



Summary of consultation on admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools 2020-2021

Period of consultation: 21 November 2018 to 15 January 2019

This consultation invites you to give your views about the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire for 2020-2021.

Background information

Admission authorities

There are different types of schools in Nottinghamshire. The County Council is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools. This means that we are responsible for the admission arrangements for these schools.

Other types of schools - academies, foundation, free, studio, trust and voluntary aided schools are own admission authorities. These schools are responsible for their own admission arrangements and have to run their own consultation. You would need to visit individual school websites for details.

Admission arrangements including oversubscription criteria

All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including information about what happens if there are more applications than places available (oversubscription criteria).

All admission authorities must include the oversubscription criteria in their arrangements. The criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation.

It is for admission authorities to decide which criteria are most suitable for the school according to the local circumstances.

Nottinghamshire community and voluntary controlled schools have defined catchment areas and children living in these areas have higher priority for places than children outside of catchment. This supports parents who wish their children to attend a local publicly funded school.

This does not prevent parents who live outside the catchment area of a school, or even outside Nottinghamshire, from expressing a preference for that school.

Children living in the catchment area with a brother or sister (sibling) attending the school are given priority over other children living inside the catchment area. Children living outside the catchment area with a brother or sister attending the school are given priority over all other children living outside the catchment area.

What is included in the consultation?

Nottinghamshire County Council is consulting on admission arrangements 2020-2021 for community and voluntary controlled schools within Nottinghamshire.

These arrangements are relevant for children who will be starting primary school, moving to junior school, moving to secondary school and children transferring school during the school year 2020-2021.

You will find the following in the full consultation document available at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation

- **Full proposed admission arrangements including:**
 - **Section 1 – the overall procedures and practices that are used to decide how places are allocated (oversubscription criteria).**

The arrangements for Abbey Road Primary School were revised on 26 October 2018 following a judgement by the Schools Adjudicator in respect of priority for displaced siblings. In view of this judgement, the County Council is considering options to change the oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools to include priority for children who have a displaced older sibling attending the school. Full details of the proposal are included in section 1.5. There are minor proposed changes to key terms in respect of definition of looked after and previously looked after; multiple births; distance measurement and outcome of special consideration.
 - **Section 2 - proposed admission number (PAN): the number of places that can be allocated in the year group.**

For some community and voluntary controlled schools there is a proposal to change the PAN. This is the number of places that must be offered in each relevant age group. Where changes are proposed, these are highlighted and the PAN determined for 2019-2020 is shown in brackets. This section is ordered by area (Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield, Newark and Rushcliffe).
 - **Section 3 - qualifying scheme: how we coordinate the arrangements for the admission of pupils to primary and secondary schools in Nottinghamshire.**

Coordination means that local authorities exchange information and work together to ensure that, as far as possible, every parent of a child living in a local authority area who has applied for a publicly funded school or academy is sent one, and only one, offer of a school place. There are proposed changes to the dates in the coordinated schemes.
 - **Section 4 - how in-year applications are processed.**

Nottinghamshire County Council has an in-year coordinated scheme for all community and voluntary controlled schools. Some own admission authorities have also joined that scheme. Previously waiting lists for community and voluntary controlled schools were held until the end of the academic year. It is proposed to change the date that waiting lists are held until to 31 May. This supports the process of places allocated in the summer term, being taken up before the end of the summer term, that is, within the same academic year.

Who do we consult with?

We will be seeking the views of the following groups:

- parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen
- other people in the area who may have an interest in the proposed admission arrangements
- all other admission authorities within the relevant area
- all community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire
- chairs of governing bodies of Nottinghamshire schools
- diocesan representatives (relevant religious authorities)
- admission authorities in neighbouring local authority areas
- all registered early years providers within Nottinghamshire

You can give your views on the consultation between 21 November 2018 and 15 January 2019

Full details of the proposed admission arrangements for 2020-2021 are available at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation

Anyone can comment on the arrangements. If you wish to respond, you can do this up to 15 January 2019 by:

- completing the online response form on the public website www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation
- emailing admissionsconsultations@nottscc.gov.uk
- writing to School Admissions Consultation, Support to Schools Service, Meadow House, Littleworth, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 2TA.

The School Admissions Code 2014 (1.45) states that the full proposed admission arrangements must be available on the website for the duration of the consultation period.

What happens after the consultation closes?

All responses received by 15 January 2019 will be considered. Elected members (County Councillors) make a decision on behalf of Nottinghamshire taking into account a range of information, including the consultation responses. All admission authorities have to agree the admission arrangements that are most suitable according to the local circumstances.

Determining admission arrangements 2020-2021

Admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools must be agreed (determined) by Nottinghamshire County Council by **28 February 2019** even if there have been no changes from previous years.

Publication of determined arrangements 2020-2021

Once Nottinghamshire County Council has determined their admission arrangements, they will be available on the public website for the whole offer year (the academic year in which offers for places are made). Local authorities must publish on their website **by 15 March 2019**.