

Equality Impact Assessment
Ref: People/E&S/JB/BK/04012022
Introductory Information

Reference number

Proposal type

Budget **Project**

Project name

School Admission Arrangements 2024/25

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Decision Type

Type of decision

cabinet

- **Education, Children & Families Policy Committee**
 - Leader
Individual Cabinet Member
 - Executive Director/Director
 - Officer Decisions (Non-Key)
 - Council (e.g. Budget and Housing Revenue Account)
 - Regulatory Committees (e.g. Licensing Committee)

Lead Committee Member

Cllr. Dawn Dale & Cllr Mick Rooney

Entered on Q Tier

- Yes No

Year(s)

2024-25

EIA date

5/12/22

EIA lead

Bashir Khan (CYPD)

Person filling in this EIA form

John Bigley

Lead officer

John Bigley

Lead Corporate Plan priority

Better Health and Wellbeing

Portfolio, Service and Team

Cross Portfolio

Yes **No**

Portfolio

People Services

People Services service(s)

Inclusion and Learning

People Services team(s)

Admissions & Access

Is the EIA joint with another organisation (eg NHS)?

No • Yes

Brief aim(s) of the proposal and the outcome(s) you want to achieve.

If there are no proposed changes, the Local Authority is only required to consult on its Admission Arrangements once every 7 years. The Authority is responsible for Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools only. Schools that are their own Admission Authority such as Academies and Voluntary Aided Schools are responsible for setting their own Admission Arrangements.

The admission system remains a catchment area-based system and Academies have continued to adopt this system with the exception of faith schools. Catchment areas and recognition of sibling links remain important priorities for parents and young people. The statutory requirement to prioritise the admission of looked after and previously looked after children, including those that appear to have been in care abroad is included within the Authorities oversubscription criteria.

The criteria for oversubscription are objective and applied equitably. There is provision within the process to recognise any social, medical or educational issues on a case-by-case basis. The proposed criteria are recognised as lawful under the statutory Admission Code of Practice. All parents are informed of the application process and the criteria via Council publications direct to their home addresses and also via the Council's website.

The Local Authority consulted most recently for the 2023/24 Admission Arrangements. There are no proposed changes so there has not been any consultation for 2024/25. The Authority **must** still however determine its Admission Arrangements every year before **28 February**, even if there have not been any changes.

Impact

Under the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) we have to pay due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

More information is available on the [Council website](#) including the [Community Knowledge Profiles](#).

Overview

Overview (briefly describe how the proposal helps to meet the Public Sector Duty outlined above)

The current admission arrangements comply fully with the statutory Admission Code of Practice. The oversubscription criteria are objective and clear. There is no capacity for individual Officers to apply subjective judgement, so all parents and children are treated equally and fairly. The statutory requirement to prioritise the admission of looked after and previously looked after children, including those that appear to have been in care abroad is included within the Authorities oversubscription criteria. There is provision within the process to recognise any social, medical or educational issues on a case by case-by-case basis by Elected Members on the Admission Committee.

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Impacts

Proposal has an impact on

Health

Does the Proposal have a significant impact on health and well-being (including effects on the wider determinants of health)?

Yes • No

Staff

Yes No

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive • Neutral Negative

Level

eNone Low • Medium • High

Details of impact

The catchment area system means that children should have access to a local school, especially at Primary School which means that more families are able to walk to school supporting the third priority of the Council's One Year Plan - Climate change, economy and development.

Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment being complete

Yes No

Please attach health impact assessment as a supporting document below.

Public Health Leads has signed off the health impact(s) of this EIA

Yes No

Health Lead

Disability

Staff

Yes No

Customers

Yes • No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

• None • Low Medium High

Details of impact

Any child who is deemed to require a place at a specific school because of an assessed special educational need will have access to a suitable school. Children with an Educational, Health and Care Plan will have a statutory entitlement to any school that is named in their plan as being able to meet their specific needs.

Carers

Staff

Yes No

Customers

Yes

No

Impact

Positive

Neutral

Negative

Level

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Details of impact

Children who are Looked After or previously Looked After, including those arriving from abroad for whom applications are made in the normal admission round are always offered places at the Carers preferred school. This approach positively impacts on the chances of parents and carers accessing places at their preferred schools

Cohesion

Staff

- Yes
- No

Customers

- Yes
- No

Impact

- Positive
- Neutral
- Negative

Level

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Details of impact

The Admission policy recognises sibling and feeder school links in addition to catchment areas. This means that children from the same families and communities are prioritised for admission to the same schools. This cannot always be guaranteed but giving priority to catchment and sibling categories enhances the opportunity and supports community cohesion.

Armed Forces

Staff

Yes No

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

~~eNone~~ Low • Medium High

Details of Impact

The Admission Code of Practice allows the Authority to allocate a school place in advance for children of military personnel who are posted to the area if their application is accompanied by confirmation of the posting. This supports families secure school places ahead of their arrival in the City and is in line with the requirements of the Admission Code Section 2.21.

Cumulative impact

Proposal has a cumulative impact

- Yes No

Proposal has geographical impact across Sheffield

- Yes No

Local Partnership Area(s) impacted

All Specific

Action Plan and Supporting Evidence

Action plan

Include monitoring arrangements, etc. You can copy and paste your action plan in this section

Supporting Evidence (Please detail all your evidence used to support the EIA)

Supporting Documentation

Consultation

Consultation required

- Yes No

If consultation is not required, please state why

Consultation is only required once every seven years unless there have been any changes. Consultation on the Admission Arrangements took place for the 2023/24 academic year. There are no proposed changes since this consultation and therefore no consultation is required for 2024/25.

Are Staff who may be affected by these proposals aware of them

- Yes No

Are Customers who may be affected by these proposals aware of them

- Yes No

If you have said no to either, please say why

Staff are not directly impacted by the proposed arrangements unless as parents making applications for school places.

Summary of overall impact

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The admission system remains a catchment area-based system. The statutory requirement to prioritise the admission of looked after and previously looked after children is included within the Authorities oversubscription criteria. The criteria for oversubscription are objective and applied equitably. There is provision within the process to recognise any social, medical or educational issues on a case-by-case basis.

Parents understand and trust the admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. Most Academies follow the Council policy to provide City wide consistency.

Summary of evidence

The current arrangements deliver a very high level of positive outcomes and compares well with the national average. The following outcomes were achieved for entry in September 2022:

	National Primary %	Sheffield %	National Secondary %	Sheffield %
Allocated 1 st Pref	92.2	92.98%	83.3%	86.96%
Allocated a Pref	98.4%	98.47%	95.8%	95.76%

Changes made as a result of the EIA

No changes have been made to the Admission Arrangements as a result of the EIA as the arrangements are fully comply with the statutory Admissions Code of Practice.

If none, specify why

Escalation plan

Is there a high impact in any area?

Yes No

Overall risk rating after any mitigations have been put in place

High Medium Low None

Review date

Review date

4/1/2024

If a review date is specified, it will appear in the 'Upcoming Reviews' view when the EIA review is within 30 days.

