

North Somerset Council Decision



**Decision Of: Executive Member for Children's Services,
Families and Lifelong Learning**

**With Advice From: Director of Children's Services and Head of Strategic
Place Planning, Capital Programmes and School Organisation/Admissions
Service**

Directorate: Children's Services

Decision No: CY117 (2023/24 scheme)

**Subject: 2025-26 Primary and Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions
Schemes**

Key Decision: Yes

Reason:

Each local authority (LA) has a duty to set a Primary and Secondary Coordinated Admission Scheme that covers all schools across the district. If the LA does not have an agreed scheme in place by 28 February annually, the Secretary of State may impose one.

Background:

The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 requires all admission authorities to consult on their Coordinated Admission Schemes. This Decision Sheet asks for the arrangements for the 2025-26 school year to be approved.

Decision:

The Primary and Secondary Coordinated Admission Schemes 2025-26 attached to this report are approved and adopted by the Authority.

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:

None.

Consultation:

The School Admissions Code 2021 requires Local authorities to formulate and publish on their website by 1 January in the relevant determination year (1 January 2025 for applications for the 2025-26 school year), a scheme to coordinate admission arrangements for the normal admissions round and late applications for all publicly funded schools within their area. 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. Our formulated scheme is available on our website and consultations on our arrangements took place between 22 November 2023 and 26 January 2024.

One response to the online consultation was received as follows:

Question 1: Please let us know your comments on the proposed coordinated schemes for the 2025-26 intake. Please include which scheme(s) you are responding to by including in your response; primary scheme, secondary scheme, both schemes.

Anonymous response received:

*Following OSA determination on a Bristol secondary school within our trust;
My query is whether the arrangements in both schemes restrict those who can apply to the school to children resident in the UK, children with UK passports and children whose passports indicate that they have a right of abode.*

In response, the nature of a child's immigration status, even if short-term, has no bearing upon the child's entitlement (or otherwise) to a school place. The DfE Guidance which says: "The admission authorities for state-funded schools (maintained schools and academy schools) must not check the immigration or nationality status of foreign national children as a pre-condition for admission. Admission authorities for state-funded schools: must not refuse to admit a child on the basis of their nationality or immigration status nor remove them from the roll on this basis, must not ask to see passports or other immigration information as a condition of admission (this would be a breach of paragraphs 1.

Any such consultation, which must be undertaken with a view to ensuring the admission of pupils in different local authorities is, as far as reasonably practicable, compatible with each other, the local authority must determine the qualifying scheme and must take all

reasonable steps to secure its adoption. A local authority must inform the Secretary of State whether they have secured the adoption of a qualifying scheme by 28 February in the determination year. The Secretary of State may impose a scheme where a scheme has not been adopted. All admission authorities must participate in coordination for the normal admissions round and late applications and provide the local authority with the information it needs to co-ordinate admissions by the dates agreed within the scheme. Local authorities must make application forms available to parents who wish to apply to a school in a neighbouring area which operates a different age of transfer (e.g. middle schools), and process these as it would in its normal admissions round.”

The North Somerset Primary and Secondary Coordinated Admission Schemes were last consulted on for the 2023-24 intake and there have been no significant changes.

Risk Management:

There is a legal requirement to set a coordinated scheme. A failure to do so would mean that the LA is in breach of the school admissions code.

Equality Implications:

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? 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:

Appendix 1 – Primary Coordinated Scheme 2025-26
Appendix 2 – Secondary Coordinated Scheme 2025-26

Background Papers:

[School Admissions Code](#)
[School Admissions Appeals Code](#)
[School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#)
North Somerset 2025-26 Coordinated Schemes

Signatories:

Decision Maker(s):



Signed:

Title: Executive Member for Children’s Services, Families, and Lifelong Learning

Date: 27.02.24

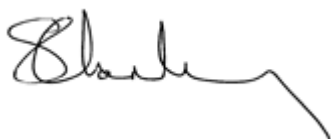
With Advice From:



Signed:

Title: Director of Children's Services

Date: 27.02.24



Signed:

Title: Head of Strategic Place Planning, Capital Programmes and
School Organisation/Admissions Service

Date: 27.02.24

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