



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

## **SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS AND CARERS Admission Arrangements for Brighton & Hove Schools 2014/15**

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

Once the Council, Academies and Voluntary Aided schools have determined their admission arrangements following this consultation, the Council will issue a press release before 1 May 2013 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.

### **Admission Arrangements for Secondary Schools**

No changes are proposed for the admission arrangements for community Secondary schools.

The Council uses a catchment area system with random allocation being used as the tie breaker in each admission priority in the event of oversubscription. These arrangements are also used by Brighton Aldridge Community Academy (BACA) and the Portslade Aldridge Community Academy (PACA). Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School and the King's School have their own admission priorities which they are consulting on separately (please visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooladmissions) for details).

The over subscription priorities are applied in the context of an equal preference system as required by the School Admissions Code. They are:

1. Children in the care of a local authority (looked after children), and children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
2. Compelling medical or other exceptional reasons for attending the school.
3. A sibling link applied for those living within the designated catchment area only.
4. Those pupils living in the designated catchment area for the school(s).
5. Other children.

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

The current catchment areas are set out in the [attached map](#). It also includes information about which post codes are in each of the catchment areas.

The Westdene area of the City was switched from the Hove Park/Blatchington Mill catchment to the Patcham catchment area after the new admissions arrangements had been implemented. As a result those living in Westdene will have the cross city sibling link allowed for one extra year (2014/15 admissions). The areas of the City

which switched from the Hove Park/Blatchington Mill catchment to the Portslade or Dorothy Stringer/Varndean catchment areas for 2013-14 will have the sibling link allowed for both areas until 2017-18 admissions.

For the purposes of this priority a sibling is defined as a child living within the same household as another.

#### Random allocation

Random allocation is only used as a tie break within each of the over subscription priorities. So far it has only been used at priority 4 (children living in catchment area) when one of the schools in a dual catchment has had more applications than places left, or when there are places left over in a catchment which can be offered to pupils living outside. Random allocation is not used as a priority in itself, only in conjunction with the published over subscription priorities 1 - 5.

For a full description of how the over subscription priorities operate, please use this link to the [Admissions Booklet for 2013/14](#).

The council welcomes your comments on any aspects of the secondary school admission arrangements, suggestions as to how they might be improved and your views on how they have operated to date.

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

No changes are 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), and children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
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).

More detail about the primary admission arrangements can be found in the [school admission booklet](#). Schools have copies of the booklet which can also be viewed on the Brighton & Hove City Council web site. Your views about the primary school admission arrangements are invited.

#### **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, free schools and Academies 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 2014/15.

### **Own Admission Authority Schools Consultation**

Schools whose governors are responsible for their own admission arrangements (Free Schools, Academies and 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 18 about their proposed admission arrangements for 2014/15 *unless the arrangements are unchanged from last year*. These proposed arrangements will be on the Council's website or available from the schools. Consultation, if taking place, must be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and the Governors must have settled the final version of their admission arrangements by 15 April 2013. Parents may wish to send their comments on own admission authority schools' proposed admission arrangements direct to the school or can send them to the Council which will pass them on to the individual school governing bodies. Those governing bodies are responsible for deciding admission arrangements for their own school.

### **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 own admission authority schools who set their own admission number.

### **Co-ordinated Admission Schemes for 2014/15**

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, Free Schools and Voluntary Aided schools.

The only change to these is that we propose to restrict the use of reallocation pools/waiting lists at secondary school level to children in their first term of year 7. This is because experience tells us that moving school at secondary level can be damaging to children's performance, and because it is very rare for parents to be offered a place for their child in this way due to oversubscription levels.

### **The Admission Timetable for 2014/15**

The dates for applications and allocations for admission for the 2014/15 school year will be:

Infant, Junior and Primary Schools:	Closing date	15 January 2014
	Letters to parents/carers	16 April 2014
Secondary schools:	Closing date	31 October 2013
	Letters to parents/carers	3 March 2014

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

