

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING	22nd March 2010 School admission consultation responses
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This purpose of this addendum is to report on responses received to the consultation documents for school admission arrangements in Brighton & Hove for the 2011/12 admission year. The closing date for school and parental responses was 1st March 2010.

Parental Responses

In accordance with the requirements of the Education and Skills Act 2008 a public notice was published in the Evening Argus in December 2009 referring parents to the admissions consultation on the Council's website and to the availability of copies for inspection at King's House. 13 parental responses were received. Of those responses 12 were in favour of the new admission priority between linked infant and junior schools. One was against on the grounds that it discriminated against those moving into the area. Of the 13 just one responded directly on the issue of the exceptional circumstances priority, and was against the proposal on the basis that some pupils should be able to demonstrate good reasons for admission without going to appeal. They did, however, accept that the priority should be applied rigorously and objectively.

School Responses

Only 3 responses to the proposed admission arrangements were received from schools, all from primary schools.

Hertford Junior School did not support the removal of the exceptional circumstances priority, or the removal of the two mile sibling limit in primary. It did support the introduction of the new priority for linked infant and junior schools.

Patcham Infant School did support the removal of the exceptional circumstances priority and the two mile sibling limit. It did support the introduction of the new priority for linked infant and junior schools.

Downs Infant School was not in favour of removing the exceptional circumstances priority, but did support its more rigorous application. It did not support the removal of the two mile limit for siblings, expressing concern that parents could briefly move to the area, secure a school place in the Infant school then move away again. It supported the introduction of the new priority for linked infant and junior schools.

Diocesan Responses

The Church of England Diocese of Chichester responded to the consultation supporting the removal of priority 2 from secondary and junior schools, and also supported the removal of the two mile sibling distance limit and the introduction of the new priority for linked infant and junior schools.

The Diocese also commented upon the need for consultation on a 2011/12 in year scheme (in addition to the 2010/1 scheme published). The Council takes the view that the 2011/12 scheme will be identical in all but title to the 2010/11 scheme, so did not publish a separate (but identical) document for the later year. It also sought clarification on whether the 15 day limit placed on appeals in the document was a maximum or a minimum, and the relevance of the limit if an appeal can be heard at any time in the year. Its purpose is in fact to obtain appeal documents in time for the earliest possible next appeal hearing, rather than have a delay of weeks or months before an appeal can be heard.

Other Responses

The School Preference Service, which operates as part of the Family Information Service, responded to support the introduction of the new priority for linked infant and junior schools and the removal of the two mile sibling link limit in primary. It did not support the removal of the exceptional circumstances priority on the grounds that more vulnerable families were less likely to appeal or be confident in the appeal process were that their only option.

Voluntary Aided Schools

All 16 Voluntary Aided schools in the city either provided consultation copies of their proposed admission arrangements for 2010/11 or indicated that they were not changing arrangements and therefore not consulting.

The Council was pleased to note that both diocesan authorities had provided their schools with clear guidance as to how best they should frame their admission arrangements in order to comply with the Admission Code.

Published Admission Numbers

No schools objected to their proposed published admission number for 2011/12.