

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
COMMITTEE**

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021-2022 -  
REVISION**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. Nottinghamshire County Council, as the local authority, has a statutory duty to determine admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools following annual consultation. The arrangements must comply with the School Admissions Code 2014.
2. This report seeks to revise the determined arrangements for 2021-2022 as directed by the Schools Adjudicator determination made on 17 November 2020.

**Information**

3. All admission authorities must determine their school admission arrangements by 28 February every year, even if there have been no changes from previous years.
4. There are limited circumstances in which changes can be made to school admission arrangements once they have been determined. These include a decision by the Schools Adjudicator or a change in the law.

**Determined admission arrangements 2021-2022**

5. The Children's and Young People's Committee determined Nottinghamshire's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools on 10 February 2020. Some voluntary controlled schools use faith based oversubscription criteria in their admission arrangements and allocate places by reference to faith where the school is oversubscribed.

6. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, there were restrictions on the opening of places of worship and this meant that parents and children may have been unable to attend their place of worship as normal. Parents and children were therefore unable to meet the faith based criterion under the terms of the Council's current admission arrangements in respect of the following schools:
  - a. All Hallows CofE Primary School
  - b. Caunton Dean Hole CofE Primary School
  - c. Cuckney CofE Primary School
  - d. Kneesall CofE Primary School
  - e. Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School
  - f. North Wheatley Church of England Primary School
  - g. Ranby CofE Primary School
  - h. St Andrew's CofE Primary School
  - i. St John's CofE Primary School
  - j. St Matthew's CofE Primary School
  - k. St Wilfrid's CofE Primary School
  - l. Trowell CofE Primary School.
7. The School Admissions Code 2014 requires notification and consultation of the governing board of voluntary controlled schools to take place ahead of any proposed variation to its admission arrangements. The Council consulted with all the above schools between 31 July 2020 and 10 August 2020. No objections to the proposal were received.
8. The Council subsequently informed all other relevant bodies on 11 August 2020 that a variation was being sought with the Office of the Schools Adjudicator for its voluntary controlled schools where attendance at church or other place of worship gives priority within the oversubscription criteria for the school.
9. The adjudicator determined on 17 November 2020 that "it is beyond question that the Covid-19 pandemic represents a major change of circumstances" and that the proposed variation to the faith criteria for the above schools be approved subject to the modification of the wording in the Determination VAR1641-VAR1651 and VAR1879 paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 – **Appendix 1**.
- 10. The adjudicator's decision published on 17 November 2020 is binding on the admission authority – Nottinghamshire County Council.**
11. The adjudicator's decision requires the admission authority, Nottinghamshire County Council, to revise its 2021-2022 admission arrangements for the schools listed in paragraph 6 above. To do so it is necessary to amend the criteria in Nottinghamshire County Council's determined admission arrangements for:
  - a. 1.4B – variation to standard criteria for infant and primary schools with a faith criterion
  - b. 1.4C – All Hallows CofE Primary School (Gedling) – variation to include faith
  - c. 1.4D – St Wilfrid's CofE Primary School (Gedling) – variation to include faith
  - d. 1.4E – Trowell CofE Primary School (Broxtowe) – variation to include faith
  - e. 1.4H – Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School (Newark) – variation to include faith
12. The revised admission arrangements are attached at **Appendix 2**.

## **Other Options Considered**

13. None.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

14. The determination of the Schools Adjudicator on 17 November 2020 and the requirement for Nottinghamshire County Council to revise the 2021-2022 admission arrangements for applications for September 2021 in line with the determination.

15. The application process for school places for September 2021 is now underway and the oversubscription criteria published will be used to allocate places at these schools. The closing date for applications is 15 January 2021 and parents must be informed of the criteria used to allocate places where schools are oversubscribed.

16. The adjudicator's decision is binding on the admission authority.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

17. 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**

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

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1) That admission arrangements for Nottinghamshire's voluntary controlled schools that use faith criteria in their admission arrangements are revised..

## **Councillor Philip Owen**

Chairman of Children and Young People's Committee

## **For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (KK – 4/12/20)**

18. The proposal in this report would ordinarily fall to the Children and Young People's Committee to approve however in light of the timing and urgency of the decision required, it is more appropriate for Policy Committee to consider approval of the proposal as an urgent item rather than seek an urgent decision by the Chief Executive.

### **Financial Comments (KP – 4/12/20)**

19. 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.

- [Admission Arrangements 2021-2022 determined on 10 February 2020](#)
- Department for Education's guidance Faith school admission arrangements variation Coronavirus (COVID-19) issued July 2020  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/903710/Faith\\_school\\_admission\\_arrangements\\_Coronavirus\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/903710/Faith_school_admission_arrangements_Coronavirus_COVID-19.pdf)
- School Admissions Code 2014, available at [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)
- School Admission Appeals Code (SAC) 2012, available at [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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