



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ADMISSIONS FORUM

AGENDA ITEM 13

Title:	Review of the 2009 Admission Round
Date:	Tuesday 8 December 2009
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Areas Affected:	All Buckinghamshire

Recommendation

The Forum is invited to note the contents of this report and consider any changes for admission from September 2011.

SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The September 2009 admission round was the fifth year of the operation of the co-ordinated schemes.

The outcomes continued to be beneficial for the majority of Buckinghamshire families, with most parents being able to secure a place at a catchment area school if they wanted one.

SECTION B: ACTIVITY TO DATE

In Buckinghamshire there are two admissions phases – Primary (admission to primary school and transfer from infant to junior/combined school), and Secondary. Each transfer group's admissions were co-ordinated by the County Council as required in law.

A summary of the allocation profiles will be available at the meeting. Allocation profiles change over time as a result of:

- Children accepting / rejecting the places offered
- Further places being offered at out county schools
- Children arriving in the county and moving away from the area
- Transfer appeals decisions

Primary School Admission Issues

In the main the arrangements worked well. In a few cases catchment children could not secure places at their catchment preference school and the situation had not resolved over time before the beginning of term. The schools were as follows:

Cuddington & Dinton CE School
Gerrards Cross CE School
Holtspur Combined School
North Marston CE School
Spinfield School
St Mary's CE Aylesbury

A number of late applicants were not able to secure places at their catchment area schools.

For junior transfer, a small number of children were not allocated catchment schools on allocation day, all except Elangeni School have resolved in the interim, although late preferences may not have been able to secure catchment schools.

Grammar School Admission issues

The number of timely selection appeals this year was slightly greater than those heard the previous year (850 vs. 837). Selection appeal information packs were available from the child's school (Buckinghamshire maintained schools) or the Admissions & Transport Team. Independent appeal panels valued the information provided by a school's recommendation list. This has enabled selection appeal panels to gain some understanding of the context within which the child was working at the school and consider how unexpected or out of kilter the child's actual result was when compared with recommendations which were fixed in advance of the tests.

At the beginning of September 2009, there were places available in grammar and upper schools in most areas of the county with 10 schools (including four grammar schools) having places spare, and 24 schools either full to number or exceeding the admission number as a result of successful transfer appeals (this included nine grammar schools). The exception was the Wycombe area where both the boys' and the girls' grammar schools were full.

Overall, the council has provided sufficient places to accommodate all Buckinghamshire resident grammar school qualified children, and, generally they have been able to access their catchment schools. The main exceptions to this were Dr Challoner's Grammar School with 41 catchment boys still on the waiting list and The Royal Grammar School with 23. It should be noted that some boys would have been on both lists and not all would therefore be first preferences. There were also six catchment girls on the waiting list for Dr Challoner's High School.

As of 2 September, there were 66 spare places in grammar schools, including at one single sex grammar school.

Upper school allocation process

Upper school children were, in many cases, offered their catchment upper school as a highest preference if that was what they wished. Overall, Holmer Green Upper School was unable to offer places to seven catchment children, Sir William Ramsay School to six, John Colet School to five, Mandeville School & Specialist Sports College and Princes Risborough to four and Great Marlow School to two. Twenty one catchment children remained on the waiting list for Highcrest Community School; members will recall that this area is also served by Cressex Community School. In all other cases over time most catchment children were offered places but inevitably where children moved into areas later in the year this became more and more difficult to achieve.

Overall, the council has provided sufficient upper school places to accommodate all Buckinghamshire resident children, and, in the main they have been able to access their catchment schools.

As of 2 September, there are 94 spare places in upper schools, and these are located across the county in six schools.

SECTION C: THE NEXT STEPS

An independent review of Buckinghamshire's secondary school admission arrangements has been undertaken. Its scope was to look at the impact of the current arrangements, identify options for change and to recommend what those might be. The views of interested parents and schools have been considered. This review is at Item 7 of this agenda.

Background Papers

School Admissions Code

Update on 2009 Admissions Round: Report to Admissions Forum - May 2009

Buckinghamshire Schools Admissions Policy for 2009 – available on the County Council website: www.buckscc.gov.uk/schools/parents/admissions

Appendix 2: Secondary School Admission – 2007 - 2009

2007		No of resident pupils receiving 1st preference	% of resident pupils receiving 1st preference	No of resident pupils receiving 1st preference (in or out catchment)	% of resident pupils receiving first preference (in or out catchment)	No of resident pupils receiving 1st or 2nd rank preference	% of resident pupils receiving 1st or 2nd rank preference
School Type		catchment school	catchment school	catchment)	catchment)	rank preference	rank preference
Grammar		1538	97.5%	1605	95.4%	1591	99.9%
Upper		2327	98.5%	2955	89.7%	2450	99.7%
Total		3865	98.1%	4560	91.6%	4041	99.8%

2008		No of catchment resident pupils receiving 1st preference	% of catchment resident pupils receiving 1st preference	No of resident pupils receiving 1st preference (in or out catchment)	% of resident pupils receiving first preference (in or out catchment)	No of resident pupils receiving any rank preference (March 08)	% of resident pupils receiving any rank preference (March 08)
School Type		catchment school	catchment school	catchment)	catchment)	08)	08)
Grammar		1532	97.5%	1588	96%	-	-
Upper		2343	98.8%	2987	90%	-	-
Total		3875	98.3%	4575	92%	5448	92%

2009		No of catchment resident pupils receiving 1st preference	% of catchment resident pupils receiving 1st preference	No of resident pupils receiving 1st preference (in or out catchment)	% of resident pupils receiving first preference (in or out catchment)	No of resident pupils receiving 1st or 2nd rank preference	% of resident pupils receiving 1st or 2nd rank preference
School Type		catchment school	catchment school	catchment)	catchment)	rank preference	rank preference
Grammar		1503	94.4%	1558	93%	1558	98.9%
Upper		2439	97.7%	3019	89%	2589	99.3%
Total		3942	96.4%	4577	90%	4147	99.1%

The above show non-qualified pupils first preference upper school figures (grammar preferences were removed) and were measured in the of the year in question unless otherwise stated. They do not include pupils who have declined the offer of a place or had not received an offer. They also exclude pupils living in Buckinghamshire who had opted to attend a non-maintained school or a school in another county or borough.