

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: CY118 (2023/24 scheme)

Subject: Community and Voluntary Controlled School (Kewstoke Primary School) Admission Arrangements 2025-26

Key Decision: No

Reasons:

Each local authority (LA) has a duty to set admissions arrangements for schools for which the LA is the admissions authority for. The only school that the Local Authority is currently the responsible body for is Kewstoke Primary School. This applies to only one ward.

Background:

Admission authorities are responsible for setting their arrangements for admissions to their schools and must act in accordance with the School Admissions Code, the School Admission Appeals Code, other laws relating to admissions, and relevant human rights and equalities legislation. Local Authorities are the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools.

As at 1 February 2024, the Council is the Admission Authority for Kewstoke Primary School only.

Decision:

The Admissions Arrangements 2025-26 attached to this decision are approved and adopted by the Authority for use at Kewstoke Primary School.

Reasons:

Each Local Authority has a duty to set admissions arrangements for schools for which the LA is the admissions authority for.

Options Considered:

It is a legal requirement to set admissions arrangements.

Financial Implications:

None

Costs:

None

Funding:

None

Legal Powers and Implications:

Section 1 (1.1 to 1.54) of the School Admissions Code December 2021 and the main provisions relating to admissions are in Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the SSFA 1998.

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 (section 1.45) requires that, when changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information forms) that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

The Admissions Arrangements were last consulted on for the 2023-24 intake. The latest arrangements are available at: <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/school-admissions/full-school-admissions-policies>

The following changes are proposed for the policies from 2025-26:

- Removal of wording 'Statement of Special Educational Needs' as this is no longer relevant and has been replaced with Education Health Care Plan.
- Changing the application window for in year applications so that all applicants, regardless of whether they are moving house or not, can apply 21 days in advance (section 4.1)
- Change of wording in section 4.2 to be more clear and concise, including all offers being valid for 21 days.
- Changing waiting lists to annual waiting lists, rather than applicants needing to renew every January, April and September. This will allow for vacancies in school to be filled quickly and reduce the amount enquiries into the School Admissions Team in busy periods (section 4.4).

- Ensuring that policies are gender neutral by removing any use of his/her, brother/sister, he/she.

The consultation opened on 22 November 2023 and ended on 31 January 2024. There were two responses to the online consultation as follows:

Question 1: Do you agree with the proposed amendments to the School Admission Arrangements for North Somerset Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2025-26?

Both submitted responses answered Yes.

If you answered 'No' and wish to expand upon your response please use the space below:

No responses received.

Question 2: Do you have any further comments to make regarding the proposed School Admission Arrangements for North Somerset Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2025-26?

No responses received.

The School Organisation Scrutiny Steering Group (CYPS Policy and Scrutiny Panel) met on 8 December 2023 to review the draft school admission policies. They were supportive of the proposed amendments to be made.

Risk Management:

There is a legal requirement for policies to be set. A failure to set arrangements would place the Council in breach of the School Admissions Code.

Equality Implications:

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No.

The legal requirements of setting admission arrangements have been adhered to.

Corporate Implications:

The Council has a duty to formulate and publish the admission arrangements for all schools for which the Local Authority is the admissions authority.

Appendices:

School Admission Arrangements 2025-26 for Kewstoke Primary School

Background Papers:

[School Admissions Code 2021](#)

[School Admissions Appeals Code 2022](#)

[School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#)

Signatories:

Decision Maker(s):



Signed:

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

Date: 27.02.24

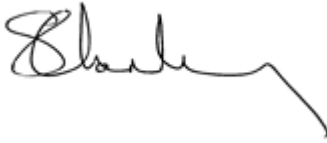
With Advice From:



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: