



## CONSULTATION ON ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS INCLUDING IN YEAR ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2012 and 2013

### Introduction

This document covers key areas that the local authority wishes to consult on in relation to proposed arrangements for primary and secondary admissions and transfers for the September 2013 and beyond.

The consultation covers:

1. Determining the relevant area for school admissions.
2. The proposed primary and secondary co-ordinated scheme for September 2013 intake which applies to all admissions authorities including academies in Milton Keynes.
3. The proposed in year primary and secondary co-ordinated scheme for admission outside the normal admission rounds from September 2012 (and 2013 onwards).
4. The Fair Access Protocol, which applies to all primary and secondary schools and academies.
5. The oversubscription criteria for admission to community and voluntary controlled primary schools.
6. Proposed Published Admissions Numbers for September 2013 intakes for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Milton Keynes.

You are invited to comment on items 1 to 6 above. Before returning the consultation response document please read the background notes on the following pages and the accompanying documents. Responses should be sent in by **Thursday, 1 March 2012**.

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## **1. Relevant Area**

The council is required to determine its “relevant area” within which local consultation takes place. It may be more or less than the LA area or may include part of a neighbouring LA area or an LA may decide after consultation that its own administrative area should be the relevant area.

It is proposed that the relevant area should be the whole of Milton Keynes including the villages to the north sited within the Council’s boundary.

Consultees will include all neighbouring LAs and maintained schools situated beyond the council’s boundary but within a five-mile limit.

## **2. The proposed primary and secondary co-ordinated scheme for September 2013 intakes which applies to all admissions authorities including academies in Milton Keynes**

Under the Admissions Code there is a duty to consult where the proposed scheme is substantially different or where the scheme has not been consulted on in the last 7 years.

There are no changes to the current (2012) scheme and save for an opportunity for interested parties to comment for 2013 it is not planned to consult on the scheme in forthcoming years. The timeline will require adjustment each year and in each case where the date is not a working day the next working day will apply.

## **3. Proposed in year primary and secondary co-ordinated scheme for admission outside the normal round from September 2012 (and 2013)**

Under the Admissions Code the local authority is not required to formulate an in year primary and secondary co-ordination scheme for admissions outside the normal round. This comes into effect for in year admissions from September 2013

There are no significant changes to the current (2011) scheme, although this provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the 2012 scheme.

It is proposed to continue to provide in year co-ordination for all community and voluntary primary schools and to engage with schools and academies which are “Own Admissions Authorities” to discuss possible options during the spring term 2012.

Following these discussions the 2012 in year coordination scheme will be amended for 2013 onwards as necessary.

## **4. Proposed Fair Access Protocol**

The general guidance document attached reflects the current arrangements for managing in year admissions incorporating the Fair Access Protocol. There are no proposed changes although the document has been updated following the Department for Education decision which means that local authorities are not required to set up School Admissions Forums

## **5. Oversubscription criteria for admission to primary community and voluntary controlled schools**

The criteria are attached for information. There are two changes to the admissions criteria for primary community and voluntary controlled schools, in line with the draft School Admissions Code which are likely to come into effect from 1 February 2012. These are:

- Widening the oversubscription criteria for children in care to include children, previously in care, who immediately after being in care became subject to an adoption, or residence or special guardianship order within the last year.
- Allowing admissions authorities to admit above the infant class size limit for twins and children from multiple births when one of the siblings is the 30<sup>th</sup> child to be admitted.

In addition we propose to change the criterion used for measuring distance from home to school which is the tie-breaker if there are more applications than places available under a particular criterion. It is proposed to move from a shortest available route measurement to straight line measurement.

A number of "Own Admissions Authorities" in Milton Keynes use straight line measurement to rank admissions applications, 3 primary and 9 secondary. A neighbouring authority, Buckinghamshire County Council consulted last year and agreed to move to straight line measurement which will be introduced for the 2013 intakes.

The current arrangement of using shortest available route appears to leave us open to challenge on the route actually used and the mileage. Straight line measurement is less open to challenge. Whichever method is used there will always be some children who have an advantage over others

#### **6. PAN – Proposed Published Admissions Numbers for September 2013 intakes**

A schedule is attached which lists all community and voluntary controlled primary schools with the proposed Published Admission Number for September 2013.

There are some proposed changes on the schedule.

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***Your comments are invited on the proposed admissions arrangements detailed in 1 to 6 above for 2013 intakes, transfers and in-year admissions. A consultation response form is available***