

North Somerset Council Decision

Decision Of: Executive Member for Children's Services & Lifelong Learning

With Advice From: Director of Children's Services

Directorate: Children's Services



Decision No: CY39 (2021/22 Scheme)

Subject: Primary and Secondary Coordinated Schools Admission Schemes for 2023 – 24 – decision to consult

Key Decision: Yes

Reason:

Each local authority (LA) has a duty to set a Primary and Secondary Coordinated Admission Scheme.

Background:

The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 requires all admission authorities to consult on the Coordinated Admission Schemes.

Decision:

The Primary and Secondary Coordinated Admission Schemes 2023-24 are consulted on.

Reasons:

Each local authority has a duty to set a Primary and Secondary Coordinated Admission Scheme.

Options Considered:

It is a legal requirement to have a coordinated scheme.

Financial Implications:

None

Costs:

None

Funding:

None

Legal Powers and Implications:

Regulations 26 to 32 and Schedule 2 of the School Admissions Regulations 2012 cover the requirements for such schemes.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications:

Within each oversubscription criterion, priority is given to children living nearest to the school, which, where possible, encourages local schools for local children. The reduced travel distance increases the likelihood of sustainable travel choices, such as walking and cycling.

Consultation:

The School Admissions Code 2021 requires that, where the scheme is substantially different from the scheme adopted for the previous academic year, the local authority must consult the other admission authorities in the area and any other local authorities it determines. Where the scheme has not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that the local authority must consult on the scheme at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

The Primary and Secondary Coordinated Admission Schemes were consulted on for the 2020-21 intake. It is proposed that one change to the wording around alternative places offers is consulted on for 2023-24 academic year, to provide clarity around the wording “shortest available walking route”.

The current wording in section 3.8 says:

Where applicants are not offered any of the school(s) they have applied for, they may be offered a place at an alternative school. The alternative school offered will be the nearest school to the child’s home address with a place available as measured by shortest available walking route.

The school may be a North Somerset school, or a school within another Local Authority (excluding Catholic schools).

Where there are more applications than places remaining at the nearest available school, priority will be given to those living closest to the school by shortest available walking route.

It is proposed that the following wording is consulted on:

Where applicants are not offered any of the school(s) they have applied for, they may be offered a place at an alternative school. The alternative school offered will be the nearest school to the child’s home address with a place available. This will be

measured by shortest available safe walking route where this is within the statutory walking distances of 2 miles for children under aged 8 and 3 miles for children aged over 8. Where the nearest school with a vacancy cannot be accessed by a safe walking route within the statutory distances, a place will be offered at the nearest appropriate school by road distance, measured by council systems.

The school may be a North Somerset school, or a school within another Local Authority (excluding Catholic schools).

Where there are more applications than places remaining at the nearest available school, priority will be given to those living closest to the school by shortest available safe walking route where this is within the statutory walking distances of 2 miles for children under aged 8 and 3 miles for children aged over 8. Where the nearest school with a vacancy cannot be accessed by a safe walking route within the statutory distances, priority will be given to those living closest by road distance, measured by council systems.

Risk Management:

Legal requirement to be set. Failure to set would mean we are in breach of the school admissions code.

Equality Implications:

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? Yes / No

This scheme allows the council to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within our area and sets out the process and timescales for this.

Corporate Implications:

The council has a duty to formulate and publish the co-ordinated admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within their area.

Appendices:

Background Papers:

[School Admissions Code](#)

[School Admissions Appeals Code 2012](#)

[School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#)

[North Somerset 2022-23 Coordinated Schemes](#)

Signatories:

Decision Maker(s):

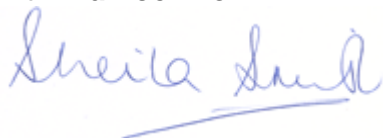


Signed:

Title: Executive Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning

Date: 18.10.21

With Advice From:



Signed:

Title: Director of Children's Services

Date: 18.10.21

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable: