

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2002 AT 2.00 P.M.

Agenda Item No.

2

STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION RULES FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED NURSERY, INFANT, JUNIOR AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

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Executive Member:- Robert Gordon

1. Purpose of report

To make proposals for possible admission rules for the academic year beginning September 2003.

2. Summary

2.1 Statutory consultation involved proposals to change two existing rules and introduce an admissions process for children entering junior schools as required by the Rotherham Judgement.

2.2 The proposed rule changes were generally supported (85% of questionnaire responses) but considerable anxiety was expressed about the effect of introducing a separate admissions process for junior schools. The main concern was for the continuity of education of children attending linked infant schools.

3. Conclusion

3.1 There is general support for the following admission rules from September 2003:

Rule 1: Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school

Rule 2: Children who can prove that they have a particular medical or social reason why they must go to the school

Rule 3: Children who have a brother or sister on the roll of the school, or linked school

Rule 4: Children who attend the linked infant school at the time of application.

Rule 5 : Children for whom the school is the nearest in relation to alternative schools (if more families qualify under this rule than there are places available, those families with the longest extra journey to an alternative school with places will be given priority).

This rule will be applied until 90% of places at the school have been allocated.

Rule 6: Children who live nearest to the school.

3.2 The Cabinet will be provided with specific proposals from the CSF Resources Panel after its meeting of 20 March.

3.3 The Cabinet needs to decide what proposals to make to the Council on rules for admissions to nursery, infant, junior and primary schools in September 2003.

1. Background

1.1 Approximately 1500 copies of the consultation document have been distributed to schools and statutory consultees. The documents were also posted on the Hertsdirect website. The consultation process closed on 1 March. 133 responses were received from statutory consultees by 5 March. Parental responses are considered in sections 1.4 and 1.5 below.

1.2 Responses from statutory consultees can be summarised as follows:-

Local Council Members	20
Schools	109
Other Statutory Consultees	4

1.3 In overall terms the statutory responses indicated support for the proposals, although there was a marked difference in the level of acceptance by infant and junior schools who are the ones directly affected by the proposal to introduce a separate application process. A detailed analysis is attached as Appendix A. The summary position is as follows :-

Q1 – Do you agree with the proposed amendment to Rule 3? (Delete the word “older” from the existing rule)

Responses from	No of responses	Agree or largely agree
All	132	94.70%
Infant & Junior Schools	34	85.29%

Q2 – Do you agree with the proposed change to Rule 4? (Applying existing rule 4 until 90% of places have been allocated)

Responses from	No of responses	Agree or largely agree
All	129	93.8%
Infant & Junior Schools	33	90.91%

Q3 – Do you agree with making applications to junior schools?

Responses from	No of responses	Agree or largely agree
All	122	65.67%
Infant & Junior Schools	33	18.18%

Q4 – Do you agree with the proposed rules for Nursery, Infant, Junior and Primary Community/Voluntary Controlled School?

Responses from	No of responses	Agree or largely agree
All	124	86.29%
Infant & Junior Schools	32	68.75%

1.4 In addition to responses from the statutory consultees, 106 letters, 40 Emails, 12 consultation response forms and 16 telephone calls had been received from parents by

5 March. These were almost universally opposed to the proposal to establish a procedure for the parents of children in infant schools to apply for a place at a linked or non-linked junior school as required by the Rotherham judgement. The main argument against this change was the need to ensure continuity of education when a child joins a linked infant school.

- 1.5 Some schools have expressed concern that this lack of certainty will affect their popularity with parents. There were also 152 requests from parents at Brookland Infant and Nursery School for a rule to be introduced giving priority for junior admissions to those attending a linked infant school.
- 1.6 In response to this very strong feedback, the CSF Resources Panel will be asked to consider the possibility of introducing a new rule giving priority to children moving from an infant to a linked junior school. The Panel will also be asked to recommend the position of this rule relative to the existing Rule 3 (sibling already on the role of the school or linked school). A list of the schools affected by this rule is attached as Appendix B.

2. Financial implications

The estimated cost of introducing a separate admission process for junior schools is £8,500

APPENDIX A

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES FROM STATUTORY CONSULTEES

Nursery Schools	8 (from a possible 16)
First Schools	4 (from a possible 17)
Infant Schools	23 (from a possible 49)
Junior Schools	14 (from a possible 45)
JMI Schools	60 (from a possible 308)

Q1 – Do you agree with the proposed amendment to Rule 3?

	Agree	Largely Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All responses	99 (75%)	26 (20%)	4 (3%)	3 (2%)
Members & Statutory Consultees	19 (79%)	5 (21%)	0	0
All schools:	80 (75%)	20 (19%)	4 (4%)	3 (3%)
<i>Infant and Junior Schools</i>	20 (59%)	9 (26%)	3 (9%)	2 (6%)
<i>Nursery, First & JMI Schools</i>	60 (82%)	11 (15%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)

Q2 – Do you agree with the proposed change to Rule 4?

	Agree	Largely Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All responses	84 (65%)	37 (29%)	4 (3%)	4 (3%)
Members & Statutory Consultees	13 (57%)	9 (39%)	1 (4%)	0
All schools	70 (67%)	28 (27%)	3 (3%)	4 (4%)
<i>Infant and Junior Schools</i>	17 (52%)	13 (40%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)
<i>Nursery, First & JMI Schools</i>	53 (74%)	15 (21%)	2 (3%)	2 (3%)

Q3 – Do you agree with making applications to junior schools?

	Agree	Largely Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All responses	58 (48%)	22 (18%)	11 (9%)	31 (35%)
Members & Statutory Consultees	16 (76%)	4 (19%)	0	1 (5%)
All schools	41 (41%)	18 (18%)	11 (11%)	30 (30%)
<i>Infant and Junior Schools</i>	2 (6%)	4 (12%)	4 (12%)	23 (70%)
<i>Nursery, First & JMI Schools</i>	39 (58%)	14 (21%)	7 (10%)	7 (10%)

Q4 – Do you agree with the proposed rules for Nursery, Infant, Junior and Primary Community/Voluntary Controlled School?

	Agree	Largely Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All responses	74 (60%)	33 (27%)	7 (6%)	10 (8%)
Members & Statutory Consultees	15 (65%)	4 (17%)	3 (13%)	1 (4%)
All schools	58 (58%)	29 (29%)	4 (4%)	9 (9%)
<i>Infant and Junior Schools</i>	8 (25%)	14 (44%)	1 (3%)	9 (28%)
<i>Nursery, First & JMI Schools</i>	50 (74%)	15 (22%)	3 (4%)	0

APPENDIX B
LINKED JUNIOR SCHOOLS AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED NEW RULE 4

EAST AREA						
Town	Infant school	School Type	Adm No.	Linked JM school	School Type	Adm No.
Bishops Stortford	The Havers	C	60	The Firs	C	60
	Summercroft Infants	C	60	Summercroft Junior	C	60
Cheshunt	Brookland Infants	C	60	Brookland Junior	C	60
	Flamstead End Infants	C		Flamstead End Juniors	C	60
Hoddesdon	St Paul's Infants	VC	60	Haslewood JM	C	60
Sawbridgeworth	Fawbert & Barnards Inf	C	60	Reedings JM	C	60
Ware	Kingshill Infants	C	60	St Mary's JM	VC	60
	Musley Infants	VC	23	Tower Primary (NOT JM)	C	30
Welwyn G City	Thumbswood Infants	C	60	Blackthorn JM	C	60
NORTH AREA						
Baldock	St Mary's Infants	VC	60	St Mary's JM	VC	60
Hitchin	Highbury Infants	C	50	Whitehill JM	C	60
	Strathmore Infants	C	90	Wilshere Dacre JM	C	90
Letchworth	Northfields Infants	C	60	Grange JM	C	60
	Hillshott Infants	C	60	Pixmore JM	C	60
	Icknield Infants	C	80	Wilbury JM	C	80
Stevenage	Letchmore Infants	C	60	Almond Hill JM	C	64
	Shephall Green Infants	C	60	Burydale JM	C	60
	Giles Infants	C	60	Giles JM	C	60
	Longmeadow Infants	C	90	Longmeadow JM	C	90
	Peartree Infants	C	90	Peartree JM	C	90
	Woolenwick Infants	C	60	Woolenwick JM	C	60
SOUTH AREA						
Bushey	Merry Hill Infants	C	60	Ashfield JM	VC	60
	Oxhey Infants	C	60	Bushey Manor JM	C	60
Croxley Green	Malvern Way Infants	C	75	Little Green JM	C	75
Garston	Alban Wood Infants	C	75	Alban Wood JM	C	75
	Garston Infants	C	60	Lea Farm JM	C	60
	Kingsway Infants	C	60	Kingsway JM	C	60
Watford	Cassiobury Infants	C	60	Cassiobury JM	C	60
	Chater Infants	C	60	Chater JM	C	60
	Field Infants	C	60	Field JM	C	60
	Nascot Wood Infants	C	60	Nascot Wood JM	C	60

	Parkgate Infants	C	60	Parkgate JM	C	60
WEST AREA						
Harpenden	Crabtree Infants	C	60	Crabtree JM	C	60
	Grove Infants	C	75	Grove JM	C	75
Hemel Hempstead	Broadfield Infants	C	60	Broadfield JM	C	60
	Chaulden Infants	C	50	Chaulden JM	C	60
	Hobletts Manor Infants	C	60	Hobletts Manor JM	C	60
	Holtsmere End Infants	C	60	Holtsmere End JM	C	60
Redbourn	Redbourn Infants	C	60	Redbourn JM	C	60
St Albans	Bernards Heath Infants	C	60	Spencer JM	C	60
	Cunningham Hill Infants	C	60	Cunningham Hill JM	C	60
	Fleetville Infants	C	90	Fleetville JM	C	90
	Killigrew Infants	C	60	Killigrew JM	C	60
	Wheatfields Infants	C	90	Wheatfields JM	C	90