

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
THE CO-ORDINATED SCHEME FOR PRIMARY TO SECONDARY TRANSFER
SCHOOL YEAR 2015/16

1. INTRODUCTION

This scheme details proposals for the co-ordinated admission arrangements for secondary schools in Southampton. The proposed scheme is in accordance with the School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008 and the School Admissions Code 2012.

2. BACKGROUND

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education Act 2002, and the School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008 set a duty on Local Authorities (LAs) to formulate a scheme covering every maintained school in their area, to co-ordinate the admissions process for secondary intakes.

Once a LA has formulated a scheme for its area it must pass the scheme for review to the Admission Forum. The LA must then consult all other admission authorities in the area who it proposes should adopt the scheme.

3. THE SCHEME

The purpose of the co-ordinated admission scheme is to establish mechanisms for ensuring that every parent of a child living in the LA area who has applied for a school place in the 'normal admissions round' receives an offer of one, and only one, school place on the same day. Schemes should also address how late applications will be handled. Co-ordinated schemes are an administrative process to make school admissions easier, more transparent and less stressful for parents.

For September 2015, the co-ordinated scheme will comprise the following elements: -

- Data capture
- Brochures and application process
- Closing date
- Processing of applications
- Late applications
- Decision letters

4. DATA CAPTURE

In June 2014, year 5 data will be downloaded from the school databases and filtered. Details of children living in Hampshire County Council's (HCC's) area will be passed to HCC's Admissions Team. Likewise, HCC will provide the Southampton Admissions Team with the details of those children who live in Southampton City Council's (SCC's) relevant area but attend a HCC primary/junior

school.

5. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Details of the application process will be issued to direct to parents/carers in early September 2014.
- Online application commences 8 September 2014.
- Details of the application process will also be sent to children resident in the city but attending a HCC primary or junior school in early September 2014.
- Children resident in the city who wish to apply for a school in Hampshire must apply using Southampton online application/paper form.
- Children resident in Hampshire but who wish to apply for a Southampton school must apply using Hampshire processes
- The Southampton “form” will enable parents to express a preference for a school outside the Southampton/Hampshire area.
- Applicants to St Anne’s or St George should complete the necessary Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for that school and send them direct to the school
- Applicants for Bitterne Park School wanting their child to be assessed for aptitude for the performing arts must indicate this in their application

6. CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications will be 31 October 2014. This date is set in the regulations. Online applications will come direct to the Admissions Team.

7. PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS

Own admission authority applications: –Any application that shows a preference for any own admission authority school, regardless of the ranking of the school on the form, will be processed as a priority and the relevant data from the application forms will be sent to the schools no later than Friday 28 November 2014.

Other LA school applications: - Data will be sent to the relevant LA’s Admissions Team for processing by 28 November at the latest.

Southampton school applications: – applications will be input onto the ONE database in order that initial allocations can be made.

By Friday 9 January 2015, own admission authority schools advise the Admissions Team of the ranking against their criteria of all the applications referred to them.

In the event that more than one place can be offered, e.g. at St George and a Southampton Community school or two Southampton Community schools, the place that will be offered will be the one that is highest preference on the application form. The Admissions Team will exchange information as required with other LAs to enable a single highest possible offer to be made

8. LATE PREFERENCES

Any application received after the closing date will be treated as a late application. These will not be processed until after the on-time applications. They will be

processed in the same way as the on-time applications as detailed in paragraph 7 above, in close consultation with other admissions authorities.

9. UNPLACED CHILDREN

Any child who remains unplaced after their application has been processed, either because they have not been eligible to be offered a place at any of the schools requested or because they did not complete a form, will be offered a place at their catchment school, if places are still available. If there are no places available at their catchment school, they will be offered a place at the nearest school to their home address with places available. Distance to the home address will be measured by public roads and footpaths.

10. DECISION LETTERS

Parents of children living in the Southampton City Council relevant area will be notified of the outcome of their application by the Admissions Team on 2 March 2015. Southampton LA will make the offer of places at those schools (Community/VC) where it is the admission authority and will make the offer on behalf of the governing bodies of VA schools or other LA at schools where it is not the admission authority. Email notifications will also be sent to those parents who applied online. Offer letters to parents of children resident in Southampton but attending schools outside the city will be posted first class on 2 March 2015. Parents who receive their notification on line will be able to accept the offer they receive online

Parents who do not receive their first preference offer will be sent a formal letter by post ; letters will be accompanied by a reply slip that parents will need to complete to accept any place offered to them. The Admissions Team will notify other admission authorities and LAs of any places they have offered that have been refused so that alternative offers can be made if necessary. Parents will be offered the right of appeal against a refusal of a place as laid down in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education Act 2002, and supporting regulations.

11. DATA TO SCHOOLS

Data will be provided to schools regularly from November 2014 through to July 2015. Although the Admissions Team will already know the names of 1st preference applicants it cannot be assumed that these are the children who will be offered places after the oversubscription criteria have been applied. It is possible that an applicant who has named the school as 1st preference may have lower priority under the oversubscription criteria than children who have expressed a 2nd or 3rd preference for a school. The Admissions Team will work closely with schools to ensure that they have as much data on potential numbers of year 7 starters as soon as possible. From 2 March 2015, schools will receive student data electronically showing who has been allocated places at their schools. From March onwards, secondary schools will receive transfer forms from the primary/junior schools their children are coming from.

12. SUMMARY

This proposed scheme encompasses all the elements of the co-ordinated admissions scheme outlined in the law. A timetable showing how the process would work for the September 2015 intake is attached at the annexe.

CO-ORDINATED SECONDARY SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS SCHEME

TIMETABLE 2015/16

DATE	ACTIVITY
June 2014	Admissions Team obtains details of Year 5 pupils in city primary/junior schools and advises other LAs of any children who currently attend a SCC school but live in the other LA's area. Other LAs do the same for their children.
Early September 2014	Application details sent to parents living in the city area.
8 September 2013	Online application window opens.
31 October 2013	Closing date for applications; online window closes.
28 November 2014	Admissions Team sends relevant details of all applications for own admission authority schools/other LAs to these admission authorities.
9 January 2015	Own admission authority schools /other LAs advise Admissions Team of outcome of ranking applications.
January 2015	Admissions Team to add VA schools/other LA results to processing of Community applications to determine offers.
By end of January 2015	Details of late applications sent to VA/other LA schools.
By mid - February 2015	VA schools/other LAs advise Admissions Team of result of late preference applications. Unplaced children to be allocated to their catchment or nearest school
2 March 2015	SCC parents advised by email, and some by letter, from the Admissions Team of the result of their application.