



Cabinet Report

Purpose: For Decision

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

Date	8 FEBRUARY 2024
Title	DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2025/26
Report of	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND CORPORATE FUNCTIONS

Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this paper is to determine the Isle of Wight Council's school admissions arrangements for 2025/2026. There are no Published Admission Number (PAN) changes proposed for 2025/2026.
2. The admission arrangements enable all families to make applications for school places within a system that complies with legal requirements and is clear, fair and objective.

Recommendation

3. That Cabinet approves the 2025/2026 admissions arrangements.

Background

4. The existing School Admissions Code (SAC) came into force on 1st September 2021 and the School Admissions Appeal Code came into force on 1st October 2022.
5. The Isle of Wight Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools on the Isle of Wight and is therefore responsible for determining the admission arrangements for these schools. The Isle of Wight Council provides a co-ordinated and centralised main round admissions process for schools and supports parents in making an application. Government regulations require all admission authorities (i.e. local authorities and the governing bodies of academies and voluntary aided and foundation schools, referred to in this report as "own admission authority" (OAA) schools) to determine their school admission arrangements for 2025/2026 by 28 February 2024.
6. The term "admission arrangements" means the overall procedure, practices and oversubscription criteria used in deciding on the allocation of school places, including any device or means used to determine whether a school place is to be offered (normally a supplementary information form is used by OAA schools where

priority for admission cannot be determined from the information on the local authority's form).

7. Admissions authorities must consult by 31 January in the determination year on their admission arrangements. However, there is no requirement to consult when no changes are made. Admission arrangements must be consulted on at least once every seven years. The Isle of Wight Council last consulted with schools' governing bodies, Church of England and Catholic Diocesan Boards of Education and parents when determining the 2024/25 admissions arrangements and therefore for 2025/2026 arrangements there has been no consultation. There are no changes proposed to the admission arrangements for 2025/26 and no requirement to consult.

Corporate Priorities and Strategic Context

8. The recommendation in this report directly links to the Corporate Plan 2021-25 priority which is to work with local communities to maintain and ensure appropriate local school provision.

Responding to climate change and enhancing the biosphere

9. There are no proposed changes to the number of school places, therefore no adverse impact on climate change.

Economic Recovery and Reducing Poverty

10. As set out within the corporate plan this report demonstrates the council's commitment to work with local communities to maintain and ensure appropriate local school provision, providing the best possible outcomes for children on the Island.

Impact on Young People and Future Generations

11. The recommendation supports parents being able to make applications to their preferred schools and facilitate access to school places.

Corporate Aims

As set out within the corporate plan this report demonstrates the Isle of Wight Councils commitment to work with local communities to maintain and ensure appropriate local school provision providing the best possible outcomes for children on the Island.

Legal Implications

12. The local authority must determine the admission arrangements by 28 February 2024 and ensure they are published before 15 March 2024. The recommended admission arrangements will be compliant with the requirements of the School Admission Code 2021.

Consultation

13. As stated in paragraph 7 above there is no requirement to consult, as specified in the School Admissions Code 2021.

Financial/Budget Implications

14. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation. The local authority and schools currently work within the admissions arrangements and provide the required service for parents needing to apply for school places.

Equality and Diversity

15. The Council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. There is no adverse impact on persons with protected characteristics within this report.

Options

16. In order to comply with the school admissions code, the Isle of Wight Council must determine the admission arrangements. Therefore, the recommended option is that Cabinet approves the 2025/2026 arrangements.

Risk Management

17. A school admissions policy is used when a school is oversubscribed to prioritise one applicant over another. The proposed policy is unchanged and has worked effectively for parents making applications.

Evaluation

18. The recommendation is that the Cabinet proceeds with determining the admission arrangements.

Appendices Attached

19. Appendix 1: The proposed 2025/2026 Primary Admissions Policy
Appendix 2: The proposed 2025/2026 Secondary Admissions Policy

Background Papers

20. School Admissions Code 2021 - [School admissions code 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/921211/school-admissions-code-2021.pdf)
School Admissions Appeals Code 2022 - [School Admission Appeals Code 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/921212/school-admission-appeals-code-2022.pdf)

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