

Summary of consultation on admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools 2022-2023

Period of consultation: 5 October 2020 to 29 November 2020

Nottinghamshire County Council's consultation invites you to give your views about the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire for 2022-2023.

Background information

Admission authorities

There are different types of schools in Nottinghamshire. The County Council is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools. This means that we are responsible for the admission arrangements for these schools.

Other types of schools - academies, foundation, free, studio, trust and voluntary aided schools are own admission authorities. These schools are responsible for their own admission arrangements and have to run their own consultation. You would need to visit individual school websites for details.

Admission arrangements including oversubscription criteria

All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including information about what happens if there are more applications than places available (oversubscription criteria).

All admission authorities must include the oversubscription criteria in their arrangements. The criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation.

It is for admission authorities to decide which criteria are most suitable for the school according to the local circumstances.

Nottinghamshire community and voluntary controlled schools have defined catchment areas and children living in these areas have higher priority for places than children outside of catchment. This supports parents who wish their children to attend a local publicly funded school. Details of catchment areas are available at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/school-catchment-areas

This does not prevent parents who live outside the catchment area of a school, or even outside Nottinghamshire, from expressing a preference for that school.

Children living in the catchment area with a brother or sister (sibling) attending the school are given priority over other children living inside the catchment area. Children living outside the catchment area with a brother or sister attending the school are given priority over all other children living outside the catchment area.

What is included in the consultation?

Nottinghamshire County Council is consulting on admission arrangements 2022-2023 for community and voluntary controlled schools within Nottinghamshire.

These arrangements are relevant for children who will be starting primary school, moving to junior school, moving to secondary school and children transferring school during the school year 2022-2023.

The full consultation document is available at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation and is organised in 4 sections. A summary of the proposed changes to admission arrangements for 2022-2023 are:

- **Section 1 – overall procedures and practices (including oversubscription criteria)**

- **Section 1.1 – Key terms (catchment areas)**

- NCC is proposing minor changes to the catchment areas for two community schools in West Bridgford (that is, West Bridgford Infant School and West Bridgford Junior School). All other catchment areas remain unchanged.

- **Section 1.4 - Oversubscription criteria**

- During the COVID19 pandemic, churches and other places of worship have been closed by law for public worship and for other uses. Since some schools' oversubscription criteria include attendance at church or other place of worship, (at a specified frequency and period of time) parents and their children are unable to meet this criterion under the terms of the admission arrangements previously determined. NCC has proposed the following variation “*In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church or other recognised place of worship has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship*”. NCC proposes this variation for 2022-2023 admission year for voluntary controlled schools with faith criteria (sections 1.4B, 1.4C, 1.4D, 1.4E and 1.4H)

- **Section 2 - Proposed admission numbers (PAN)**

- **Section 2.7 – Rushcliffe district**

- There is a proposal to change the PAN at Radcliffe-on-Trent Junior School in the Rushcliffe district. The proposal is to increase its PAN from 70 to 90. This is the number of places that must be offered in each relevant age group.

All other PANs remain unchanged from those determined for 2021-2022 and are shown in section 2 ordered by district (Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield, Newark and Rushcliffe).

- **Section 3 – qualifying scheme: how we propose to coordinate the arrangements for the admission of pupils to primary and secondary schools in Nottinghamshire**

Sections 3.10 and 3.11

Coordination means that local authorities exchange information and work together to ensure that, as far as possible, every parent of a child living in a local authority area who has applied for a publicly funded school or academy is sent one, and only one, offer of a school place. There are minor changes to proposed dates in both the primary and secondary coordinated schemes in section 3.10 and 3.11.

Who do we consult with?

We will be seeking the views of the following groups:

- parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen
- other people in the area who may have an interest in the proposed admission arrangements
- all other admission authorities within the relevant area
- all community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire
- chairs of governing bodies of Nottinghamshire schools
- diocesan representatives (relevant religious authorities)
- admission authorities in neighbouring local authority areas
- all registered early years providers within Nottinghamshire

You can give your views on the consultation between 5 October 2020 and 29 November 2020

Full details of the proposed admission arrangements for 2022-2023 are available at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation

Anyone can comment on the arrangements. If you wish to respond, you can do this up to 29 November 2020 by:

- completing the online response form on the public website www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation
- emailing admissionsconsultations@nottscc.gov.uk
- writing to School Admissions Consultation, Support to Schools Service, Meadow House, Littleworth, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 2TA.

The School Admissions Code 2014 (1.45) states that the full proposed admission arrangements must be available on the website for the duration of the consultation period.

What happens after the consultation closes?

All responses received by 29 November 2020 will be considered. Elected members (County Councillors) make a decision on behalf of Nottinghamshire taking into account a range of information, including the consultation responses. All admission authorities have to agree the admission arrangements that are most suitable according to the local circumstances.

Determining admission arrangements 2022-2023

Admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools must be agreed (determined) by Nottinghamshire County Council by **28 February 2021** even if there have been no changes from previous years.

Publication of determined arrangements 2022-2023

Once Nottinghamshire County Council has determined their admission arrangements, they will be available on the public website for the whole offer year (the academic year in which offers for places are made). Local authorities must publish on their website **by 15 March 2021**.