals, or any other views on the admission arrangements for 2016, should be sent to: **Steve Letten, Service Manager (School Admissions) by 28 February 2014.** (Contact details below).

Alternatively, you may wish to use the attached response form. Following the end of the consultation period, the Leicester City Admissions Forum will consider all of the arrangements for 2016 and the comments made. Respective admissions authorities must make a final determination of their 2016 school admissions arrangements by 15 April 2015. Details of the outcomes will be published shortly afterwards.

If you require any details or clarification about this consultation, please contact: Steve Letten – steve.letten@leicester.gov.uk – or call 0116 454 6211

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

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1. It is proposed, for community and voluntary controlled schools, to operate a waiting list for the first term only.

Do you agree with the proposal:

Agree Disagree Not sure (please circle your response)

Any comment?

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2. It is proposed to add an additional 'fourth and final' preference for parents to apply for their catchment area school if they have not applied for it in their other three preferences. If parents have applied for their catchment area school in their first, second or third preference then this fourth preference would not be available.

This is suggested to help prevent children being allocated to a school some distance from their home address should they not apply for their catchment area school.

Do you agree with the proposal:

Agree Disagree Not sure (please circle your response)

Any comment?

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If you have any other comments about the admission arrangements for 2016 please include them in the space below:

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Position (e.g. Parent, Headteacher, Governor, Chair of Governors, Other)

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School (if a Head, Governor or Chair of Governors)

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Please return your completed form to any Customer Service Centre, who will then ensure that they are received by Steve Letten, Admissions Service, 16 New Walk, Leicester. LE1 6UB