



Report to Children's Services SLT

Date: 10 November

Title: Admissions Consultation 2025 entry

Relevant Councillors: All

Ward(s) affected: All

Recommendations:

- No consultation proposed on Admissions Scheme for 2025 entry
- No consultation proposed on Primary or Secondary admission rules for 2025 entry
- Noting increased PAN requests for Buckingham Primary School and Hyde Heath CE School (formal consultation not required)
- Consulting on proposed catchment change for Stokenchurch School only, all other catchment areas to remain unchanged
- To agree the Relevant Area prior to 2026

Reason for decision:

No changes are proposed to the scheme or the rules.

Minor changes to the admission rules for VC and C schools to note the increase to the PAN for two schools. Increases to the PAN do not require formal consultation.

Minor changes to the catchment of one school for which we are the admission authority (Stokenchurch) following the closure of Mary Towerton School.

Following consultation, the 2025 VC and Community School admission arrangements will be required to be determined. This will be the content of a cabinet member decision prior to 28 February 2024

Background

- 1.1 Admission authorities are required to consult on admission arrangements whenever changes are proposed, and at least every 7 years where there has been no change. The council last consulted upon the admission rules for 2021 intake and in 2021 also adjusted the rules to accommodate the required changes to bring them in line with the 2021 Admissions Code.

Coordinated Admissions Scheme

- 1.2 No changes are proposed to the principles of the coordinated admissions scheme (attached as Appendix 1).

Primary School Admission Rules

- 1.3 No changes are proposed to the primary admission rules (attached as Appendix 2)

Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) changes

- 1.4 **Buckingham Primary School – the governing body has requested that a PAN is created at Junior transfer to accommodate +4 admission. This will give the school a point of entry to Key Stage 2 and inclusion in the Junior Admissions process as a school with a Junior intake.**
- 1.5 **Hyde Heath CE School – Governors have asked that the PAN formally increases from 22 to 23 in line with recent practice.**

Primary School Catchment Arrangements

- 1.6** Following the closure of Mary Towerton School with effect from 31st August 2023, the Local Authority is consulting on a joint proposal, agreed in principle by all schools involved, to increase the catchment area of neighbouring schools to cover the catchment area of the former Mary Towerton School from September 2025.

While this is a joint proposal, as Stokenchurch School is a community school the council is responsible for determining admissions for this school. The council is therefore seeking comments specifically in response to the proposal to extend the catchment area of Stokenchurch School to include the areas highlighted in red on the Appendix 2a Studley Green joint catchment consultation map.

The catchment area proposal is based on nearest school to reflect home to school transport entitlement - except for the area highlighted in orange which it is proposed would be a shared catchment between Cadmore End CE School and Radnage CE School as both schools have historically taken children from this area (although noting that children living in this area are only entitled to transport to the nearest school which in this case is Radnage CE School).

Cadmore End CE School, Radnage CE School and West Wycombe School are responsible for their own admission arrangements and will be conducting (and determining) their own separate consultation in respect of changes to their catchment areas.

Secondary School Admission Rules, Published Admission Numbers (PAN) and Catchment Areas

- 1.7 These relate only to The Buckingham School. No changes to the secondary school admission rules, PAN or catchment are proposed.

Consultation process

- 1.8 Comment is invited from
- a) Parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
 - b) Other persons in the relevant area who have an interest in the proposed admissions;
 - c) All other admission authorities within the relevant area;
 - d) Adjoining neighbouring local authorities;
 - e) The Oxford Church of England Diocese and the Northampton Catholic Diocese.
- 1.9 The consultation period for the proposed PAN and catchment changes will be held for a minimum of six weeks between 1 December 2023 and 26 January 2024 via the council's website and responses are invited from all statutory consultees.
- 1.10 As part of notifying the statutory consultees, all Buckinghamshire admission authorities will be notified via the school bulletin of the proposals.
- 1.11 An online consultation tool will be provided for the duration of the consultation for any person wishing to comment on these proposals to use.
- 1.12 The deadline for response is 26 January 2024.

2. Legal and financial implications

- 2.1 There would be legal implications if the LA did not correctly determine the admission arrangements for schools for which it is the admission authority in compliance with Admissions Code.
- 2.2 There are no financial implications.

3. Next steps and review

- 3.1 Following the consultation period, the final determined admission arrangements must be published.
- 3.2 The council is required to determine its admission rules by **28 February 2024**, and, separately, notify the Secretary of State that the scheme has been accepted by admission authorities.

Background Papers

Appendix 1: The 2025 primary and secondary scheme

Appendix 2: The 2025 primary admission rules and PAN list

Appendix 2a – Map to show the Proposed Catchment Changes in Studley Green

Appendix 3: The 2025 secondary admission rules

Appendix 4: The Relevant Area for 2025