

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

16TH JANUARY 2024

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION: COUNCILLOR FIONA BAKER

Report Title **Admissions arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled West Northamptonshire schools for 2025 intakes and co-ordinated schemes for 2025 intakes**

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – “Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in West Northamptonshire for 2025 intakes”

Appendix B – “WNC Primary co-ordinated scheme for 2025 intakes”

Appendix C – “WNC Secondary co-ordinated scheme for 2025 intakes”

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The local authority (LA) has a duty to act in accordance with the statutory provisions of the School Admissions Code (2021) and with laws relating to school admissions. School admission arrangements for all schools must be agreed annually and it is the duty of

admission authorities to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the School Admissions Code. The purpose of this report is to provide the necessary information to allow the council to determine the admission arrangements for its schools (Community and Voluntary Controlled schools) for the 2025 intakes.

- 1.2. Each year, all local authorities must formulate and publish on their website, a scheme to co-ordinate admissions to the normal year of entry for all publicly funded schools within their area. Applications will be processed in accordance with the timetables set out in these schemes. The purpose of the report is to allow the council to agree the co-ordinated schemes for the 2025 intakes.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Admission Arrangements:

There are no proposed changes to the admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. No consultation was required.

- **Appendix A** “Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in West Northamptonshire for 2025 intakes”.

2.2 Co-ordinated schemes:

The dates in the co-ordinated scheme timetables are set annually. The scheme then details how applications will be processed. No consultation was required.

- **Appendix B** “WNC Primary Co-ordinated Scheme for 2025 intakes”.
- **Appendix C** “WNC Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme for 2025 intakes”.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet/Committee:

- a) Approve the admission arrangements as detailed in Appendix A
- b) Approve the primary co-ordinated scheme as detailed in Appendix B
- c) Approve the secondary co-ordinated scheme as detailed in Appendix C

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 The above are all statutory requirements

5. Report Background

- 5.1 All admission authorities must determine admission arrangements every year, even if they have not changed from the previous year and no consultation has been required. This is a statutory requirement that must be carried out by 28 February in the determination year.

- 5.2 It is the duty of local authorities to formulate and publish a co-ordinated scheme for the admission of pupils to all schools in the area annually for the next Offer year.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 The admission arrangements remain unchanged from the previous year.
- 6.2 The main co-ordinated schemes remain unchanged from the previous year. The timetable in Section 1 has been updated for the new offer year in line with nationwide deadlines and time constraints.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

7.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

7.3 Risk

Risk – That WNC does not fulfil statutory obligations as required by the School Admissions Code (2021).

Mitigation - WNC must determine the admission arrangements for 2025 for its Community and Voluntary Controlled schools by 28 February 2024 and WNC must adopt a co-ordinated scheme for 2024 intakes

Risk - Admission arrangements may be considered to be unfair or not compliant with the School Admissions Code. A consequence of this could be that WNC would be reported to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

Mitigation – admission policies have been checked for compliance with the School Admissions Code (2021).

7.4 Consultation and Communications

Consultation was not necessary as per the School Admissions Code (2021) as no changes have been proposed to the admission arrangements for 2025 intakes and the co-ordinated schemes have not changed substantially from the previous year.

The scheme will be communicated via publication on the Council's website, in line with annual requirements.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

There has been no engagement with Scrutiny. A co-ordinated scheme has to be adopted by the local authority every year to explain how we will process applications for the specified year's intakes for schools' normal points of entry to ensure each child only receives one offer of a school

place. This is a statutory requirement as per the School Admissions Code (2021). The main schemes have not changed since last year. There are no equalities implications – the schemes and are bound by the School Admissions Code (2021).

7.6 Climate Impact

No implications arising from any recommendations that are being proposed.

7.7 Community Impact

No implications arise

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 School Admissions Code (2021) [School admissions code 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92222/school-admissions-code-2021.pdf)