

10th February 2020

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING & SKILLS

ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS IN THE NORMAL ADMISSIONS ROUND TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES – 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with information on admission applications in the normal admissions round (reception and year 7) to Nottinghamshire schools and academies for the 2019-2020 academic year. The report also gives information on the number of preferences expressed by parents on their application.

Information

2. In the normal admissions round parents apply to the local authority in which they live for places at their preferred schools. Local authorities are responsible for coordinating all applications and communicating the single offer of a school place for its residents.
3. Parents/carers made applications for admission to secondary schools (year 7) between August 2018 and October 2018. They were informed of their allocated school in March 2019.
4. Parents/carers made applications for first admission to primary schools (reception) between November 2018 and January 2019. They were informed of their allocated school in April 2019.
5. There are two sets of figures included in this report – data which is based on offers made to Nottinghamshire residents on National Offer Day (1st March 2019 for secondary and 16th April 2019 for primary) and data based on offers made to Nottinghamshire residents as at 31st August 2019. The later data will include a more up to date picture of applications and offers made which will include late applications and any changes made to offers.
6. The School Admissions Code 2014 states that parents are able to express a preference for at least three schools.
7. Nottinghamshire enables parents to submit four preferences on their application. Following the recommendation from Committee last year, updates to the online application

service have been made to encourage parents to submit four preferences as there is no advantage in expressing only one preference. In addition, an increase in the use of social media to promote the benefits of listing four preferences were posted throughout the admission rounds being open.

As at secondary National Offer Day – 1st March 2019

8. There were 8,946 on time applications received from Nottinghamshire residents for the year 2019-2020. This is an increase on the number of applications received the previous year (215 more applications than for 2018-2019).
9. Nearly 47% (4,149) made only one preference on their application.
10. 92.2% (8,246) of applications were offered their first preference school which represents a slight increase from 91.7% the previous year. When taking into account offers at any stated preferences this increases to 97.7% (8,737) which is a slight increase on last year (97.6%). Of the 209 applicants that were not offered a place at any of their stated preferences, most had only made one preference (58.4%). All were then made alternative offers.
11. A total of 1,610 applications were received from residents outside of Nottinghamshire. The highest proportion of these applications were received from Nottingham City (1,186; 73.7%) followed by Derbyshire (261; 16.2%), Leicestershire (66; 4.1%), Lincolnshire (52; 3.2%)
12. A number of Nottinghamshire residents expressed preferences for schools outside of Nottinghamshire (1,700). The highest proportion of these applications were received for Nottingham City schools (656, 38.6%), followed by Lincolnshire (492, 28.9%); Derbyshire (285, 16.8%); Leicestershire (93, 5.5%); Rotherham (74, 4.4%).

Late applications up to 31st August 2019 (secondary)

13. Applications received after the national closing date, 31st October 2018, were considered late. Figures will include pupils who have moved residence into the County since offer day. This will mean incomplete preferences for these families as they will have applied to the admission authority where they initially lived. Nottinghamshire would only be informed where one of its schools/academies was listed as a preference.
14. A total of 739 applications were received between 1st November 2018 and 31st August 2019, 544 were from Nottinghamshire residents. Applications were also received for children living in other local authority areas (195), the highest proportion of these applications were received from Nottingham City (138, 18.7%) and Derbyshire (29, 3.9%).

As at primary National Offer Day – 16th April 2019

15. There were 8,794 on time applications received from Nottinghamshire residents for the year 2019-2020. This is a slight increase on the number of applications received the previous year (5 more applications than for 2018-2019).
16. Nearly 37% (3,242) made only one preference on their application.

17. 94.1% (8,271) of applications were offered their first preference school which represents a slight increase from 93.2% the previous year. When taking into account offers at any stated preferences this increases to 98.9% (8,698) which is a slight increase on last year (98.7%). Of the 96 applicants that were not offered a place at any of their stated preferences, most had only made one preference (58.3%). All were then made alternative offers.
18. A total of 789 applications were received from residents outside of Nottinghamshire. The highest proportion of these applications were received from Nottingham City (558; 70.7%) followed by Derbyshire (130; 16.5%), Leicestershire (30; 3.8%), Lincolnshire (27; 3.4%).
19. A number of Nottinghamshire residents expressed preferences for schools outside of Nottinghamshire (637). The highest proportion of these applications were received for Nottingham City schools (333, 52.3%), followed by Derbyshire (107, 16.8%); Lincolnshire (93, 14.6%), Rotherham (37, 5.8%).

Late applications up to 31st August 2019 (primary)

20. Applications received after the national closing date, 15th January 2019, were considered late. Figures will include pupils who have moved residence into the County since offer day. This will mean incomplete preferences for these families as they will have applied to the admission authority where they initially lived. Nottinghamshire would only be informed where one of its schools/academies was listed as a preference.
21. A total of 832 applications were received between 16th January 2019 and 31st August 2019, 722 were from Nottinghamshire residents. Applications were also received for children living in other local authority areas (110), the highest proportion of these applications were received from Nottingham City (67, 8.1%) and Derbyshire (18, 2.2%).

Other Options Considered

22. The process for presenting performance information set out in this report is in line with corporate guidance, which has itself been established following an appropriate analysis of alternative options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

23. The reporting of school admissions information to Committee is in line with the established processes of reporting and publishing performance information across all of the services within the Children and Families department.
24. Parents are advised to use all four preferences but increasingly parents submit applications with fewer preferences.

Statutory and Policy Implications

25. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty,

safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

26. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the information contained within the report on the outcomes of the Council's admissions services for Nottinghamshire applications to primary and secondary schools for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Marion Clay
Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Claire Wilcoxson
Team Manager, Access and Admissions Strategy
Support to Schools Services
T: 0115 97 72640
E: claire.wilcoxson@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (KK 08/01/20)

27. The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SAS 13/01/20)

28. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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