

<p>CABINET MEETING – 14 MARCH 2024</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I</p>	
<p>Title of Report: School Admissions Arrangements for the 2025-2026 Academic Year</p>	
<p>Author(s): Director of Childrens Services</p>	
<p>Purpose of Report: To seek approval for the proposed maintained school admission arrangements for the academic year September 2025-26</p>	
<p>Description of Decision: Cabinet is recommended to approve the following for the 2025-2026 academic year;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The admissions policy and procedures associated with the co-ordinated scheme of admissions; 2. The criteria that will be applied for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools where over-subscription occurs; and 3. The published admission numbers (PANs). 	
<p>Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? *Yes</p>	
<p>If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework</p>	
<p>Suggested reason(s) for Decision: Cabinet approval of the city’s maintained school admission arrangements is required prior to submission to the Department for Education (DfE) and publication for parents making applications for primary and secondary school admissions for the September 2025-2026 academic year.</p>	
<p>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: Given the requirements described above there are no alternative recommendations to consider in relation to the proposed admission arrangements.</p>	
<p>Impacts analysed:</p> <p>Equality <input type="checkbox"/> Privacy <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crime and Disorder <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Is the Decision consistent with the Council’s Co-operative Values? Yes</p>	
<p>Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? Yes</p>	
<p>Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? Yes</p>	

**SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES****1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the proposed maintained school admission arrangements for the academic year September 2025-2026

2. Description of the Decision

Cabinet is recommended to approve the following in relation to the 2025-2026 academic year:

1. The admissions policy and procedures associated with the co-ordinated scheme of admissions;
2. The criteria that will be applied for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools where over-subscription occurs; and
3. The published admission numbers (PANs).

3. Background

- 3.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, implementing Regulations and the associated statutory School Admissions Code have established a framework for consultation on admission arrangements.
- 3.2 The Act requires the local authority (for Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools) to determine, before the commencement of a school year, the admission arrangements that will apply in that year.
- 3.3 The Council is responsible for co-ordinating admissions across its area (known as the co-ordinated scheme) and is required to consult all schools (including Voluntary Aided (VA), Free Schools and Academies), Church of England (CE) and Roman Catholic (RC) Dioceses and neighbouring local authorities by 1 March 2024 in order to establish the admission arrangements for September 2025. 'Own admission authorities' i.e. Free Schools, Academies and VA schools, must also consult on their proposed admission arrangements through the co-ordinated scheme.

4.0 2023 – 2024 Academic Year

- 4.1 October 2023's School Census identifies that there were 2,783 children admitted to reception classes in Sunderland in 2023-2024. This represents a decline in demand for reception places of 5% from the 2,926 children admitted to reception in 2022-2023.
- 4.2 Demand for secondary school places in Sunderland increased in the same period with 3,189 pupils accessing year 7 places in Sunderland in 2023-2024. This is an increase on the 3,112 pupils accessing year 7 places in 2022-23.

- 4.3 96.4% of parents applying for a primary school place during the normal school admissions round secured one of their nominated three preferences in 2023, with 95.41% securing their first preference.
- 4.4 98.91% of parents applying for Junior School Places for September 2023 secured their first preference.
- 4.5 96.4% of parents applying for secondary places for September 2023 secured one of their nominated three preferences with 90.4% securing their first preference.

5. Current Position (2023-2024/ 2024/25)

- 5.1 The PANs consulted upon (when appropriate) and published by the Council are based on projected demand for primary and secondary places in the city. In recent years the Council has responded to increased demand for primary and secondary places across the city through the development of both temporary and permanent increases in capacity across the city.
- 5.2 Due to the decline in demand for reception places there was no requirement to increase capacity for pupils aged 5 – 11 in the city in 2023.
- 5.3 While September 2024 reception place offers will not be confirmed until offer day on the 16 April, the latest school place projections for the 2024-2025 admissions round suggests that there are sufficient primary places in all areas of the city to provide a local school place for any parent who failed to secure their first preference.
- 5.4 Secondary Offer Day data identifies that 97% of parents who applied for a year 7 place before the secondary school preference period ended will secure their first preference school. 99% of parents who applied on time will receive one of their 3 preferences. Capacity in Sunderland is sufficient to ensure any parent who did not secure one of their preferences has been offered an alternative local secondary school place.
- 5.5 It should be noted that there are a number of parents whose first preference is for a school which is some distance from their home or for which their child does not attend the named primary feeder. For example, a number of parents with children attending primary schools named as feeders for Washington School have named St Roberts or Biddick as first preference. Where there are spaces then this is accommodated. However, where there are sufficient pupils living within the more immediate vicinity of the school, or attending named feeders, then these would be given preference with others reverting to their second or third preference.

6. The Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme 2025-2026

- 6.1 As in previous years, the local authority proposes to offer a coordinated scheme with Voluntary Aided and Free Schools, Academies and neighbouring local authorities. Most Academies in Sunderland operate within the same admissions policy as Community schools. The consultation period for the 2025 Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme ended in December 2023.

- 6.2 The Council did not consult on any changes to the coordinated admissions scheme for local authority-maintained schools for 2025/26.
- 6.3 However, Oxclose Community Academy has proposed a reduction to its PAN from 220 to 210. Monkwearmouth Academy has also proposed a reduction in its PAN from 210 to 180. Kepier has proposed an increase from 230 to 240
- 6.4 Appendix 1: sets out the PANs.
Appendix 2 sets out the Co-ordinated Scheme Arrangements for 2025.
Appendix 3 sets the Oversubscription Criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools.

7. Reason for the Decision

- 7.1 Cabinet approval of the admissions arrangements across the city is required prior to submission to the DfE and publication for parents making choices on preferred primary and secondary school places for their children for the September 2025-2026 school year.

8. Alternative Options

- 8.1 Given the requirements described above there are no alternative recommendations to consider in relation to the proposed admission arrangements.

9. Impact Analysis

(a) Equalities: This proposal is intended to ensure that school places are allocated on a balanced and equal basis with specific individual requirements prioritised where applicable.

(b) Sustainability: The recommendations outlined above will ensure that there is sufficient educational provision in areas of the city where excess demand is projected and will contribute to the sustainability of provision in areas where there are surplus places.

10. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- 10.1 Co-operative Values – At Annual Council in May 2015, it was resolved that the following statement be included in the Constitution to reflect the values of the “Co-operative Council”.

“Sunderland City Council is a co-operative council and in being so will act ethically in all its actions while adhering to and actively promoting its co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. These values will underpin its decision making and actions.”

This proposal reflects those values, particularly equality. This school admissions process identified within ensures that not only are there sufficient school places in each geographical area of the City to meet local demand but

that the processes used to allocate those places where over-subscription occurs are clear, coherent and equitable for all applicants.

- 10.2 Consultation has taken place with Headteachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies of Community, Voluntary Controlled, Voluntary Aided and Free Schools and Academies; Church of England and Roman Catholic Dioceses and neighbouring Local Authorities.
This proposal is intended to ensure that school places are allocated on a balanced and equal basis with specific individual requirements prioritised where applicable.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 There are no direct financial implications from approving the arrangements detailed within the report.

12. Legal Implications

- 12.1 In line with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the statutory School Admissions Code 2021 and applicable Regulations, Local Authorities must determine, consult on and publish their admission arrangements.

13. Appendices

Appendix 1: Published Admission Numbers

Appendix 2: Co-ordinated Scheme Arrangements

Appendix 3: Oversubscription Criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

14. Glossary

PAN Published Admission Numbers

VC Voluntary Controlled

VA Voluntary Aided

CE Church of England

RC Roman Catholic

DfE Department for Education

Appendix 1

Primary PANs for September 2025	
School	Proposed PAN 2025
Academy 360	60
Albany Village Primary	30
Barmston Village Primary	30
Barnes Junior	90
Barnes Infant Academy	90
Barnwell Primary	30
Benedict Biscop CE Academy	45
Bernard Gilpin Primary	60
Bexhill Academy	60
Biddick Primary	45
Blackfell Primary	30
Broadway Junior	60
Burnside Academy Inspires	30
Castletown Primary	60
Dame Dorothy Primary	30
Diamond Hall Junior Academy	80
Diamond Hall Infant Academy	90
Dubmire Primary	60
Easington Lane Primary	45
East Herrington Primary Academy	60
East Rainton Primary	20
English Martyrs RC Primary	30
Eppleton Primary Academy	30
Farringdon Academy	60
Fatfield Academy Inspires	30
Fulwell Junior	90
Fulwell Infant School Academy	90
George Washington Primary	60
Gillas Lane Primary	30
Grange Park Primary	30
Grangetown Primary	45
Grindon Hall Christian School	66
Grindon Infant	60
Hasting Hill Academy	30
Hetton Primary	30
Hetton Lyons Primary	60
Highfield Academy	60
Hill View Junior Academy	120
Hill View Infant Academy	120
Holley Park Academy	35
Hudson Road Primary	45
Hylton Castle Primary	30
John F Kennedy Primary	60
Lambton Primary	30
Marlborough Primary	30
Mill Hill Primary	60

Newbottle Primary Academy	60
New Penshaw Primary Academy	30
New Silksworth Junior Academy	70
New Silksworth Infant Academy	70
Northern Saints CE VA Primary	90
Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary	45
Oxclose Primary Academy	30
Plains Farm Academy	30
Redby Primary Academy	60
Richard Avenue Primary	60
Rickleton Primary	60
Ryhope Junior	60
Ryhope Infant School Academy	65
Seaburn Dene Primary	30
Shiney Row Primary	45
South Hylton Primary	45
Southwick Primary	45
Springwell Village Primary	30
St Anne's RC Primary	30
St Bede's RC Primary	30
St Benet's RC Primary	45
St Cuthbert's RC Primary	30
St John Bosco RC Primary	30
St John Boste RC Primary	30
St Joseph's RC Pry Sunderland	30
St Joseph's RC Pry Washington	30
St Leonard's RC Pry	30
St Mary's RC Primary	60
St Michael's RC Primary	30
St Patrick's RC Primary	25
St Paul's CE Controlled Primary	30
Thorney Close Primary	40
Town End Academy	30
Usworth Colliery Primary	60
Valley Road Academy	60
Wessington Primary	30
Willow Fields Community Primary	30

Secondary PANs for September 2025	
School	Proposed PAN 2025
Academy 360	150
Biddick Academy	224
Castle View Enterprise Academy	210
Farringdon Community Academy	180
Hetton	180
Kepier	240
Monkwearmouth Academy	180
Oxclose Community Academy	210
Red House Academy	120
Sandhill View	180
Southmoor Academy	240
St Aidan's Catholic Academy	180
St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy	210
St Robert's Catholic School	210
Thornhill Academy	210
Venerable Bede CE Academy	180
Washington Academy	180

