

Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Date: **24 February 2020**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **Admission arrangements for the 2021/22 school year**

Purpose of report: **To determine the final school admission arrangements for community and controlled schools for the 2021/22 school year**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Lead Member is recommended to:

Agree the proposed admission arrangements for the 2021/22 school year including:

- 1) The proposed admission priorities and community areas (with one amendment to the Heathfield primary schools' community area);**
 - 2) The proposed admission numbers for community and controlled schools as set out in Appendix 2 (excepting the increase in PAN for Willingdon Community School) where it should remain at 200; and**
 - 3) The proposed co-ordinated admissions schemes.**
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1 Background

1.1 The School Admissions Code 2014 states that admission authorities must determine their admission arrangements annually. However, provided the relevant admission authority is not proposing any changes to their admission arrangements, there is a duty to consult every seven years.

1.2 Consultation on the proposed arrangements as set out in Appendix 1 was carried out between 11 November 2019 and 15 January 2020. This satisfied the duty to consult for at least six weeks and end the consultation period by 31 January 2020. 8 responses were received via the consultation portal during this period and the results are outlined in Appendix 4.

1.3 Further responses were received from the headteachers of the primary schools in Lewes which are attached as Appendix 5.

1.4 This consultation was also carried out on behalf of Priory School, Lewes, and Hailsham Community College, whose arrangements mirror those of the County Council.

2 Supporting information- the proposed changes

Community areas:

2.1 The Lead Member is asked to agree to expand the community area for Heathfield primary schools to encompass the area currently served by Broad Oak

Primary School. The reason for this is the proposed closure of Broad Oak Primary School with effect from 31 August 2020.

2.2 Should the decision be taken for Broad Oak Primary School to remain open, the Local Authority believes it is advisable to include the school in the Heathfield primary community area to broaden the range of options available within the area. The affected area is shown in the attached map (Appendix 6).

2.3 Further to the decision taken at Lead Member meeting on 23 December 2019 not to proceed with the proposed closure of Fletching CE Primary School there is no requirement to proceed with this merger of areas with Chailey St Peter's CE School community area (shown in Appendix 7).

Proposed PAN changes:

Willingdon Community School:

2.4 Forecasts for 2021/22 suggest that there could be little spare capacity within Eastbourne and Willingdon should the PAN remain at 200. Building works have taken place at Willingdon Community School to accommodate a PAN of 240. However, discussions with Eastbourne and Willingdon Schools as part of the consultation indicate concern that increasing the PAN for Willingdon would have a negative impact on pupil numbers in other local schools.

2.5 Should pupil numbers in the Eastbourne and Willingdon area increase prior to September 2021 admissions it would be possible to admit additional pupils to Willingdon Community School without further consultation.

2.6 The Lead Member is therefore asked to retain the PAN of 200 for 2021/22 and defer any increase in PAN until 2022/23 when forecasts show a likely need for additional places.

Lewes Area Schools:

2.7 In light of the response to the consultation from Wallands Primary School, Southover School, and the coordinated response from Lewes primary headteachers (Appendix 5) officers of the County Council have considered how to respond to the request to remove 1 FE from Lewes Town. This would have the effect of reducing the number of surplus places in the area which would be more sustainable for the schools moving forward, based on the forecast reduction in numbers of pupils in Lewes. Previous discussion with schools on how to address this did not result in agreement to the Local Authority's proposed way forward, so further options to address reducing the number of surplus places were not included in the consultation.

2.8 The School Admissions Code 2014 requires a consultation with parents and other admission authorities in the local area in order for **a decrease** in a school's PAN to be determined. As this consultation did not include a specific proposal to remove an FE from one of the Lewes Schools (namely Wallands or Southover) the Lead Member is recommended to agree the proposed admission numbers as set out in this report. Following further discussions with schools and appropriate GBs it may be possible for the Local Authority to apply to the schools adjudicator for an in year variation to address the forecasted surplus places.

3. Other consultation responses

3.1 Sandown Primary School has asked to 'add preference for staff who work within the school'. The School Admissions Code 2014 states that this can only be done in respect of staff who have been employed at the school for two or more years at the time of application and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. To introduce this priority would require a separate consultation and it is therefore not proposed to make this change for 2021 admissions.

3.2 Bonners CE Primary School has asked to increase its PAN from 15 to 20 to meet demand. However the school does not have sufficient accommodation to support a PAN of 20 and forecast pupil numbers do not show a need for extra places to meet demand. It is therefore not proposed to make this change for 2021 admissions.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 The County Council is required by law to carry out consultation on admission arrangements every seven years, or sooner if there are any changes to those arrangements for the schools where the local authority is the admission authority. The Lead Member is recommended to determine the attached admission arrangements for 2021/22 with the change to the community area for Heathfield set out above.

4.2 To agree the PANs for community and controlled schools as set out in Appendix 2 excepting the increase in PAN for Willingdon Community School.

4.3 To agree the adoption of the co-ordinated schemes of admission as set out in Appendix 3.

4.4 The determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools will be published on the East Sussex County Council website by 15 March 2020 as required under current legislation. Any objection to these arrangements can then be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator until 15 May 2020. The final arrangements will be published in the composite prospectus online (and available in hard copy on demand) by 12 September 2020 as required by the School Admissions Code 2014.

STUART GALLIMORE

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Proposed Admissions criteria

Appendix 2- Admission numbers

Appendix 3 - Co-ordination Admission Schemes – normal year of entry

Appendix 4- Summary of consultation responses

Appendix 5: Letter from head teachers of Lewes primary schools

Appendix 6: map showing proposed change to Heathfield primary community areas

Appendix 7: map showing proposed merger of community areas for Chailey St Peters and Fletching CE schools

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012
- The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014
- The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
- School Admissions Code 2014

Appendix 1 - Proposed Admissions criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools in East Sussex

- 1. Looked after children and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following being looked after.**
- 2. Children who will have a brother or sister at the school (or linked infant or junior school) at the time of admission and who live at the same address, within the pre-defined community area***

The definitions of 'sibling' and community areas are as shown in the admission booklet 'apply for a school 2021-22'

- 3. Children wishing to transfer between a linked infant and junior school (as per schools listed in the admission booklet).**

- 4. Other children living within a pre-defined community area**

Each home address within the county falls within a community area although living within the community area does not guarantee a place. Maps of the community areas are shown in the admission booklet 'apply for a school 2021-22'.

- 5. Children who will have a brother or sister at the school (or linked infant or junior school) at the time of admission who live at the same address, outside the pre-defined community area.***

The definition of sibling is as shown in the admission booklet 'apply for a school 2021-22'

- 6. Other children living outside the pre-defined community area.**

Tiebreaker

- In the event of oversubscription within any category, place allocation will be decided by prioritising applications on the basis of home to school distance measured in a straight line (as the crow flies). For split site schools, we will measure to the site where the child will attend for the majority of lessons at the point of entry.
- In the event that applicants cannot be prioritised using the tie-breaker above because the distance measurements are the same, the Authority will use random allocation to decide which children will be offered the remaining places. This will be done electronically using the Authority's admissions software.

**** Children who have a brother or sister who joined the school prior to 1 September 2017 and who is still on roll will be admitted under the previous criteria which gave priority to brothers and sisters regardless of whether they live in the pre-defined community area or not.***

Twins and children from multiple births (all community and voluntary controlled schools).

Where the admission of both twins or all siblings from a multiple birth would cause the school to rise above its Planned Admission Number, both twins or all of the siblings will be admitted. Where the admission of the additional child or children from multiple births to an infant class would result in the PAN rising above 30 (or multiples of 30), the additional child/children would be exceptions to the Infant Class Size legislation throughout the infant phase or until the number in the year group reduced to the PAN.

Appendix 2 - Admission numbers

The tables below show the schools the proposed planned admission numbers (PANs) for secondary schools where the County Council is the admission authority. (Proposed changes shown in bold). Establishments listed in *italics* are their own admission authorities, and their admission numbers are included for reference only, and may be subject to change.

The Lead Member is advised that schools which are their own admission authority are able to increase their PAN or admit over PAN without consultation, although they do have to notify the Council of their intention to do so in order to enable the co-ordinated scheme to apply effectively.

1. Eastbourne area

School	Admission number 2021/22
The Causeway	189
<i>The Cavendish School (Academy)</i>	120
<i>The Eastbourne Academy</i>	180
<i>Gildredge House</i>	84
<i>Ratton School Academy Trust</i>	243
<i>St Catherine's College (Academy)</i>	216
Willingdon Community School	240 (from 200)

2. Hastings/St Leonards area

School	Admission number 2021/22
<i>Ark Alexandra Academy</i>	360
<i>The Hastings Academy</i>	180
<i>The St Leonards Academy</i>	300

3. Other areas of the County

School	Admission number 2021/22
<i>Beacon Academy</i>	220
<i>Bexhill Academy</i>	330
Chailey School	162
Claverham Community College	230
<i>Hailsham Community College Academy Trust</i>	240
Heathfield Community College	240
<i>King's Academy Ringmer</i>	150
<i>Peacehaven Community Academy</i>	180
<i>Priory School (Trust)</i>	232
Robertsbridge Community College	145
<i>Rye College</i>	150
<i>St Richard's Catholic College (VA)</i>	200
<i>Seaford Head Academy</i>	240
<i>Seahaven Academy</i>	150

Uckfield College	270
Uplands Community College	150

Primary, Junior and Infant Schools - proposed admissions numbers for the 2021/22 school year.

1. Bexhill area

School	Admission number 2021/22
All Saints Church of England Primary School	30
Chantry Community Primary School	30
<i>Glenleigh Park Primary Academy</i>	60
<i>King Offa Primary Academy</i>	60
Little Common School	90
<i>Pebsham Primary Academy</i>	30
<i>St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>St Peter and St Paul CE Primary School (VA)</i>	60

2. Crowborough area

School	Admission number 2021/22
Ashdown Primary School	60
<i>Jarvis Brook Primary Academy</i>	30
<i>St John's CE Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>St Mary's RC Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>Sir Henry Fermor CE Primary Academy</i>	60

3. Eastbourne area (including Polegate and Willingdon)

School	Admission number 2021/22
Bourne Primary School	60
<i>The Cavendish School (Academy)</i>	60
<i>Gildredge House (Free school)</i>	56
<i>Heron Park Primary Academy</i>	60
<i>Langney Primary Academy</i>	60
Motcombe Infant School (for pupils aged 4-7)	120
<i>Oakwood Primary Academy</i>	60
<i>Ocklynge Junior Academy (for pupils aged 7-11)</i>	210
<i>Parkland Infant Academy (for pupils aged 4-7)</i>	60
<i>Parkland Junior Academy (for pupils aged 7-11)</i>	60
Pashley Down Infant School (for pupils aged 4-7)	90
Polegate School	90
Roselands Infant School (for pupils aged 4-7)	90
<i>Shinewater Primary Academy</i>	60
St Andrews Church of England Infant School (4-7)	90
<i>St Johns Meads Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>St Thomas a Becket Catholic Primary school (4-7) (VA)</i>	60
Stafford Junior School (for pupils aged 7-11)	90
<i>The Haven CE/Methodist Primary School (VA)</i>	60
Tollgate Community Junior School (for pupils aged 7-11)	90

West Rise Community Infant School (for pupils aged 4-7)	90
West Rise Junior School (for pupils aged 7-11)	90
Willingdon Primary School	*60

4. Hailsham

School	Admission number 2021/22
<i>Burfield Academy</i>	30
<i>Grovelands Community School (Trust)</i>	90
<i>Hailsham Community College Academy</i>	60
<i>Hawkes Farm Primary Academy</i>	60
Hellingly Community Primary School	30
<i>Phoenix Academy</i>	30
<i>White House Academy</i>	30

5. Hastings/St Leonards area

School	Admission number 2021/22
<i>All Saints Church of England Junior Academy (7-11)</i>	60
<i>Ark Blacklands Primary Academy</i>	90
<i>Ark Castledown Primary Academy</i>	60
<i>Ark Little Ridge Primary Academy</i>	60
<i>The Baird Primary Academy</i>	60
<i>Christ Church CE Primary School (VA)</i>	60
<i>Churchwood Primary Academy</i>	30
<i>Dudley Infant Academy (4-7)</i>	60
<i>Hollington Primary Academy</i>	60
<i>Ore Village Primary Academy</i>	60
<i>Robsack Wood Primary Academy</i>	60
<i>Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>St Leonards CE Primary Academy</i>	60
<i>St Mary Star of the Sea Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>St Paul's Church of England Primary School (Academy)</i>	90
Sandown Primary School	60
<i>Silverdale Primary Academy</i>	90
<i>West St Leonards Primary Academy</i>	60

6. Heathfield

School	Admission number 2021/22
<i>All Saints and St Richard's CE Primary School (VA)</i>	20
Cross-In-Hand Church of England Primary School	60
Parkside Community Primary School	30

7. Lewes area

School	Admission number 2021/22
<i>St Pancras Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	20

South Malling Church of England Primary School	30
Southover Church of England Primary School	60
Wallands Community Primary School	60
<i>Western Road Community Primary School</i>	30

8. Newhaven area

School	Admission number 2021/22
<i>Breakwater Academy</i>	30
Denton Community School	30
Harbour Primary and Nursery School	60
<i>High Cliff Academy</i>	30

9. Peacehaven/Telscombe Cliffs area

School	Admission number 2021/22
Meridian Primary School	60
Peacehaven Heights Primary School	60
Telscombe Cliffs Community Primary School	90

10. Rye area

School	Admission number 2021/22
<i>Rye Primary Academy</i>	60

11. Seaford area

School	Admission number 2021/22
<i>Annecy Catholic Primary School (Academy)</i>	30
Chyngton School	60
Cradle Hill Community Primary School	90
Seaford Primary School	60

12. Uckfield area

School	Admission number 2021/22
Harlands Primary School	30
<i>Holy Cross CE Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>Little Horsted CE Primary School (VA)</i>	15
Manor Primary School	60
Rocks Park Primary School	30
<i>St Philip's Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	30

13. Rural Primary Schools

School	Admission number 2021/22
Alfriston School	15
Barcombe Church of England Primary School	20
Battle and Langton Church of England Primary School	60
Beckley Church of England Primary School	15

<i>Blackboys Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	20
Bodiam Church of England Primary School	15
Bonnors Church of England Primary School	15
Brede Primary School	20
Broad Oak Community Primary School*	20*
Burwash Church of England Primary School	25
Buxted Church of England Primary School	30
Catsfield Church of England Primary School	15
Chailey St Peter's Church of England Primary School	20
Chiddingly Primary School	15
Crowhurst Church of England Primary School	15
Dallington Church of England Primary School	15
Danehill Church of England Primary School	15
Ditchling (St Margaret's) Church of England Primary School	24
East Hoathly Church of England Primary School	15
Etchingham Church of England Primary School	15
Firle Church of England Primary School	15
Five Ashes Church of England Primary School	10
Fletching Church of England Primary School	15
Forest Row Church of England Primary School	30
<i>Framfield Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	15
Frant Church of England Primary School	15
<i>Groombridge St Thomas Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>Guestling-Bradshaw Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	30
Hamsey Primary School	15
Hankham Primary School	20
Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School	30
High Hurstwood Church of England Primary School	15
Hurst Green Church of England Primary School	20
Icklesham Church of England Primary School	15
Iford and Kingston Church of England Primary School	30
Laughton Community Primary School	15
<i>Mark Cross Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	15
Mayfield Church of England Primary School	30
Maynards Green Community Primary School	30
Netherfield Church of England Primary School	20
Newick Church of England Primary School	30
Ninfield Church of England Primary School	20
Northiam Church of England Primary School	15
Nutley Church of England Primary School	15
Park Mead Primary School	15
Peasmarsh Church of England Primary School	15
Pevensey and Westham Church of England Primary School	60
Plumpton Primary School	20
Punnetts Town Community Primary School	15
Ringmer Primary School	45
Rotherfield Primary School	30

<i>St Mark's Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	13
<i>St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	15
St Michaels Church of England Primary School (Playden)	15
St Michaels Primary School (Withyham)	15
<i>St Thomas' Church of England Primary School (Winchelsea) (VA)</i>	20
Salehurst Church of England Primary School	30
Sedlescombe Church of England Primary School	30
Staplecross Methodist Primary School	15
Stone Cross School	60
Stonegate Church of England Primary School	15
Ticehurst and Flimwell CE Primary School	30
Wadhurst Church of England Primary School	45
Westfield School	30
Wivelsfield Primary School	30

*The Lead Member is asked to retain the PAN for Broad Oak Primary School at this figure should the decision be taken not to close the school with effect from 31/8/20.

Appendix 3 - Co-ordination Admission Schemes for the normal year of entry

Attached are the proposed co-ordinated schemes for primary and secondary admissions at the normal point of entry. The changes to both schemes are minimal.

Introduction

Local Authorities (LAs) are required each year to draw up a scheme for co-ordinating the normal admissions round to primary and secondary schools. The aim of the scheme is to ensure that all parents receive a single offer of a school place on the national allocation date. If the prescribed date falls on a weekend or bank holiday, offers are sent on the next working day.

The scheme proposed by the County Council will be the subject of consultation with all maintained schools in the county and neighbouring local authorities.

Secondary scheme 2021/22

Key dates

Admissions information made available:	September 2020
Closing date for applications:	31 October 2020
Exchange of preference data between local authorities:	25 November 2020
Admission authorities in East Sussex to advise LA of ranked order:	8 January 2021
Finalise allocations:	7 February 2021
Allocations confirmed to secondary schools:	24 February 2021
Decisions conveyed to parents by email:	1 March 2021
Closing date for appeals	1 April 2021
'On time' appeals heard:	April - June 2021

Applications made in the main round

1. The co-ordinated scheme is based on all preferences expressed by parents being treated equally but where more than one school can be offered, the highest possible school named by the parent will be allocated. It will be for individual admission authorities to prioritise all preferences expressed for their schools against the published admissions criteria, which they have consulted on and determined. Individual academies can agree that the Authority ranks applicants on the academy's behalf. This would be a traded service. The only valid preferences are those stated on the LA common application form which is available online or in hard copy. Other admission authorities in East Sussex must not use any other application form. A separate, supplementary information form can only be used where additional information is required to determine admission within their published criteria. This form will be obtainable from and returnable to that admission authority (voluntary aided (VA) schools). A supplementary information form on its own is not a valid application. Applicants living outside East Sussex must use the common application form that is supplied by their home local authority.
2. The process will begin with the information on admission arrangements and methods of application being made available early in September 2020.
3. The LA application form enables parents to name up to any three maintained schools stated in order of preference. The form should be completed and submitted to the LA by the closing date of 31 October 2020.
4. By 25 November 2020, East Sussex will exchange preference data with any local authority where an application has been received.

5. By 8 January 2021, East Sussex schools that are their own admissions authorities will consider their applications, apply their published admissions criteria and provide the LA with a list of those applicants ranked accordingly.
6. By 17 January 2021, other local authorities will advise East Sussex of decisions reached on applications for their schools from East Sussex residents. East Sussex will apply its published admissions criteria to those schools where it is the admissions authority and determine the outcome of each preference expressed.
7. By 7 February 2021, the LA will match the ranked lists against the parental preferences to ensure only one place is allocated per child. Qualifying late applications received up to 31 January will be included in this process.

Where a child is –

- Eligible for a place at only one school given on the application form, that school will be allocated
 - Eligible for two or three schools, a place will be allocated at the highest-ranking school
 - Not eligible for a place at any of the named schools and the child lives in East Sussex, a place will be allocated at the nearest school to the home with a space.
8. In the period 7 February to 24 February 2021, decision notifications will be prepared. The LA where the child lives will be responsible for sending these to parents.
 9. From this point on secondary schools will be able to see their allocations in SAM. Primary schools will be able to view destination schools for their year 6 leavers in SAM with effect from 1 March 2021.
 10. Monday 1 March 2021 allocation decisions will be notified to parents by email. Letters will only be sent where specifically requested, or where the application has been made on a paper form. Where a preference is not being met, the notification email will signpost parents to the East Sussex County Council website where information can be found explaining to parents how places have been allocated at their preferred school(s), and advising parents of the right of appeal.

Applications received after 31 October 2020 but by 31 January 2021

1. If an application form is received after 31 October 2020, it will still be passed to the relevant admissions authority with a note that it has been received after the closing date. It will be for the admissions authority to decide how it wishes to respond to the application. This will continue up until 31 January 2021.
2. If an application is received after 31 October 2020 but before 31 January 2021, together with proof of a change of address* since the closing date, or proof of another good reason why it was not possible for the family to apply on time, it will be treated as on time in respect of community and voluntary controlled schools. If there is no proof, or the reason is not considered valid by the LA, the application will be treated as late. There is no separate right of appeal against the decision as to whether the application is treated as on time or late.
3. Applicants whose forms are received between these dates will be sent a decision on 2 March 2021. For applications received after 1 February 2021, we will aim to send a decision letter within 20 school days.

Changes of preference

1. Parents may change their preferences at any stage up to the closing date of 31 October 2020. After 31 October 2020, we will not allow preferences to be changed without good reason. The LA will judge each case on its merits but will only usually accept a change of preference where there has been a significant

change of circumstances (such as a house move*) thus making the original preferences no longer practical. Parents will be required to put their reasons for changing their preferences in writing, and in all cases, supporting evidence will be required. If the change of preference is agreed, a decision will be sent on 2 March 2021 provided the request was received by 31 January 2021. Such applicants will be advised that they have the right of appeal if the revised preference cannot be met.

**In the case of house moves, proof of ownership or tenancy on an East Sussex property (such as exchange of contracts or signed tenancy agreement of one year) is required if an address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place. If an applicant cannot provide evidence, the application cannot be accepted.*

2. There is no right of appeal where the LA does not accept the change of preference.

No application form received by 31 January 2021

No secondary transfer places will be allocated unless a completed application form has been received.

Applications received on or after 1 March 2021

1. Only preferences stated on the LA application will be valid. If the preference is for an 'own authority' school, the LA will pass details to the school for a decision. The school must then advise the LA within fourteen days as to whether a place can be allocated so the LA can formally advise the parent of the decision. Where the preference is for a community or voluntary controlled school, the LA will determine the outcome. If there are no places available at one of the preferred schools a place will be allocated at the nearest school with a place available (if the identified school is its own admissions authority the LA will ask the school whether a place can be allocated). We will aim to process late applications within twenty school days. Any refused preference will carry the right of appeal.
2. Where the preference is for a school in a neighbouring authority, details will be passed to that authority for a decision to be made. Any authority refusing an application should advise the LA of the decision so the LA can consider allocating an alternative school.
3. The Co-ordinated Scheme will end on 31st August each year. Applications received after this date will be processed by individual schools.

Appeals

1. Parents must be allowed at least twenty school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and submit their written appeal. The appeal must be against any refused preference, thus if a parent puts on the appeal form a school which did not feature as a preference on the original application form an appeal will not be arranged.
2. Parents submitting an appeal will be entitled to at least ten school days' notice of the date of the appeal. Papers relevant to the appeal will be sent seven working days before the hearing. Appeals must be heard within forty school days of the deadline for lodging appeals. Appeals for late applications will be included with those being heard for the same admission round wherever possible. If this is not possible, they must be heard within thirty school days of the appeal being lodged.
3. The LA must be advised of the outcome of all appeals.

Waiting lists

1. The LA will operate waiting lists for community and voluntary controlled schools so that it is clear as to which child will be offered any place which becomes vacant. Such waiting lists will be operational after the closing date for appeals to be lodged. The waiting list must reflect the admissions criteria. The LA must be notified by admissions authorities of any places that are subsequently allocated

from the waiting list. Until co-ordination ends, it remains for the LA to offer places to parents when places become available and are allocated from the waiting list whether the admissions authority is the LA or not.

2. Waiting lists will operate until the end of Term 2, 2021 for Year 7 admissions.

Applications for children to be educated out of chronological year group

The School Admissions Code 2014 specifies that parents applying for a school place have a right to request that their child be educated outside their chronological age group. It further specifies that the admission authority for the school in question should make a decision as to whether to agree this 'on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned'. The admission authority is required to take into account various factors including the views of the Headteacher.

The County Council, having sought all relevant advice, will work on the assumption that it is in the best interests of children to continue to be educated out of year group if the child has been the case hitherto, where they have been in a school which follows the National Curriculum, unless there are clear reasons why this is inappropriate.

Where parents submit applications for their children to be educated out of year group where this has not happened before, or where they have come from provision that does not follow the National Curriculum (e.g. private provision or overseas) the County Council will make a decision in the best interests of the child in consultation with the Headteacher of the relevant school as in the case of summer-born children applying at reception entry (see primary scheme).

These arrangements will apply to schools where the County Council is the admission authority- schools in the co-ordinated scheme which are their own admission authority are encouraged to work in the same way but the decision is for each admission authority to make in these cases.

The County Council will continue to advise all parents whose request for admission out of year group is agreed of the potential difficulties this could cause later on, and continue to require parents to agree that they have understood this and take responsibility for this decision before the child is admitted to school in East Sussex (although admission should not be held up if the parent refuses to sign- in this case it would need to be clearly documented that the parent had been advised of the risks but had refused or otherwise failed to sign the disclaimer).

Primary scheme 2021/22

Key dates

Admissions information made available	September 2020
Closing date for applications	15 January 2021
Preferences for each school established	27 January 2021
Exchange of preference data between local authorities	7 February 2021
Admission authorities in East Sussex advise LA of ranked order	16 March 2021
Finalise allocations	30 March 2021
Allocations confirmed to primary schools	16 April 2021
Decisions conveyed to parents by email	16 April 2021
Closing date for appeals	18 May 2021
Appeals heard	June/July 2021

Applications made in the main round

1. The co-ordinated scheme is based on all preferences expressed by parents being treated equally but where more than one school can be offered, the

highest possible school named by the parent will be allocated. It will be for individual admission authorities to prioritise all preferences expressed for their schools against the published admissions criteria, which they have consulted on and determined. Individual academies can agree that the Authority ranks applicants on the academy's behalf. This would be a traded service. The only valid preferences are those stated on the LA common application form which is available online or in hard copy. Other admission authorities in East Sussex must not use any other application form. A separate, supplementary information form can only be used where additional information is required to determine admission within their published criteria. This form will be obtainable from and returnable to that admissions authority (voluntary aided (VA) schools). A supplementary information form on its own is not a valid application. Applicants living outside East Sussex must use the common application form that is supplied by their home local authority.

2. The process will begin with the information on admission arrangements and methods of application being made available early in September 2020.
3. The LA application form enables parents to name up to any three maintained schools stated in order of preference. It should be completed and submitted to the LA by the closing date of 15 January 2021.
4. By 27 January 2021 East Sussex will exchange preference data with any local authority where an application has been received.
5. By 7 February 2021 East Sussex schools that are their own admission authorities will consider all applications for their school, apply their published admissions criteria and provide the LA with a list of those applicants ranked accordingly.
6. By 16 March 2021 other local authorities will advise East Sussex of decisions reached on applications for their schools from East Sussex residents. East Sussex will apply its published admissions criteria to those schools where it is the admissions authority and determine the outcome of each preference expressed.
7. By 30 March 2021, the LA will match the ranked lists against the parental preferences to ensure only one place is allocated per child. Qualifying late applications received before 16 March will be included in this process.

Where a child is –

- Eligible for a place at only one school given on the application form that school will be allocated
 - Eligible for two or three schools, a place will be allocated at the highest-ranking school
 - Not eligible for a place at any of the named schools and the child lives in East Sussex, a place will be allocated at the nearest school to the home with a space.
8. In the period 31 March 2021 to 13 April 2021 decision notifications will be prepared. The LA where the child lives will be responsible for sending these to parents.
 9. On 16 April 2021 lists will be prepared of children allocated places at each primary school in East Sussex, and these will be sent to the schools in question.
 10. 16 April 2021 – allocation decisions will be notified to parents by email. Letters will only be sent where specifically requested, or where the application has been made on a paper form. Where a preference is not being met, the notification email will signpost parents to the East Sussex County Council website where information can be found explaining to parents how places have been allocated at their preferred school(s), and advising parents of the right of appeal.

Applications received after 15 January 2021 but by 16 March 2021

1. If an application form is received after 15 January 2021, it will still be passed to the relevant admissions authority with a note that it has been received after that date. It will be for the admissions authority to decide how it wishes to respond to the application. This will continue up until 16 March 2021.
2. If an application is received after 15 January 2021 but before 16 March 2021, together with proof of a change of address* since the closing date, or proof of another good reason why it was not possible for the family to apply on time, it will be treated as on time in respect of community and voluntary controlled schools. If there is no proof, or the reason is not considered valid by the LA, the application will be treated as late. There is no separate right of appeal against the decision as to whether the application is treated as on time or late.
3. Applicants whose forms are received between these dates will be sent a letter on 16 April 2021. For applications received after 16 March 2021, we will aim to send a decision letter within 20 school days.

Changes of preference

1. Parents may change their preferences at any stage up to the closing date of 15 January 2021. After 15 January 2021, we will not allow preferences to be changed without an exceptional reason. The LA will judge each case on its merits but will only usually accept a change of preference where there has been a significant change of circumstances (such as a house move*) thus making the original preferences no longer practical. Parents will be required to put their reasons for changing their preferences in writing, and in all cases, supporting evidence will be required. If the change of preference is agreed, a decision will be sent on 16 April 2021 provided the request was received by 16 March 2021. Such applicants will be advised that they have the right of appeal if the revised preference cannot be met.

**In the case of house moves, proof of ownership or tenancy on an East Sussex property (such as exchange of contracts or signed tenancy agreement of one year) is required if an address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place. If an applicant cannot provide evidence, the application cannot be accepted.*

2. There is no right of appeal where the LA does not accept the change of preference.

No application form received

1. No Reception or junior transfer places will be allocated unless a completed application form has been received.

Applications received on or after 17 March 2021

1. Only preferences stated on the LA application will be valid. If the preference is for an 'own authority' school, the LA will pass details to the school for a decision. The school must then advise the LA within fourteen days as to whether a place can be allocated so the LA can formally advise the parent of the decision. Where the preference is for a community or voluntary controlled school, the LA will determine the outcome. If there are no places available at one of the preferred schools a place will be allocated at the nearest school with a place available (if the identified school is its own admission authority the LA will ask the school whether a place can be allocated). We will aim to process late applications within twenty school days. Any refused preference will carry the right of appeal.
2. Where the preference is for a school in a neighbouring authority, the details will be passed to that authority for a decision to be made. Any authority refusing an application should advise the LA of the decision so the LA can consider allocating an alternative school.
3. The Co-ordinated Scheme will end on 31 August each year. Applications received after this date will be processed by individual schools.

Appeals

1. Parents must be allowed at least twenty school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and submit their written

appeal. The appeal must be against any refused preference, thus if a parent puts on the appeal form a school which did not feature as a preference on the original application form an appeal hearing will not be arranged.

2. Parents submitting an appeal will be entitled to at least ten school days' notice of the date of the appeal. Papers relevant to the appeal will be sent seven working days before the hearing. Appeals must be heard within forty school days of the deadline for lodging appeals. Appeals for late applications will be included with those being heard for the same admission round wherever possible. If this is not possible, they must be heard within thirty school days of the appeal being lodged.
3. The LA must be advised of the outcome of all appeals to other admission authorities.

Waiting lists

1. The LA will operate waiting lists for all community and voluntary controlled primary, infant and junior schools so that it is clear which child will be offered any place which becomes vacant. Such waiting lists will be operational after the closing date for appeals to be lodged. The waiting list must reflect the admissions criteria. The LA must be notified by admissions authorities of any places that are subsequently allocated from the waiting list. Until co-ordination ends, it remains for the LA to offer places to parents when places become available and are allocated from the waiting list whether the admissions authority is the LA or not.

Waiting lists will operate until the end of Term 2, 2021.

Admission of summer born children to Reception classes.

Parents of summer born children who are due to start in reception can request that their child starts on a part-time basis or joins Reception later during the school year.

However, parents can also request that their child starts in Reception in the September following their fifth birthday (i.e. when they would normally be starting Year 1). Parents making such a request should do so during the normal admission round.

The Authority will consider these requests on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the child's academic, social and emotional development together with the Headteacher and parent's views. If the request is refused but the child is offered a place in the school (but not the preferred year group) the parent would not have the right of appeal.

If the request is agreed, parents will need to be clear that this does not mean the child will remain in the year below their chronological age group for all of their school career, particularly on transfer to secondary school

That the County Council will base its decision-making on the assumption that it is in the best interests of summer born children (i.e. those born between 1 April and 31 August) to be admitted to reception at compulsory school age where their parents request it, unless there are clear reasons why this is inappropriate (e.g. safeguarding or the pupil has an EHCP or is undergoing statutory assessment).

Parents are, however, required to make a case for this so that it can be demonstrated that the County Council has considered the rationale behind the request and made the decision in the child's best interests. Parents also need to be clear that own admission authority schools in East Sussex will not necessarily work on the same assumption, although they are encouraged to do so by the County Council.

The County Council will, however, advise all parents whose request for admission out of year group is agreed of the potential difficulties this could cause later on, and will require parents to agree that they have understood this and take responsibility for this decision before the child is admitted to school in East Sussex by signing a disclaimer to this effect. Should the parent refuse to sign, admission will not be held

up if the child is already compulsory school age, but it will be clearly documented that the parent has been advised of the risks but has refused or otherwise failed to sign the disclaimer.

Appendix 4

Responses to consultation on East Sussex County Council's proposed admission arrangements for 2021/2022

We asked for views on the following:-

1. The admissions criteria for local authority controlled schools
2. Proposed Admission Numbers
3. Draft Co-ordinated schemes
4. Proposed change to the Heathfield primary community area
5. Proposed change to the Chailey St Peter's CE School community area
6. Any other aspect of the proposed admission arrangements

There were 8 responses to the consultation. Not all respondents answered every question. The results are as follows:

1. Are the proposed admissions criteria acceptable?

Yes – 7 (87.5%)

No – 1 (12.5%)

Comments received (1)

- 1) Sandown would like to add preference for staff who work within the school. This is down to the difficulties faced with retention and recruitment. We would also like children who attend the nursery to be in the preference order too. We are very careful when admitting children to the nursery to ensure they are in the school catchment area.

2. Comments on Proposed Admission Numbers at any school (4)

- 1) Bonners CE Primary School with the agreement of its governing body like to increase their PAN to 20. Our current year groups are already over PAN and with an ever increasing school roll. This would enable us to continue to grow.
- 2) 30
- 3) Maximum 35 per class
- 4) Wallands Community Primary School currently has a PAN of 60, however this year we have had one Reception class and numbers suggest that will be the same for September 2020, 21 and 22 at least.

With this in mind it would support the school in its staffing planning to know that we had a PAN of 30 children whilst these numbers are the case.

3. Comments on the draft co-ordinated schemes (0)

There were no comments made regarding the draft co-ordinated schemes.

4. Proposed change to the Heathfield primary community area

Is the proposed area change acceptable?

Yes – 3 (100%)

No – 0 (0.0%)

There were no comments made about this particular proposal.

5. Proposed change to the Chailey St Peter's CE School community area

Is the proposed area change acceptable?

Yes – 3 (60%)

No – 2 (40%)

Comments received (2)

- 1) Bonners CE Primary School would like to propose we take part of the Fletching catchment should the need arise. We are suggesting our boundary is extended to include Fletching village from the Ruston Bridge Road to the south of the A272. Bonners already take children within this area and would like to make this official.
- 2) This change is no longer necessary given the decision that Fletching CE Primary School will remain open.

6. Any other comments about the admission arrangements (2)

- 1) Some academies have changed their admissions arrangements to include preference for staff working within their schools. Sandown would like to add this to their arrangements due to recruitment and retention. We would also like preference to be given for children attending the nursery which is now part of the school.
- 2) Could the board consider ensuring that both parents with parental responsibility are advised what school admissions have been applied for?

As a parent whom has needed to take many steps through the courts to safeguard, my children's welfare, the current practice, whereby any parent can make the application for a child to change the children's school, without the other parent being aware of the this, represents another hurdle to overcome, should the other parent choose to relocate children, without consultation of the other parent.

if this application n were successful, and the other parent only found out, once the children had started the new school, this would then necessitate an emergency court application for a prohibited steps order. This adds challenges for the children, parents, and causes unnecessary work for the court services and the schools.

I did need to request what schools had been applied for, for my children, and this had the rather unfortunate action of the authority contacting the applicant mother to seek her permission as to release this information. As a result of this, I received unwelcome and unpleasant correspondence from the applicant mother in respect of this. In this case it would have been appropriate for the admissions team to have advised me that they needed to contact the applicant mother first, such as I could have made a balanced decision and consider my own safeguarding measures, before agreeing to this. In any case, as a parent with parental responsibilities, surely they should have the right under the GDPR regulations, to know of any information, such as the school applied for?

I realize that there are cases for child protection that the above may not be possible, but where this is not indicated, is it not appropriate that parents with parental responsibility should be able to have free access to this information.