

## **Consultation on Proposed Admission Arrangements for 2017-18**

This document outlines the proposed admissions arrangements for community and controlled schools in Leicester City for 2017/18 and provides you with the opportunity to comment.

Admission Authorities are required to consult for a minimum period of six weeks between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year. The consultation period will commence on 26 October 2015 and will close at midnight on 6 December 2015.

Comprehensive information about these proposed arrangements for school admissions can be found online at:

<https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/education-and-childrens-services/admission-arrangements-for-2017-18>

These are summarised below.

### **Closing dates for applications for school places in 2017:**

The closing dates will be 31 October 2016 for entry into Year 7 at secondary schools and 15 January 2017 for entry into reception at infant and primary schools and Year 3 in junior schools.

### **Leicester City Council Proposals:**

There have been a number of changes to Leicester City's admission arrangements since these were last consulted on in accordance with the requirements in the Admissions Code. Changes to the arrangements have been determined by the Council's Executive outside the normal timescale and by the Schools Adjudicator. Details of these are set out below:

#### **Coordinated Scheme for Admissions 2017/18 (Appendix 1)**

The revised scheme for 2016/17 was determined by the Council's Executive on 28 August 2015. The three amendments to clarify admission arrangements and provide a better service to families were approved. These were:

Paragraph 1.7: the addition of the option for parents to have their catchment area school considered as a further preference (where this is not one of their three preferences) for admission at the normal time.

Paragraph 3: Change of address: inclusion of a paragraph setting out the circumstances under which a change of address will be considered and a cut-off date after which a change of address cannot be taken into account.

Paragraph 8.2: Late applications: the addition of a paragraph to take account of circumstances where a family moves into Leicester after the closing date for applications and therefore could not make an on time application.

The Council is proposing to maintain these arrangements for 2017/18.

## **Oversubscription criteria for first time admission to schools (Appendix 2)**

The City Council applied for an “in year variation” to the consulted and determine arrangements for first time admission for 2016/17. This was designed to:

- give higher priority to siblings of children at a school, irrespective of whether they live in the catchment area, to help keep siblings together;.
- extend priority for siblings at an infant school to include siblings attending a linked junior school;
- give higher priority to children of families who can demonstrate that they are fleeing domestic violence.

The request was approved on 13 October 2015 and the 2016/17 arrangements have been amended.

The Council is proposing to maintain these arrangements for 2017/18.

## **Oversubscription criteria for admission to junior schools (Appendix 3)**

As the infant to junior arrangements for 2016/17 had not previously been consulted on or determined, the Council's Executive on 28 August 2015 approved changes to the oversubscription criteria in operation in the previous year to keep siblings together wherever possible. Children living outside the catchment area but with siblings at the school (or linked school) be given priority over those living in the catchment area of a school but without a sibling at the school.

The links between each of the 9 pairs of separate infant and junior schools were formalised to give priority at a junior school to children who had previously attended the linked infant school to treat them equitably with children attending all through primary schools.

Children whose families can demonstrate that they are fleeing domestic violence are given a higher priority than previously.

The Council is proposing to maintain these arrangements for 2017/18

## **Oversubscription criteria for admission to secondary schools (Appendix 4)**

It is proposed to change the arrangements for admission to secondary school to make these consistent with the arrangements at other phases, by promoting sibling connections for those in Year 7 to 10 above children living in the catchment area of a school.

It is not proposed to extend the sibling link to Year 11 as these students only attend for a relatively short period of the year, due to exam and study leave and work placements.

Children whose families can demonstrate that they are fleeing domestic violence are given a higher priority than previously.

The Council is consulting on these changes to the current arrangements.

**Published admission numbers for 2017/18**

It is proposed to maintain the same published admission numbers for community and controlled schools as those published for 2016/17. However, these may be revised at a later date should pressure on places necessitate this. Whilst we are not required to consult on increases to PAN we will consult, as required by the Admissions Code, on any proposal to reduce any PANs.

The Council is proposing to maintain these arrangements for 2017/18.

Proposed PANs for each phase can be found within the proposed admission arrangements (Appendices 2,3 and 4)

**LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL**

**CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2017-18**

**1. It is proposed to maintain the 2016/17 coordinated admissions scheme for 2017/18.**

Any comment?

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**2. It is proposed to maintain the arrangements for first time admission in 2016/17 as varied by the Schools Adjudicator for 2017/18.**

Any comment?

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**3. It is proposed to maintain the 2016/17 arrangements for transfer from infant to junior school in 2017/18.**

Any comment?

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**4. It is proposed to amend the arrangements for transfer between primary and secondary school for 2017/18 to give higher priority to siblings.**

Any comment?

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Please add any comments you wish to make on any aspect of Admission Arrangements for 2017/18 (continue overleaf, or use a separate sheet if you need to).

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**In what capacity are you responding?**

- Parent / carer
- Governor
- Head teacher / teacher
- Local representative group
- Faith organisation
- Local authority

Other (please specify below)

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