



School Admissions – Consultation on Proposed Arrangements 2013-14

PROPOSED ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR SCHOOLS FOR WHOM REDCAR AND CLEVELAND ARE THE ADMISSIONS AUTHORITY – 2013 / 2014 ACADEMIC YEAR

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to consult with Admission Authorities, Governing Bodies, Admission Forum, other Local Authorities, the Diocese and parents on the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools in Redcar and Cleveland for the school year 2013/14. Schools/academies who are their own admission authorities should undertake consultation on their own proposed policies for 2013/14.

The School Admissions Code (the Code) came into force in February 2010, and applies to admissions to all maintained schools and Academies. The Code is made under section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by section 40 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Admission authorities must ensure that their determined admission arrangements for 2013/14 comply with the mandatory provision of the Code. The admission arrangements for Redcar and Cleveland, laid out in this report for 2013/14, are compliant.

Elected Members will consider and determine the LA's admission policy for 2013/14 and the co-ordinated admission arrangements for Redcar and Cleveland. In order that Members can take account of the views and opinions of Governors and others, comments are invited on the issues raised in this paper. Any responses to the consultation will be included in the final report to Cabinet in February/March 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

All interested parties are invited to comment on the following points:

- (i) Proposed admission policy for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools for 2013 / 14.
- (ii) The proposed admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools for 2013 / 14.
- (iii) The proposed scheme for co-ordinated admissions for all primary, secondary schools and academies for 2013 / 2014.

Barbara Shaw: (ACTING) DIRECTOR OF ADULT & CHILDREN'S SERVICES



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

this is Redcar & Cleveland

Comments should be submitted by **16 December** 2011 - contact details at the end of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

Admission arrangements for 2013/14

To ensure equity and fair access, the Admissions Code states that in drawing up admission arrangements, admission authorities must ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide on the allocation of school places are:

- clear in the sense of being free from doubt and easily understood;
- objective and based on known facts. Admission authorities and Governing Bodies must not make subjective decisions or use subjective criteria;
- procedurally fair and are also equitable for all groups of children and actively promote equity across all social groups and communities;
- enable parents' preferences for the schools of their choice to be met to the maximum extent possible;
- provide parents or carers with easy access to helpful admissions information;
- comply with relevant legislation, including infant class sizes and equal opportunities, which have been determined in accordance with the statutory requirements.

4. ADMISSION POLICY FOR 2013/14, Primary, Secondary Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) Schools

There are no changes proposed to the admission policy for 2013 / 14. Where there are more applications for a school than there are places available it is proposed that places are allocated using the over subscription criteria shown in the table below.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL OVER - SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA **2013/14**

CRITERIA (In priority order)	EXPLANATORY NOTES
i) children who are cared for by the Local Authority	Children who are subject to care orders or who are accommodated by the Adult and Children's Services Department on a voluntary basis.
ii) children who are permanently resident in the admission zone defined for the school.	For the purposes of determining whether a child lives within the admission zone, only the address at which the parent/guardian ordinarily resides and with whom the child normally lives will be taken into account. If parents are separated and the child lives for periods of time with both parents, the address used will be of the parent who receives child benefit for the child. You may be asked to provide proof. Short term tenancies entered into with the prime objective of securing admission for a child at a particular school will not qualify as places of ordinary residence. The Authority will take action should false information be submitted in order to secure a place at a particular school.

	Attendance of a child at a particular nursery school does not entitle him/her to a place in a particular primary school. Places at primary school are offered in accordance with the criteria outlined in this table.
(iii) children not living in the admission zone who have elder brothers or sisters attending the school in the 2013/14 school year.	<p>Brothers and sisters and step brothers and sisters will qualify under this criterion as long as they both live at the same permanent address and the elder sibling is still attending the preferred school in the 2013/14 school year.</p> <p>Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.</p>
(iv) children not living within the admission zone who have exceptional social and/or medical reasons for attending a particular school, professionally supported by an independent third party and sustained by the Authority's professional advisors.	<p>Social reasons generally do not include domestic circumstances such as parents' working commitments, childcare arrangements, separation from friends.</p> <p>In the case of medical reasons, evidence would need to demonstrate the exceptional long-term nature of the condition. All mainstream schools are able to cater for a wide range of medical needs which may be encountered by children.</p> <p>You are strongly urged to provide independent third party information (e.g., from a professional person who knows or is involved with your child) in support of any exceptional long term medical or social reason why you think your child should be given special consideration for placement in a particular school. This written support must make clear why the preferred school is the only school which could meet your child's needs.</p> <p>The submission of independent information will not automatically guarantee a place under this criterion. However, the evidence will be carefully considered by the Authority's professional advisors as to whether or not your application falls into this category.</p>
(v) children living closest to the school	The distance from home to school will be measured by computer on a straight line basis using the number and postcode of the house and the postcode of the school.

Tie-break:

If it is necessary to distinguish between children within categories (i)-(iv) places will be offered using the criteria listed above in priority order and determined by criteria (v) - measurement on a straight line basis using the number and postcode of the house and the postcode of the school.

In the case of a tie break in category (v) the final allocation will be determined using the shortest walking route using the number and postcode of the house and the postcode of the school.

5. CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AND TIMETABLE – 2013/14

The LA is responsible for administering a co-ordinated scheme for its area in relation to all maintained (community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided and foundation) schools and academies. The purpose of a co-ordinated admission scheme is to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable, every parent of a child living in the LA area who has applied for a school place in the normal admission round receives an offer of one school place on the same day.

The LA plans to roll forward last year's co-ordinated scheme for 2013/14 apart from date changes for the timetables. A copy of the scheme must be forwarded to the Secretary of State by 15th April 2012. Copies can be obtained from the Admissions Section on request or once the 2013/14 arrangements are approved, the scheme can also be viewed on the Redcar and Cleveland website.

Timetable for the co-ordinated admission arrangements 2013/2014

Secondary Schools

W/C 3 September 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out application information • Online application website opens
Wednesday 31 October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing date for receipt of online and paper applications
Friday 16 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send supplementary forms to VA schools and preference details to academies • Send application details for schools in other LAs to those LAs
Friday 11 January 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA schools and academies to advise LA of pupils who could be offered places
Friday 25 January 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA will have compared all lists and allocated places in accordance with the highest expressed preference where possible • LA to inform other LAs of places to be offered to their residents
Friday 1 March 2013	<p>NATIONAL OFFER DAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA sends letters to all parents informing them of the allocated schools • LA informs schools of final offers
Friday 29 March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing date for appeal forms
May – July 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeals to be heard by Independent Panels
End of Autumn Term 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission round ends • Waiting lists close

Primary Schools

W/C 3 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out application Information. • Online application website opens.
Tuesday 15 January 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing date for receipt of online and paper applications
Friday 25 January 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send supplementary forms to VA schools
W/C 4 February 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA to provide indicative admission numbers to schools
By Friday 8 February 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA schools to advise the LA of pupils who could be offered places • LA has drawn up lists of pupils who could be offered places in community and voluntary controlled schools
By Friday 8 March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA to exchange offer information with neighbouring LAs
By Friday 29 March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LA will have compared all lists and allocated places in accordance with the highest expressed preference where possible
Friday 12 April 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LA to send letters to all parents informing them of their allocated schools • LA to inform schools of allocated pupils.
Friday 18 May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing date for appeals
June/July 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeals to be heard by Independent Panels
September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single point of entry
End of Autumn Term 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission round ends • Waiting lists close

6. ADMISSION NUMBERS

Appendix 1 shows the proposed published admission numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary Schools for which Redcar and Cleveland are the Admissions Authority for September 2013 entry.

7. CONCLUSION

The current Admissions Code underpins the Government's aim to create a schools' system shaped by parents which delivers excellence and equity, developing the talents and potential of every child, regardless of their background; a system where all parents feel they have the same opportunities to apply for the school they want.

The Code states: 'A fair system needs to provide parents with access to good information about admissions in order to support those parents who find it hardest to understand the system.'

Within Redcar and Cleveland we aim to ensure that the admission arrangements comply with the School Admissions Code of Practice and offers fair access to all schools to all pupils in the Borough.

All comments on the proposed arrangements should be sent to the School admissions Team, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Seaford House, Kirkleatham Street, Redcar. TS10 1SP.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Published Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2013/14
- Appendix 2 – Proposed Co-Ordinated Admission Scheme for all Schools / Academies 2013/14

8. CONTACT

School Admissions Team

Telephone: 01642 444108

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Appendix 1

PROPOSED ADMISSION NUMBERS 2013 / 2014 YEAR FOR SCHOOLS FOR WHICH REDCAR AND CLEVELAND ARE THE ADMISSIONS AUTHORITY

Admission numbers are set with regard to the assessed capacity of schools. However, these numbers may vary dependent upon future plans and developments which impact on the physical capacity of the schools.

The following indicated admission numbers are based on the assessed net capacity of schools at the present time.

Secondary Schools	Proposed Admission No. for 2013/2014
Gillbrook College	150
Huntcliff School	108
Laurence Jackson School	280

Primary Schools	Proposed Admission No. for 2013/2014
Badger Hill	30
Bankfields	34
Belmont	45
Caedmon	47
Chaloner	30
Coatham	30
Dormanstown	37
Errington	34
Galley Hill	30
Grangetown	38
Green Gates	35
Handale	49
Highcliffe	60
Hummersea	30
Ings Farm	60
JE Batty	30
Lakes	45
Lingdale	20
Lockwood	30
New Marske	37
Newcomen	47
Normanby	65
Nunthorpe	30
Ormesby	50

Overfields	30
Ravensworth	50
Riverdale	30
Saltburn	60
Skelton	90
South Bank	45
St Peter's CE	45
Teesville	52
Westgarth	45
Whale Hill	78
Wheatlands	60
Whitecliffe	20
Wilton	12
Zetland	30