



# Cabinet report

Date	<b>10 FEBRUARY 2022</b>
Title	<b>DETERMINATION OF THE ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2023/24</b>
Report of	<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND LIFELONG SKILLS</b>

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this paper is to determine the Isle of Wight Council's admissions arrangements for 2023/2024 admission arrangements. They are unchanged from the 2022/2023 arrangements.
2. The admission arrangements allow 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 2023/2024 admissions arrangements.

## BACKGROUND

4. The existing School Admissions Code (SAC) came into force on 19 December 2021 and the School Admissions Appeal Code came into force on 1 February 2012.
5. The council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled school 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 in-year admissions school and the authority support parents in making an application. 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 2023/2024 by 28 February 2022.
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 7 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 2019 admissions arrangements and therefore there for 2023/2024 arrangements there has been no consultation. There are no changes proposed to the admission arrangements for 2023/24 and no requirement to consult.

### 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.

### CONSULTATION

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

### FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

10. 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.

### ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND REDUCING POVERTY

11. 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

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

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The local authority must determine the admission arrangements by 28 February 2022 and ensure they are published before 15 March 2022. The recommended policy will be compliant with the requirements of the School Admission Code 2021.

### EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

14. 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.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED

15. There are no proposed changes to the admissions policy and no community or voluntary controlled schools have proposed changes to their published admission number. Therefore, the recommended option is that Cabinet approves the 2023/2024 admissions arrangements unchanged from 2022/2023.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

16. 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. The proportion of children receiving an offer at one of their 3 preferred schools is a stable and high figure, typically 99 percent.

## EVALUATION

17. The recommended is that the local authority proceeds with determining unchanged admissions arrangements.

## APPENDICES ATTACHED

Appendix 1: The proposed 2023/2024 Primary Admissions Policy

Appendix 2: The proposed 2023/2024 Secondary Admissions Policy

Appendix 3: The list of Published Admission Numbers

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. School Admissions Code December 2021 [School admissions code 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101222/school-admissions-code-2021.pdf) .

School Admissions Appeals Code 2012 [School admissions appeals code - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101222/school-admissions-appeals-code-2012.pdf) .

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