

Extracts from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator Annual Reports.

Extract from the 2016 to 2017 report

The 2014 School Admissions Code allowed all admission authorities to give priority in their admission arrangements to children on the basis of eligibility for one or more of the pupil, early years or service premiums (the premiums). Local authority reports show that the admission authorities for over 300 schools now make use of one or more of the premiums in their oversubscription criteria. While this is a small proportion of the overall number of schools, I have noted that the schools which give such priority are a diverse group covering all age ranges, rural and urban schools, large and small schools and different categories of schools.

Extract from the 2017 to 2018 report

Last year, I reported that local authorities had told me that the admission authorities for over 300 schools were giving some priority in their arrangements to children on the basis of eligibility for one or more of the pupil, early years or service premiums (the premiums). This year's reports suggest that the admission authorities for around 550 schools now make use of one or more of the premiums in their oversubscription criteria and I say more about this in part 2 of this report. This year I also asked about numbers of children educated at home – what is known as elective home education. Again I say more about this in part 2 of this report, including the reasons local authorities consider lie behind the decisions of some parents to remove their children from school for home education and the 4 consequences of such decisions.

Extract from the 2018 to 2019 report

The number of schools where some priority is given to children entitled to one or more of the premiums has continued to grow and according to the figures provided for me now stands at 730 compared to 67 for admissions in 2016 which is the first year for which I have the relevant figures. Following a letter sent by the Minister of State for School Standards to admission authorities in December 2017 encouraging them to consider giving a high priority to children previously in care outside England, we asked local authorities about the number of schools giving such priority. Reports from local authorities suggest that the arrangements for over 6,000 schools include such priority and more details are given in part 2 of this report.

Extract from the 2019 to 2020 report

Part 2 of the report summarises reports made to me by local authorities in accordance with a template provided by the OSA. In the light of the Covid-19 pandemic and with the agreement of the DfE, I reduced the scope of the template so that it covered only those matters which the School Admissions Code (the Code) requires to be covered. This means that I did not ask about and so cannot report on such areas as elective home education and the use of the pupil premium.

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