

Determination of admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools 2020-21

**Forward Plan reference number: FP/323/12/18**

<b>Report title:</b> Determination of admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools 2020-21	
<b>Report to:</b> Cllr Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member for Education	
<b>Report author:</b> Clare Kershaw, Director, Education	
<b>Date:</b> 19 February 2019	<b>For:</b> Decision
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex	

## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. The Council, as the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools within Essex, is required to consult upon, and determine the admission arrangements for these schools each year. The arrangements for admissions in the 2020-21 academic year must, by law, be determined by no later than 28 February 2019.
- 1.2. The purpose of this report is to fulfil the statutory requirement for the Council to determine the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Essex for admissions in the 2020-21 academic year.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. To agree that the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2020-21 be determined as detailed in Schedule 1 to this report.

## **3. Background and proposal**

- 3.1. The law requires that the Local Authority (LA), as the admission authority, determines the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Essex each year. The arrangements for the 2020-21 academic year must be determined by 28 February 2019.
- 3.2. The admission arrangements apply to community and voluntary controlled schools in all County Divisions.
- 3.3. Legislation prescribes the persons and groups that must be consulted when a local authority is preparing its proposed admission arrangements.

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- 3.4. The Council, as required by the Department for Education (DfE) School Admissions Code (the Code), carried out the period of statutory consultation on the proposed published admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled schools between 6 December 2018 and 17 January 2019. The consultation was shared with the governing bodies of all of these schools. No objections were received during this consultation.
- 3.5. More specifically, the Council consulted more widely on the proposed reduction to the published admission numbers for 2 schools, namely Church Langley Community Primary School and Baynards Primary School.
- 3.6. In these cases of these schools named, as well as consulting the governing bodies of the schools, all other admission authorities in the relevant area i.e. the Essex district area were also consulted and parents were also provided with the opportunity to comment through the consultation documents on the County Council website.
- 3.7. In respect of Church Langley Community Primary School, it is recommended that the published admission number (PAN) at this school be reduced from 90 to 60. This is to reflect the available accommodation at the school as 60 children are expected to leave the school in Year 6 in the summer of 2020, leaving two classrooms available for the new Reception intake of September 2020.
- 3.8. In relation to Baynards Primary School, the recommendation is to reduce the published admission number (PAN) from 30 to 15. There are sufficient school places available in the local area and the proposal is not expected to disadvantage any family with a child currently at the school or living within the priority admission area.
- 3.9. There were no objections during the consultation process to either of the proposals in paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8 above.
- 3.10. No changes to the oversubscription criteria for any community and voluntary controlled schools are proposed, with these recommended to remain the same as those determined for 2019-20 admissions.
- 3.11. The recommendation to the Cabinet Member is therefore to determine the admission arrangements as detailed in the schedule appended to this report.

## **4. Policy context and Outcomes Framework**

- 4.1. The arrangements align with the Essex Organisation Strategy which has a number of aims, one of which is to help keep vulnerable children safer and enable them to fulfil their potential. Fair and lawful admission arrangements will ensure that residents have access to school places and education.

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### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1. This decision has no financial or resource implications.

### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1. The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 require the admission authority for each school to determine the admission arrangements which apply to that school.
- 6.2. For admissions in the 2020-21 academic year, these regulations require that such arrangements be determined by no later than 28 February 2019.
- 6.3. In preparing the attached arrangements, officers have had full regard to the requirements of the School Admissions Code (2014) and other legislation relevant to School Admissions.
- 6.4. The arrangements comply with the law and contain no prohibited criteria.

### **7. Staffing and other resource implications**

- 7.1. No additional human resources beyond existing resources will be required as a result of this decision. There are no employment legislation implications.

### **8. Equality and Diversity implications**

- 8.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 creates the public sector equality duty which requires that when ECC makes decisions it must have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act
  - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation.
- 8.3 The admission arrangements detailed in the attachments to this report do not unlawfully discriminate against any persons or group. The Council believes the arrangements are fair, clear and easy to understand (as required by the Code) and that they comply with all aspects of school admissions legislation.

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8.4 The equality impact assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

## **9. List of Appendices**

9.1 Schedule 1 – Determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled secondary schools for 2020-21

9.2 Schedule 2 – Determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled infant, junior and primary schools for 2020-21

9.3 Equality impact assessment

## **10. List of Background Papers**

10.1 The School Admissions Code 2014

<b>Role</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Executive Director for Corporate Services and Customer Operations (S151 Officer)</b>  <b>Approved by Andrew Page</b>  <b>Margaret Lee</b>	5 February 2019
<b>Monitoring Officer</b>  <b>Paul Turner</b>	8 February 2019
<b>Director, Education</b>  <b>Clare Kershaw</b>	15 February 2019
<b>I agree the recommendations in this report for the reasons set out in the report.</b>  <b>Cllr Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills</b>	21 February 2019