

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 14 th March 2023
Report Subject	School Admission Arrangements 2024/25
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Education and Youth
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To advise on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise on the admission arrangements for 2024/25 and to recommend approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the proposed admission arrangements for 2024/25 be approved.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS																																			
1.01	In accordance with the School Admissions Code, the Council is required to undertake a statutory consultation exercise on its admission arrangements for the following year. Consultation must be complete by 1st March and the admission arrangements must be determined by 15th April each year. Statutory consultees include all schools in the area, the diocesan authorities and neighbouring authorities.																																			
1.02	Consultation must cover the full admission arrangements including the admissions policy, oversubscription criteria, the timetable for admissions and admission numbers (i.e. the maximum number of pupils to be admitted by the admissions authority in to each year group). This information is attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3.																																			
1.03	<p>The current admission arrangements have been in place since 2003 and the majority of parental preferences continue to be met (approximately 96%). For information, the number of admission appeals in recent years is detailed in the table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 981 1385 1615"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="320 981 536 1167"><u>Year</u></th> <th data-bbox="536 981 746 1167"><u>Secondary Appeals</u></th> <th data-bbox="746 981 959 1167"><u>Primary Appeals</u></th> <th data-bbox="959 981 1171 1167"><u>Total Appeals</u></th> <th data-bbox="1171 981 1385 1167"><u>Total appeals upheld by Panel**</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1167 536 1240">2017/18</td> <td data-bbox="536 1167 746 1240">20</td> <td data-bbox="746 1167 959 1240">61</td> <td data-bbox="959 1167 1171 1240">81</td> <td data-bbox="1171 1167 1385 1240">40/50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1240 536 1314">2018/19</td> <td data-bbox="536 1240 746 1314">85</td> <td data-bbox="746 1240 959 1314">56</td> <td data-bbox="959 1240 1171 1314">141</td> <td data-bbox="1171 1240 1385 1314">88/62%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1314 536 1388">2019/20</td> <td data-bbox="536 1314 746 1388">50</td> <td data-bbox="746 1314 959 1388">39</td> <td data-bbox="959 1314 1171 1388">89</td> <td data-bbox="1171 1314 1385 1388">48/54%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1388 536 1462">2020/21</td> <td data-bbox="536 1388 746 1462">44</td> <td data-bbox="746 1388 959 1462">47</td> <td data-bbox="959 1388 1171 1462">91</td> <td data-bbox="1171 1388 1385 1462">52/57%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1462 536 1536">2021/22</td> <td data-bbox="536 1462 746 1536">52</td> <td data-bbox="746 1462 959 1536">35</td> <td data-bbox="959 1462 1171 1536">87</td> <td data-bbox="1171 1462 1385 1536">64/73%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1536 536 1615">2022/23*</td> <td data-bbox="536 1536 746 1615">18</td> <td data-bbox="746 1536 959 1615">26</td> <td data-bbox="959 1536 1171 1615">44</td> <td data-bbox="1171 1536 1385 1615">78/58%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="320 1615 432 1648">*to date</p> <p data-bbox="320 1648 699 1688">**i.e. appeal lost by parent</p> <p data-bbox="320 1727 1331 1800">It is anticipated that oversubscription will continue at secondary level in some areas of the County as a consequence of parental preference.</p>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Secondary Appeals</u>	<u>Primary Appeals</u>	<u>Total Appeals</u>	<u>Total appeals upheld by Panel**</u>	2017/18	20	61	81	40/50%	2018/19	85	56	141	88/62%	2019/20	50	39	89	48/54%	2020/21	44	47	91	52/57%	2021/22	52	35	87	64/73%	2022/23*	18	26	44	78/58%
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1.04	The consultation process took place between 13 th January 2023 and 3 rd February 2023 and no comments were received. There are no changes proposed to the admission arrangements. The proposed admissions timetable has been drawn up in consultation with neighbouring authorities and takes in to account factors such as allowing parents sufficient time to visit/research schools and express their preferences, the time needed to process applications, etc. The timetable also incorporates the “common																																			

	offer dates” prescribed by the School Admissions Code (i.e. 1 March for secondary and 16 April for primary).
1.05	As part of the consultation, Headteachers were asked if there have been any changes to the accommodation at their Schools which could necessitate a review of their Admission Number. No requests have been received. There are changes to the capacity and admission numbers at a number of schools as a result of extensions and/or new builds. These revised figures are included in Appendix 2 and 3.
1.06	There are between 1,700 and 1,800 applications each year in each of the three admissions phases, i.e., for Year 7, Reception and Nursery. In addition, there are more than 1,200 applications received during the academic year to transfer schools, many because of house moves into the area. All applications are made online, and assistance is provided by Admissions Officers and Flintshire Connects staff for any parents experiencing difficulties completing the form.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no revenue/capital implications. There are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles.
2.02	The Admissions Team manages the Council’s Admission process and is appropriately resourced for these proposals.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	The annual determination of admission arrangements must be carried out in accordance with the framework and timetable in the School Admissions Code. Consultation has been completed and approval is being sought within the deadlines set out in the Code. Adherence to the Code minimises the risk of challenge to the Public Services Ombudsman or by way of judicial review.
3.02	There are no direct anti-poverty, environment or equalities issues arising from this report. The admissions policy is applied consistently in all cases in accordance with the Code.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	All statutory consultees have been consulted in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Admission Arrangements 2024/25.
5.02	Appendix 2 – Primary Admission Numbers.
5.03	Appendix 3 – Secondary Admission Numbers.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	School Admission Code – July 2013 https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-admissions-code.pdf

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Natalie Summers, Team Leader Telephone: 01352 704187 E-mail: natalie.summers@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>School Admission Arrangements – the overall procedure and practices about how to apply for a school place, including the criteria to decide how places are allocated, application procedures, the timetable for the admissions process, how late applications are handled, waiting lists and the appeal process.</p> <p>School Admissions Code – a Code issued by Welsh Government in respect of the discharge of admissions functions. All admission authorities have a statutory duty to act in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>Oversubscription criteria – a list of criteria which an admission authority must adopt to be used for the allocation of places if there are more applications received than there are places available.</p> <p>Admission Number – the number of school places that an admission authority can admit in each year group.</p>