

**CONSULTATION ON ADMISSIONS 2007-2008:  
FOUNDATION AND VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To report to the Forum on the proposed arrangements for Hertfordshire Foundation and Voluntary Aided Primary Schools for 2007-2008.
- 1.2 To highlight to members of the Forum recent information received from the DfES regarding regulations relating to Looked After Children which come into force on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006.
- 1.3 To remind members of the Forum about areas of concern previously brought to their attention and which have been raised by the Schools Adjudicator.
- 1.4 To highlight those aspects of the proposed arrangements where there may be areas of concern and to invite the Forum to comment, where applicable.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The proposed admission arrangements for Foundation and Voluntary Aided Primary schools have previously been circulated. The Forum is asked to note and comment on these proposals.
- 2.2 An analysis of the areas where there is potentially non-compliance with the Schools Admissions Code of Practice and the imminent regulations on LAC is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The LA has written to Headteachers of individual Voluntary Aided and Foundation primary schools over the last month, where the proposed admission arrangements indicate potential non-compliance. These letters specifically raise concern over the following themes:
  - Looked After Children, and the regulations which come into force on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006
  - Equal Opportunity issues, for example where priority is given to children of the incumbent religious leader
  - Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs.

The letters also highlight the duty placed upon LAs to refer objections to the Adjudicator and then go on, where applicable, to draw attention to other issues relating to the specific admission arrangements.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Code of Practice requires that the Forum should seek to ensure that the interests of local parents and children collectively are well served by local admission arrangements. In the Annual Report of the Schools Adjudicator for 2004-2005, published on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005, the Adjudicator outlines “Schools need to be reminded that admission arrangements are drawn up for the benefit of local parents, not for themselves. We are still seeing too many cases where arrangements are not clear enough ...”.
- 3.2 At its last meeting, the Admissions Forum noted the activity which had taken place during summer/autumn 2005, with the Diocese of St Albans and the Archdiocese of Westminster concerning the determined arrangements for 2005 for specific schools and the need for clarity relating to Looked After Children and those with special needs.
- 3.3 Regulations relating to Looked After Children were laid before Parliament on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 and they come into force on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006 - the following provides the detail.
- 3.4 **The Looked After Children (LAC) Regulations** - once the regulations on Looked After Children come into force, all admission authorities must ensure that they give top priority to these children in their published admission arrangements for September 2007 onwards, i.e. above all other mainstream applicants. It is understood that it will not be acceptable to give priority to LAC within any individual criterion as that would mean that some LAC would not be given sufficient priority to secure admission. With regard to schools with a denominational status, the minimum requirement will be to give priority to LAC of the faith, though guidance will encourage them to give priority to all LAC. Any admission authority that has already consulted on and determined its arrangements for that year must amend its arrangements if they are not compliant with those regulations.
- 3.5 Schools in Hertfordshire have been advised of this update.

### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 Members of the Admissions Forum are asked to note the report which should serve to aid their consideration and, where applicable, decisions to respond to the proposed admission arrangements for Foundation and Voluntary-Aided Primary Schools.

Sch No.	Relevant area	Prim / Sec	Name	1st pref 1st	LAC	Equal Opps (staff, parents, siblings etc)	Changes to PAN (including if PAN less than IAN)	Changes to feeder schools	Any other changes to rules / comments	Ok	Comments / History
4	1	Prim	St John's RC Primary		√				no explicit priority for SEN		
23	1	Prim	St Nicholas C of E (VA) Primary						other concerns with arrangements		
26	1	Prim	St Thomas More RC Primary		√				concern about SEN issues & refers to standard numbers		
52	2	Prim	Barkway VA (C of E) First						issues re completion of both forms		
84	2	Prim	St Mary's RC Primary		√				no tiebreak & other concerns with arrangements		
64	3	Prim	Cockernhoe Endowed C of E Primary	√					other concerns with arrangements		
63	3	Prim	Offley Endowed Primary		√				no explicit priority for SEN, clarity needed in the role of the headteacher and use of standard number, other concerns with arrangements		
45	3	Prim	Our Lady RC Primary		√				no explicit priority for SEN		
41	3	Prim	St Andrew's C of E VA		√				no explicit priority for SEN or exceptional reasons, no tiebreak in place, other concerns with arrangements		
59	3	Prim	St Ippolyts C of E (Aided) Primary		√	√			concern about use of standard numbers, rules given priority to children of incumbent, no SEN priority		
193	4	Prim	Aston St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary		√				no sen priority & PAN not mentioned		
149	4	Prim	St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary		√				no sen priority & confusion over distance measuring		

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120	4	Prim	St Nicholas C of E Primary (Stevenage)			√			concern about priority for past siblings, no explicit sen priority, other concerns with arrangements		
140	4	Prim	St Vincent de Paul RC Primary		√				no sen priority, other concerns with arrangements		
195	5	Prim	All Saints C E (VA) Primary		√				no sen priority & no specific priority for exceptional needs		
192	5	Prim	Ardeley St Lawrence C of E VA Primary				*		* School are in discussion with Planning to increase their PAN from 15 to 18	OK	
321	5	Prim	St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary		√				no specific SEN priority & concern about distance measurements		
229	6	Prim	Albury C of E (VA) Primary		√				no specific SEN priority, tie break problem, other concerns with arrangements		
212	6	Prim	All Saints C of E Primary and Nursery		√				no specific priority for SEN, other concerns with arrangements		
235	6	Prim	Hormead C of E VA Primary		√				exceptional reasons not a priority, clarity needed on measuring, other concerns with arrangements		
236	6	Prim	St Andrew's C of E		√				no specific SEN priority		
207	6	Prim	St Joseph's Catholic		√				school need to clarify PAN, no specific SEN priority, no tiebreak or explanation of measurements, other concerns with arrangements		

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208	6	Prim	St Michael's C of E VA Primary		√				other concerns with arrangements		
494	7	Prim	St Dominic RC Primary		√				no explicit priority for SEN		
459	7	Prim	St Helen's Church of England		√	√	IAN = 42		no explicit priority for SEN		
486	7	Prim	St Nicholas C of E VA Primary		√				no explicit priority for SEN		
539	8	Prim	Holy Family RC Primary		√				no explicit sen priority, concern about definition of measuring		
527	8	Prim	Our Lady's RC Primary		√				Sen not overall top priority, siblings & exceptional reasons not a clear criterion		
504	8	Prim	St John's VA C of E Primary		√				no overall priority to SEN		
561	8	Prim	St John's VA C of E Primary		√				no explicit priority to SEN, other concerns with arrangements		
505	8	Prim	St Michael's Woolmer Green VA C of E								
503	8	Prim	Welwyn St Mary's C of E VA Primary		√	√			no specific SEN priority, other concerns with arrangements		
305	9	Prim	Christ Church (C of E) V A						Sen not top priority, other concerns with arrangements		
266	9	Prim	Hertingfordbury Cowper Primary	√	√	√	IAN = 22		other concerns with arrangements, issue concerning appeals		
320	9	Prim	Puller Memorial C of E		√				issues regarding administration of the rules		
312	9	Prim	Sacred Heart RC Primary		√				no explicit priority to SEN, other concerns with arrangements		
316	9	Prim	St John The Baptist VA C of E								

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255	9	Prim	St Joseph's RC Primary								
268	9	Prim	Stapleford Primary				IAN = 15				
271	9	Prim	Tewin Cowper C of E VA Primary		√				no specific priority to SEN or other exceptional reasons, refers to Standard Number, SIF asks for ranking info		
936	10	Prim	Bishop Wood C of E Junior		√	√			method of measuring distance not given		
927	10	Prim	Long Marston Primary		√						
929	10	Prim	St Bartholomew's C of E VA						No explicit priority to SEN		
930	11	Prim	Little Gaddesden CE Voluntary Aided							OK	
916	11	Prim	St Mary's VA C of E First School		√				no explicit priority for SEN		
920	11	Prim	St Thomas More RC Primary		√				no explicit priority for SEN		
922	11	Prim	Thomas Coram C of E VA Middle(The)		√		*		* consulting on a PAN of 93 - was 100 - Paul Wray discussing with school. SEN not given explicit priority		
917	11	Prim	Victoria C of E First School		√						
904	12	Prim	Great Gaddesden C of E Primary		√						
824	12	Prim	Nash Mills C of E Primary		√				no explicit priority to SEN		
854	12	Prim	St Albert the Great RC Primary		√				no specific SEN priority, no definition of safe walking route, cannot restrict proportion of non-catholics		

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843	12	Prim	St Cuthbert Mayne RC Junior		√	√			no specific SEN priority, no description of measurement criteria		
860	12	Prim	St Rose's Catholic Infants		√				no specific priority to SEN		
427	13	Prim	Abbey C of E Voluntary Aided		√				no specific priority for exceptional reasons or SEN		
606	13	Prim	Clore Shalom			√					school amended their proposal in light of comments from HCC
424	13	Prim	Park Street C of E V A						SEN does not get overall priority		
433	13	Prim	St Adrian's RC Primary		√				no specific priority to SEN		
428	13	Prim	St Alban & St Stephen RC Infant		√				no specific priority to SEN		
413	13	Prim	St Alban & St Stephen RC Junior		√				no specific priority to SEN		
467	13	Prim	St Bernadette RC		√				no specific priority to SEN		
465	13	Prim	St John Fisher RC Primary		√				no specific priority to SEN		
425	13	Prim	St Michael's C of E VA Primary		√				no specific priority to SEN & misleading and inaccurate information in the notes (point 2)		
574	14	Prim	Brookmans Park		√				other concerns with arrangements		
570	14	Prim	Countess Anne VA C of E Primary		√				clarification needed on SEN rule & not top priority, SIF asks for rankings		

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565	14	Prim	St Mary's Church of England		√				no overall priority for SEN, other concerns with arrangements		
582	14	Prim	St Philip Howard RC Primary		√	√			no specific priority to SEN, distance measuring needs clarifying, no specific priority to siblings		
282	15	Prim	Broxbourne C of E Primary		√	√			no specific priority to SEN, other concerns with arrangements		
352	15	Prim	Holy Trinity Church of England Primary		√				no specific priority to SEN		
287	15	Prim	St Augustine RC Primary		√				no specific SEN priority, unclear about distance measuring, other concerns with arrangements		
356	15	Prim	St Clement's CE VA Junior		√						
289	15	Prim	St Cross RC Primary		√				no specific SEN priority, clarification on rule 8 & distance measuring		
351	15	Prim	St Joseph's RC Primary								
373	15	Prim	St Paul's RC Primary		√				no specific Sen priority, unclear distance measuring		
687	16	Prim	Christ Church Church of England		√	√			no specific SEN priority, other concerns with arrangements		
705	16	Prim	St John's RC Primary		√				no specific priority to SEN, doesn't make it clear that separate admissions for nursery		

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698	16	Prim	St Mary's C of E Primary		√				priority to children on incumbent, no specific priority to SEN, doesn't make it clear that separate admissions for nursery		
909	16	Prim	St Paul's C of E VA Primary						no specific priority to SEN & need to clarify separate nursery admissions		
702	16	Prim	St Peter's C of E VA Primary						need to clarify separate admissions to nursery		
788	17	Prim	Divine Saviour RC Primary						Concerns regarding SEN		
751	17	Prim	Holy Rood RC Primary		√				No specific priority to SEN		
724	17	Prim	St Anthony RC Primary		√				no specific priority for SEN		
748	17	Prim	St Catherine of Siena RC J M I		√				no specific priority for SEN		
775	17	Prim	St Joseph's RC Primary		√				no specific priority for SEN		
779	17	Prim	St Paul's C of E Primary		√				no specific priority to SEN, need clarity on separate nursery admissions		
784	18	Prim	Fair Field Junior			√			issue concerning appeals		
792	18	Prim	Hertsmere Jewish Primary (VA)			√			concern about withholding places, SEN not top priority, noted arrangements are generally complicated		
680	18	Prim	Little Reddings Primary						concern about appeals		
682	18	Prim	Sacred Heart Catholic						explicit priority for SEN needed		
623	18	Prim	St Teresa's RC Primary		√				no specific priority for SEN		
621	19	Prim	Parkside Community Primary						concern that distance is measured as crow flies		

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610	19	Prim	St Nicholas Elstree C of E VA Primary		√				no specific priority to SEN, need clarity on separate nursery admissions		
568	20	Prim	Cuffley		√				no explicit SEN priority, no tiebreaks or measurement definition, other concerns with arrangements		
567	20	Prim	Little Heath Primary		√				other concerns with arrangements, no tie-break in place		
564	20	Prim	Northaw C of E Primary		√				SEN not overall top priority, other concerns with arrangements		
662	20	Prim	Pope Paul RC Primary						no explicit priority to SEN		
654	20	Prim	St Giles' C of E Primary							√	
663	20	Prim	Wroxham (The)							√	
105	4	Sec	John Henry Newman RC		√				no specific priority given to exceptional reasons		
203	6	Sec	Bishop's Stortford High School (The)	√			IAN = 167		unclear how residence will be determined, uses straight lines measurement, clarity needed on PAN		
201	6	Sec	Hertfordshire and Essex High (The)				IAN = 164	√	percentage of places available to different groups of feeder schools has changed		
202	6	Sec	Hockerill Anglo-European College		√		IAN = 97		no explicit priority to SEN, admission number concerns		
220	6	Sec	Leventhorpe (The)	√	√				no explicit priority to SEN, gives priority to those who have completed the SIF, no explicit priority for exceptional reasons, no mention of PAN.		

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205	6	Sec	St Mary Roman Catholic		√				other concerns with arrangements		
480	7	Sec	St George's		√	√			no specific priority for SEN, uses straight line measurements, children of staff rule not related to recruitment and retention		
915	11	Sec	Ashlyns				IAN = 282			OK	
814	12	Sec	John F Kennedy Roman Catholic						no explicit priority to SEN & use straight line measuring		
403	13	Sec	Francis Bacon		√				Priority in rules given to SEN pupils twice		
404	13	Sec	Loreto College			√			issues with distance measurement, clarification needed on children of staff rule, no overall priority to SEN, other concerns with arrangements		
409	13	Sec	Marlborough		√				concern about appeals & arrangements use straight line measuring		
444	13	Sec	Nicholas Breakspear RC						no explicit priority to SEN		
408	13	Sec	Townsend C of E (VA) Secondary			√			concerns about no right to appeal and priority given to siblings of past pupils, no overall priority for SEN		
553	14	Sec	Chancellor's		√				other concerns with arrangements		
340	15	Sec	Cheshunt							OK	
341	15	Sec	Goffs		√		IAN = 216		children of staff rule needs clarity, need more info about aptitude testing, issue concerning appeals		

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277	15	Sec	John Warner School		√		IAN = 189				
344	15	Sec	St Mary's Church of England High		√				other concerns with arrangements		
690	16	Sec	Rickmansworth		√				re-consulting on using 2006 arrangements which were overturned by OSA. SEN not top priority, percentage level of selection increased, uses straight line measuring, local issues with Maple Cross and Mill End		
685	16	Sec	St Clement Danes		√	√			SEN not top priority		
704	16	Sec	St Joan of Arc RC		√				right to appeal not made clear, uses straight line measuring		
671	17	Sec	Bushey Hall		√		IAN = 240		needs clarity on appeals		School amended their proposed arrangements in light of letter from HCC
760	17	Sec	Parmiter's		√				no overall priority for SEN		
719	17	Sec	St Michael's Catholic High School		√				no specific priority for SEN, originally proposed reduced PAN but since reverted to existing PAN		
710	17	Sec	Watford Grammar School for Boys		√				Priority for LAC and SEN need to be made more explicit		
711	17	Sec	Watford Grammar School for Girls		√				Priority for LAC and SEN need to be made more explicit		
672	18	Sec	Bushey Meads		√				concern about straight line measuring		

APPENDIX 1

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670	18	Sec	Queens'						consulting on reduced PAN of 232 which Planning are handling. Clarification needed of right to appeal		
604	19	Sec	Hertsmere Jewish High School							√	
653	20	Sec	Dame Alice Owen's		√				other concerns with arrangements, issue concerning appeals		
651	20	Sec	Mount Grace							OK	