



## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

### **Admission Arrangements for Brighton & Hove Schools 2012/13**

Parents and carers resident in Brighton & Hove with children between the ages of 2 and 16 are invited to give their views on the proposals for admission arrangements to Community Schools, Academies and Voluntary Aided Schools in the City. The responses to this consultation will be presented to the Cabinet Member for CYPT at a meeting in March 2011. This is the third year in which the consultation has included parents and carers and takes place under new regulations arising from the Education and Skills Act 2008. **Parents and carers are invited to return their comments on the proposed admission arrangements by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011.** Responses are welcome by email to [schooladmissions@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or in writing to:

School Admissions Consultation 2012/13  
King's House  
Hove  
BN3 2LS

Admission authorities that do not change their admission priorities and arrangements are only required to consult every three years.

Should any changes in admission arrangements emerge from the current Education White Paper and subsequent legislation there may be a need further changes to admission arrangements and possibly for additional consultation.

### **Final admission arrangements and right of objection**

Once the Council and Voluntary Aided schools have determined their admission arrangements following this consultation, the Council will publish a public notice in the Argus newspaper before 1 May 2011 confirming those arrangements and setting out where they can be viewed. Once they have been published then parents and carers will have a right of formal objection to the Schools Adjudicator. Details of that objection process will be given in the public notice.

### **Secondary Schools**

This part of the consultation is about the process for the community secondary schools admissions system which remains a catchment area system with random allocation being used as the tie breaker in each admission priority in the event of oversubscription. This is also used by Brighton Aldridge Community Academy. Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School has its own admission priorities which it is consulting on separately (please visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooladmissions) for details).

No change is proposed to the over subscription priorities which are applied in the context of an equal preference system as required by the Admissions Code. They are:

1. Children in the care of a local authority (looked after children).
2. Compelling medical or other exceptional reasons for attending the school.
3. The sibling link.
4. Those pupils living in the designated catchment area for the school.
5. Other children.

Within all these priorities, the tie break is random allocation.

However, we would invite views as to whether children who have been adopted away from their birth families should be automatically offered priority as a compelling medical or other exceptional reason for attending the school (priority 2).

### **Admissions Arrangements for Community Infant, Junior and Primary Schools**

No change is proposed for the admission arrangements to Community Infant, Junior and Primary schools. The over subscription priorities are applied in the context of an equal preference system as required by the Admissions Code. They are:

1. Children in the care of a local authority (looked after children).
2. Compelling medical or other exceptional reasons for attending the school.
3. The sibling link.
4. For junior schools only: children attending a linked infant school
5. Home to school distance (measured by the shortest available route).

Within all these priorities, the tie break is home to school distance (measured by the shortest available route).

As above, we would invite views as to whether children who have been adopted away from their birth families should be automatically offered priority as a compelling medical or other exceptional reason for attending the school (priority 2).

More detail about the primary and secondary admission arrangements can be found in the two school admission booklets. Schools have copies of the booklets which can also be viewed on the Brighton & Hove City Council web site.

### **Relevant Area for Consultation**

The relevant area for school admissions in the city is currently defined as the area within the city boundary. This is the area which the Local Authority (LA) uses when consulting on admissions arrangements, and can include other admission authorities and voluntary aided schools outside the city. The area can be larger than LA boundary, or smaller through the operation of a number of different relevant areas within the LA. The use of a relevant area was a requirement of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and this requirement remains in force. It is currently defined as the area within the Brighton & Hove city boundaries, so all voluntary aided schools within the city are required to consult all schools within the city boundary about their proposed admission arrangements. No change is proposed to the relevant area for 2012/13.

### **Voluntary Aided Schools Consultation**

Voluntary Aided schools are required to consult with all other city schools, with the LA and with parents in the City who have children between the ages of 2 and 16 about their proposed admission arrangements for 2012/13 *unless the arrangements*

are unchanged from last year. These proposed arrangements will be on the Council's website. Consultation, if taking place, must be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 and the Governors must have settled the final version of their admission arrangements by 15 April 2011.

### **Published Admission Numbers**

The proposed admission numbers for each school are attached to this document. You are invited to comment on whether you agree with the number shown. These numbers are based on the net capacity range of each school, or in some cases a higher figure. The net capacity is a nationally required means of measuring how many pupils a school can take. As previously, this list includes the expected admission numbers for voluntary aided schools, which act as their own admission authorities and set their own admission number.

Please note that the new school in Hove which has 90 places in reception is currently being managed on an interim basis by West Hove Infant School. It is, however, a separate establishment. The longer term governance arrangements for Connaught will be determined through a separate consultation process subject to the requirements of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Planning is also underway to meet the projected shortfall of places in Portslade at junior school age (year 3 upwards), which will arise if, as anticipated, agreement is given for Benfield to become a primary school. Parents and schools will be kept informed.

### **Co-ordinated Admission Schemes for 2012/13**

The coordinated schemes are attached for comment. They set out the arrangements, including dates, for the coordination of secondary and primary admissions and in-year applications. The purpose of this coordination is to ensure that all parents and carers receive one offer of a school place for their child within published timescales. The scheme applies to all maintained (ie state) schools in Brighton & Hove, including Academies and Voluntary Aided schools.

### **The Admission Timetable for 2012/13**

The dates for applications and allocations for admission for the 2012/13 school year will be:

Infant, Junior and Primary Schools:	Closing date	16 January 2012
	Letters to parents/carers	30 April 2012

Secondary schools:	Closing date	31 October 2011
	Letters to parents/carers	1 March 2012

These dates are set out in more detail in the co-ordinated schemes.

### **Other Linked Documents available on the Council website**

1. Proposed Admission Numbers – Primary
2. Proposed Admission Numbers – Secondary
3. Coordinated scheme – secondary
4. Coordinated scheme – primary
5. Coordination scheme – In Year
6. Proposed admissions arrangements at Brighton & Hove Voluntary Aided Schools

