



Office of
the Schools
Adjudicator

LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT
TO
THE SCHOOLS ADJUDICATOR
FROM
WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

30 JUNE 2016

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Introduction

1. Section 88P of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires Local Authorities to make an annual report to the adjudicator.
2. The School Admissions Code (the Code) at paragraph 6 sets out the requirements for reports by local authorities. Paragraph 3.23 specifies what must be included as a minimum in the report to the adjudicator and makes provision for the local authority to include any other local issues.
3. There are other matters concerning admissions, some suggested by local authorities themselves, about which it would be useful to have a view. Rather than undertake a separate exercise in which information is sought from local authorities, you are asked to include any relevant information in your report to the adjudicator.

Completing the Template

This template is designed to be completed electronically - boxes will expand as necessary. Please note that we will contact you if any data boxes have not been completed. However if there are any blank comment boxes we will presume that you have no comments to make.

Throughout this report, please include middle deemed primary schools as for pupils up to age 11 and middle deemed secondary schools as for pupils over 11. For schools that have children of primary and secondary age and are not designated as a middle school please record them as all-through schools.

Where a type of school is given, foundation covers foundation schools and foundation schools with a foundation (trust schools). Academy schools should be recorded by the individual type of academy school, namely, academy, free school, UTC or studio school.

1. Local Authority school numbers

Please give the total number of schools by type within your local authority as at 30 June 2016.

Type of School	Number of Schools for pupils up to age 11	Number of Schools for pupils over age 11	Number of all-through schools
Community	29	1	0
Voluntary Controlled	0	0	0
Voluntary Aided	19	1	0
Foundation	5	0	0
Academy	4*	8	0
Free School	3	1	0
UTC	N/A	0	0
Studio School	N/A	0	0

* An additional primary academy, Oasis Academy Putney, will open in September 2016.

2. Admission Arrangements for Admissions in September 2016

The Code at paragraph 3.23 requires that each local authority provides “*information about how admission arrangements in the area of the local authority serve the interests of looked after children and previously looked after children, children with disabilities and children with special educational needs, including any details of where problems have arisen*”.

Please include details of:

1. Any ways in which each of the following groups of children have been especially well served; and
2. Any difficulties that have arisen for each group of children while allocating places for admission in September 2016.

(a) How well are the interests of **looked after children** served?

Tick as appropriate: Fully In part Not satisfactorily

First priority criterion in all maintained schools and academies.

(b) How well are the interests of **previously looked after children** served?

Tick as appropriate: Fully In part Not satisfactorily

First priority criterion in all maintained schools and academies.

(c) How well are the interests of **children with disabilities** served?

Tick as appropriate: Fully In part Not satisfactorily

Most admission authorities have an exceptional social/medical need criterion where there is an exceptional need to attend a particular school. Pupils with EHCPs or statements of special educational needs are covered by a separate process.

(d) How well served are **children who have special educational needs and who have a statement of special needs** that names a school (or an education health and care plan)?

Tick as appropriate: Fully In part Not satisfactorily

Such pupils are not considered under the mainstream admissions process as covered by separate legislation. Five of Wandsworth’s seven special schools are judged outstanding or good by Ofsted. There are also 18 resource bases, meaning that overall children are extremely well served in terms of admissions options. Mainstream schools including standalone academies accept statemented children readily where they can demonstrably meet their needs but there are some difficulties placing children in academies run by larger chains.

(e) How well served are those **children who have special needs, but do not have a**

statement?

Tick as appropriate: Fully In part Not satisfactorily

Most admission authorities have an exceptional social/medical need criterion if there is an exceptional need to attend a particular school.

3. Co-ordination of admissions

A) During the normal admissions round

Please assess the effectiveness of co-ordination of primary and secondary admissions for September 2016 in your local authority, highlighting any particular strengths in the process or any problems that have arisen.

Primary

- (a) How well has the operation of national offer day worked for primary admissions this year compared with previous years?

Tick as appropriate: Better The same Less well

A national offer day is welcomed. Previously, London operated a common offer day across the capital which worked well. Primary school coordinated admissions has again been highly effective within Wandsworth as part of a Pan-London system.

Secondary

- (b) How well has the operation of national offer day worked for secondary admissions this year compared with previous years?

Tick as appropriate: Better The same Less well

This has again been highly effective

- (c) If you have any UTCs or studio schools in your area, do you co-ordinate admissions for entry at the relevant year group for entry to these schools?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No N/A

B) In-year admissions

The Code sets out that in-year admissions do not have to be co-ordinated by the local authority.

- (a) How many **pupils** have needed a school place because they do not have one or because parents have applied for a place as an in-year admission for any other reason between 1 September 2015 and 15 June 2016?

Number of pupils up to age 11	Number of pupils over age 11	Number of post-16 students
1144	357	N/A

(b) Does your local authority co-ordinate in-year admissions for all, some or none of the schools in your area?

Tick as appropriate: All Some None

If 'Some', please complete the table below as appropriate

Type of School	Number of Schools for pupils up to age 11	Number of Schools for pupils over age 11	Number of all-through schools
Community	29	1	0
Voluntary Controlled	0	0	0
Voluntary Aided	18	1	0
Foundation	5	0	0
Academy	4	7	0
Free School	3	1	0
UTC	N/A	0	0
Studio School	N/A	0	0

(c) Do you have any information about how many schools parents might approach before obtaining a place? Please comment on any issues that have come to your attention.

Wandsworth continues to operate a centralised application system so parents need only make one application. Where it is not possible to offer a preferred school, applicants will be offered an alternative school or advised of schools with vacancies as appropriate.

(d) How confident are you that the requirements of the Code at paragraph 2.22, for schools to keep the local authority informed in a timely manner about applications and the outcomes, are being met? (If you co-ordinate all admissions for all schools then please tick not applicable.)

Tick as appropriate:

Very confident Confident Not confident Not applicable

(e) Across your local authority, how well have in-year admissions worked this year?

Tick as appropriate: Better than last year The same as last year
Less well than last year

(f) Please comment on the effectiveness overall of in-year admission arrangements across all types of schools in your local authority.

This has been effective in seeking to ensure that all children changing schools or moving into the area can secure a school place. Following on from statutory co-ordination, it has enabled the monitoring and tracking of applications in order to safeguard pupils at a time when they can be most vulnerable to missing education.

4. Fair Access Protocol

The Code at paragraph 3.9 requires each local authority to have agreed a Fair Access Protocol with the majority of schools in its area. Paragraph 3.11 of the Code requires that all admission authorities must participate in the Fair Access Protocol.

- (a) Please confirm that your local authority has a Fair Access Protocol that has been agreed with the majority of schools in your area.

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

- (b) Although a majority of schools, and perhaps all, will have agreed the Fair Access Protocol, some may not have done so. Please state how many schools have not agreed your Fair Access Protocol.

All schools have agreed the protocol

- (c) Where schools did not agree the Fair Access Protocol, please say why they did not agree.

Not applicable

- (d) (i) Please give your assessment of how well your Fair Access Protocol has worked in the academic year 2015/16 in placing children without a school place in schools in a timely manner.

Tick as appropriate: Very well Mostly well Some difficulties

- (ii) What is your general assessment of the working of the protocol compared with last year?

Tick as appropriate: More effective As effective Less effective

- (iii) How frequently has the protocol been used to place a child compared with last year?

Tick as appropriate: More frequently Same frequency Less frequently

- (e) Have you any examples of particularly effective collaboration and working with individual schools, for example, placing children in year 6 of a primary school or years 10 and 11 of a secondary school?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

The protocol has been successful in enabling the placement of a number of 'hard to place' children in maintained secondary schools and academies. Schools have worked well within the LA to implement the protocol. The Council also has specific programmes set up with schools for pupils moving into the area in Year 11 and pupils entering the UK from abroad where English is an additional language.

- (f) How many children have been admitted under the protocol to each type of school in your area? How many children have been refused admission to a school?

Type of School	Number of children admitted ¹			Number of children refused admission		
	Schools for pupils up to age 11	Schools for pupils over age 11	All-through schools	Schools for pupils up to age 11	Schools for pupils over age 11	All-through schools
Community ²	0	41	N/A	0	0	N/A
Voluntary Controlled	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Voluntary Aided	0	11	N/A	0	0	N/A
Foundation	0	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
Academy	0	39	N/A	0	0	N/A
Free School	0	3	N/A	0	0	N/A
UTC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Studio School	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- (g) If children have not been placed successfully in a school through the protocol, have you used the direction process to provide a place for a child?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No N/A

5. Admission Appeals

The Code requires data to be collected about appeals. In order to meet this requirement the DfE will use the latest published Statistical First Release: admission appeals for maintained and academy primary and secondary schools in England.

Taking into account comments reported in 2014, and data gathered for the first time in 2015, in response to the invitation to "add any comments about the appeals process in your area", it would be helpful to gather views once again across all local authorities on the extent to which schools that are their own admission authority continue to use local authority services for admission appeals.

- (a) Do any own admission authority schools use any of your services as part of the appeals process?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

- (b) If yes, please indicate the number of schools that use at least some of your services

Type of School	Number of Schools for pupils up to age 11	Number of Schools for pupils over age 11	Number of all-through schools
Voluntary Aided	16	1	N/A
Foundation	3	0	N/A
Academy	1	4	N/A
Free School	1	1	N/A
UTC	N/A	N/A	N/A
Studio School	N/A	N/A	N/A

(c) Please indicate the services that are used :

Type of School	Schools for pupils up to age 11(Y/N)	Schools for pupils over age 11 (Y/N)	All- through schools (Y/N)
Full appeals process	Y	Y	N/A
Legal advice	N	N	N/A
Assistance in the preparation and presentation of case documentation	Y	Y	N/A

(d) Please add any other service related to appeals obtained from your local authority

Not applicable

(e) Please add comments about any aspects of the appeals process in your area that work well or that cause difficulties, as appropriate.

Wandsworth Education Appeals Service provides an appeals service for maintained schools and academies within Wandsworth. This is highly effective in providing a high quality service to schools and parents alike. All bar two oversubscribed own admission authority schools/academies sign up to the service.

6. Other Issues

A. Objections to admission arrangements

Paragraph 3.2 in the Code says “local authorities **must** refer an objection to the Schools Adjudicator if they are of the view or suspect that the admission arrangements that have been determined by other admission authorities are unlawful”.

(a) How many sets of admission arrangements of schools were queried directly by your local authority with schools that are their own admission authority because they were considered not to comply with the Code?

The Local Authority works closely with all own admission authority schools to ensure compliance with the Code

- (b) How confident are you that own admission authority admission arrangements are now fully compliant with the Code?

Tick as appropriate: Very confident Confident Not confident

- (c) How many schools did not send you a copy of their full admission arrangements, including any supplementary information form (or any such form by another name, for example, religious inquiry form) if one is used, by 15 March, as required by paragraph 1.47 of the Code?

All schools have provided copies of their admission arrangements to the LA.

B. Fraudulent applications

- (a) Is there any concern in your local authority about fraudulent applications?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

- (b) Did your local authority make any offers on national offer days that were subsequently withdrawn as a result of a fraudulent application?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

- (c) If **YES**, how many for each type of school?

One place was withdrawn at a primary foundation school.

- (d) What action is your LA taking to prevent fraudulent applications?

The LA has robust systems in place to verify addresses provided on applications. Further checks were introduced for the 2015 admissions round to ensure that the address used for admissions purposes is the child's permanent address rather than a short-term or false address. Although it has not been necessary to withdraw any offer of places, the LA will not process an application without satisfactory proof of address. As a result, each year, a small number of applications are withdrawn or not pursued by parents. The LA will continue to review the systems in place on a regular basis.

C. Summer-born children, deferred entry and part-time attendance

The DfE issued revised guidance in December 2014 "Advice on the admission on summer-born children" for local authorities, school admission authorities and parents ([Link to Guidance](#)). The Code at paragraph 2.16 deals with deferred entry and/or part-time attendance for children in the year they reach compulsory school age. Paragraph 2.17, 2.17A and 2.17B refer to the admission of children outside their normal age group.

- (a) Do you keep data for any schools on the number of requests from parents who ask

that their child is admitted to a class outside their normal age group?

Tick as appropriate: Yes No

(i) For community and voluntary controlled schools: Yes No

(ii) For own admission authority schools: Yes No

If **YES** in answer to (a) above, please complete the tables:

Type of School	In 2015, how many requests for deferred admission to year R in 2016 were agreed for a child who will have reached the normal age for Year 1?
Community & Voluntary Controlled	4
Own Admission Authority	3

Type of School	How many requests to defer admission to year R in 2016 were received?	How many of those requests were subsequently agreed?
Community & Voluntary Controlled	18	13*
Own Admission Authority	11	7*

* The remaining requests were withdrawn by parents or are still pending a final parental decision.

(b) What reasons, if known, were given for seeking to defer the admission to year R of children for a full school year?

A variety of different reasons were given: premature birth, developmental delay, educational/academic development and general concerns about the child’s maturity and readiness to start school.

(c) Do you have any other comments on the matter of admission of summer-born children, including requests to delay admissions made after the allocation of places in the normal admissions round?

Following the government’s announcement in September 2015, the Council recommended to all state schools in its area that requests for delayed admission are approved without the need for parents to provide supporting evidence with the proviso that parents have a discussion with the school about their concerns. This recommendation was made on the basis that a consultation on changes in the Admissions Code would soon follow and it is of some concern that it appears we will be entering a further school year with no further clarity in the Code.

- (d) Do you have any comments about paragraph 2.16c) in the Code concerning the offer and/or take-up of part-time attendance by children below compulsory school age?

The number of requests for part-time attendance has been low. Those approved requests have caused some difficulties for schools in providing an effective learning programme for the children to parallel those children attending full-time. There has also on occasion been some tension in reaching agreement between schools and parents about hours of attendance.

D. Pupil, service and early years premium

The 2014 Code permits all schools to give priority for admission in 2016 to children eligible for the pupil, service or early years premium (paragraphs 1.39A and 1.39B). If admission authorities wish to introduce such a priority they must have consulted as required by the Code in paragraphs 1.42-1.45.

- (a) Pupil and service premium

In respect of community and voluntary controlled schools:

The Council did not consult on introducing such a priority for 2017 entry.

In respect of own admission authority schools:

No schools in the Council's area have consulted on introducing such a priority.

- (b) Early years pupil premium - nursery priority

In respect of community and voluntary controlled schools:

The Council did not consult on introducing such a priority for 2017 entry.

In respect of own admission authority schools:

No schools in the Council's area have consulted on introducing such a priority.

E. Local Authority Issues

Please provide details of any other issues that you would like to raise and/or comment on that have not been already covered in this report.

None

Thank you for completing this report

Please email your completed report to: osa.team@osa.gsi.gov.uk