

## **The County Council proposes the following changes to its admission arrangements for 2019/20:**

1. In the oversubscription criteria for first, infant, primary, junior and middle schools the wording and definition of 'Rule 5 - Nearest School' is amended to include all schools and academies (regardless of status) unless that school or academy prioritises applications and allocates places on the basis of faith.
2. Reference to the Shared Anti-Fraud Service is added to the definitions section in cases of fraudulent address verification.
3. The Published Admission Number (PAN) at Watton-at-Stone Primary and Nursery School is reduced from 34 to 30.

### **Background**

#### ***Definition of "Nearest School"***

It is proposed to amend the current definition of "nearest school" for primary schools. The proposal is directly linked to the rapid increase in the number of own admission authority primary schools, especially academies, and aims to increase clarity and transparency for parents.

Current rule 5 states "Children for whom it is their nearest community or voluntary controlled school or an own admitting school or academy using Hertfordshire County Council's admission rules". The rule goes onto clarify that "A list of schools and academies included in the definition of "nearest" is available in the "definitions" section below."

This definition requires parents/carers to understand the difference between the different statuses of various schools and also requires annual updating to take into account new academies. Many own admission primary schools in Hertfordshire (including most converter academies) have adopted the county council's admission arrangements, including oversubscription criteria and definitions, and therefore their arrangements also need annually updating.

It is proposed that the definition of "nearest school" is amended to "Children for whom it is their nearest school or academy. All schools, except those schools which admit pupils on the basis of faith, are included."

Modelling has been undertaken, replicating data from the 2017 primary application round, to assess the impact of this change. Seven primary schools in Hertfordshire will be included in the proposed definition of "nearest school" that were not previously:

- Brookmans Park School
- Cuffley School
- Harpenden Academy
- Little Heath Primary School
- St Bartholomew's C of E VA Primary School (Wiggington)
- St Nicholas C of E Primary School & Nursery (Stevenage)
- The Wroxham School ( Potters Bar)

These schools admit pupils under a variety of oversubscription criteria including within a defined local area or local parish(es), distance and random allocation local to the school. The two voluntary-aided schools prioritise pupils on the basis of residence within the ecclesiastical parish and not membership of the Church of England.

The modelling showed minimal impact upon allocation outcomes. Across the county as a whole:

- One less child was allocated a ranked school
- Five more children were allocated their first ranked school
- Seven fewer children were allocated their 2nd preference school
- Two more children were allocated their 3rd preference school
- One more child was offered a non-ranked school

### ***Fraudulent Address Notification***

Every year the Admissions Team investigate many cases of possible fraudulent address use on school applications. As both a future deterrent, and to increase the investigative focus in complex cases where address evidence is in dispute, it is proposed that referrals from the Admissions Service will be made to the Shared Anti-Fraud Service who will then investigate fully on behalf of Admissions. It is proposed that the county council's admission arrangements should be amended to make this clear to parents and carers.

### ***Published Admission Numbers (PANs)***

The School Admissions Code only requires public consultation when it is proposed to lower a school's Published Admission Number (PAN).

It is proposed that the PAN for Watton-at-Stone Primary and Nursery School is decreased to ensure the future financial viability and stability of the school. The decrease has been requested, and is supported by, the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school.

Details of increases to PANs are included below for information.

<b>School</b>	<b>Determined PAN 2018</b>	<b>Proposed PAN 2019</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Watton-at-Stone Primary School	34	30	To ensure the future financial viability/stability of the school.
Sandon JMI School	14	15	Permanent increase from 2019.
Millfield First & Nursery School, Buntingford	45 (*60)	60	Permanent increase from 2019. * The school will offer 60 places in 2018 as a local agreement.
St Catherine's VC CE Primary School, Hoddesdon	45 (*60)	60	Permanent increase from 2019. * The school will offer 60 places in 2018 as a local agreement.
Leavesden Green Primary School, Watford	30 (*60)	60	Permanent PAN increase from 2019, subject to town planning permission. * The school will offer 60 places in 2018 as a local agreement.

The County Council, as required by the School Admissions Code, will consult the governing bodies of each community and voluntary controlled school in Hertfordshire on the proposal to maintain or raise the PAN for their school.

PANs for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Hertfordshire for 2019/20 are available at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2019](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2019)