

Appendix 'B'

There were no responses to the consultation about Lancashire's proposed co-ordinated admission scheme for 2017/18.

In relation to the added section 6 about infant school to junior school transfers this has been subject to separate consultation as part of Lancashire's process of determining admission arrangements for its community and voluntary controlled primary schools. Details will be available in the separate cabinet report about determining arrangements for 2017/18.

The additional paragraph in the co-ordinated scheme links with this consultation.

All of Lancashire's infant and junior head teachers received a letter and briefing note in September 2015 prior to formal consultation. The briefing note below is for information.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY LANCASHIRE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

Lancashire has only 6 infant and 6 (associated) junior schools. These are:-

Ribbleton Avenue Infant; Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior; Leyland Methodist Infant; Leyland Methodist Junior; Leyland St Andrew's CE Infants; Woodlea Junior; Rosegrove Infants; Lowerhouse Junior; Whitefield Infants and Lomeshaye Junior.

(Heyhouses CEP is a single school on a split site and Deepdale Infants and Juniors has now amalgamated into a single school).

1) INFANT SCHOOL SIBLING CRITERION

Section 1 - Paragraph 1.12 of the School Admission Code 2014 states that:-

"Some schools give priority to siblings of pupils attending another state funded school with which they have close links. Where this is the case this priority must be set out clearly in the arrangements".

For the infant schools above the current admission policy for all Lancashire community and voluntary controlled schools does include siblings as criterion 3). This does not specify however if the sibling link applies to children who will be on roll in Years 1 and 2 when the young child starts, or whether it extends the sibling link to Years 3 to 6 at the associated junior school.

*My view is that the sibling link should apply across the full age range for the associated schools - this will minimise instances where siblings born close together would potentially receive offers for different schools (further away from the infant / junior sites)
We will however need to spell this out more clearly in future information for parents and schools.*

2) INFANT TO JUNIOR TRANSFERS

*The introduction of the School Admissions Code - Paragraph 15 d requires that:-
"All parents can express 3 preferences and that a school's admission authority must rank these against published admission criteria".*

The point being that Year 2 to Year 3 transfers should not be automatic and all parents should be made aware that for Lancashire's junior schools they can apply for a Year 3 place even if their child is not on roll at the associated infant school. Also any new to area families who require a Year 3 place are entitled at transfer time to have their application prioritised alongside those wishing to transfer from the associated infant school.

In addition we must also clarify the sibling link from the junior schools in relation to their associated infant school. Again I would prefer that the sibling link applied downwards to minimise making offers for schools which are some distance apart.

Clearly if there are enough places at the junior school to accommodate all applications then transfers can simply proceed - but we need to be more explicit about the opportunity to apply and about the need for the Local Authority be actively involved in instigating a formal admission round where this is required (where there is oversubscription).