

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	<b>Education, Culture and Sport</b>
DATE	<b>24<sup>th</sup> March 2011</b>
DIRECTOR	<b>Annette Bruton</b>
TITLE OF REPORT	<b>Roll Capping in Aberdeen City Schools (2011/12)</b>
REPORT NUMBER:	<b>ECS/11/020</b>

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval from the Education, Culture & Sport Committee to:

- agree limits to the S1 intakes of the named secondary schools in Aberdeen City for the 2010/2011 school session;
- agree that where necessary capping limits are placed on identified primary schools to ensure those schools can accommodate the lower class size regulations and agreed limits
- note the need to recommend the reservation of places in named secondary schools and identified primary schools for children likely to become resident in the zone of those schools during the school year.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Agree the following limits upon the S1 intakes of the following secondary schools:  
Aberdeen Grammar School 210;  
Cults Academy 210;  
Harlaw Academy 180;  
Oldmachar Academy 180.
- b) Agree that it may be necessary to cap a number of primary schools to accommodate any class size reductions in Primary 1- 3 to conform to class size regulations and local policy noting that the schools in question can only be identified once class configurations have been established.
- c) Agree the reservation of spaces in the above-named secondary schools and identified primary schools as appropriate, for children likely to become resident in the zone of those schools during the school year.
- d) Require the Schools Service Managers to closely monitor the number

of pupils transferring to the identified capped schools in August 2011 relative to the roll limits being recommended.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no significant direct financial implications. As schools are funded through staffing formulae, they will be staffed accordingly. Where staff excess is identified this will be managed through agreed policy and procedures. There may be implications for Cults Academy should the total roll in S1 not reach the capped figure of 210 early in the new school session in that the school will not receive per capita funding for pupils enrolling in the school after the September census.

### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

This report supports the Council's commitment to the principles of equality in relation to pupil access to schools, best value when considering the distribution of resources and the provision of the highest quality of service delivery. Aberdeen City Council is committed to providing the best possible education for all our children, which is essential if we are to ensure that Aberdeen and its citizens have a prosperous future.

We must therefore:

- Ensure expenditure on education delivers maximum benefit to pupils
- Continue to involve parents and pupils in their schools
- Continue to improve attainment across city schools
- Ensure education is appropriate to pupils' needs and ensure pupils leave school with skills essential for living
- Review best teaching practice and trial projects in Aberdeen and beyond to identify the best ways of delivering an even higher quality education to all pupils.
- Allocate resources to support for learning, targeted to areas of greatest need.
- Continue work to raise the achievement of vulnerable children and close the attainment gap across the City.

### **5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

#### **5.1 Roll Capping - Secondary Schools**

The current position is that certain secondary schools are roll capped, i.e. a decision is taken annually to limit pupil numbers which, experience has shown, could otherwise exceed capacity. This decision is informed by the working capacity of a school which takes into account the availability of both non-practical, and specialist practical teaching areas within the building.

A limit is fixed for each stage between S1 and S4 and in the case of S1, this is guided by the number of P7 children known to be ordinarily resident in the area zoned by address to a secondary school, regardless of which primary school they attended. These children will, under normal circumstances, transfer to their zoned secondary schools, although their parents/guardians may choose another school under the Parents' Charter Legislation.

The secondary schools that are currently roll-capped are Aberdeen Grammar School, Cults Academy, Harlaw Academy and Oldmachar Academy.

It is proposed that the following limit S1 for session 2011/2012:

Aberdeen Grammar School - 210

Cults Academy - 210

Harlaw Academy - 180

Oldmachar Academy - 180

## 5.2 Reserved Places in Roll Capped Schools for Incoming Families

The report on Policy and Procedures for Dealing with Admissions to Schools and Parental Placing Requests approved by the Education and Leisure Committee on 29th August 2000 was predicated on the fundamental principle that local schooling will be provided for local children.

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 empowers Local Authorities to reserve places, not exceeding such number or percentage of places at the school or relating to a particular stage of education, as are in the opinion of the Education Authority reasonably required to accommodate pupils likely to become resident in the catchment area of the school during the academic year. Placing requests in respect of children who live outwith the school zone are refused in order to allow this to happen.

	Reserved spaces in 2010-11	Number of families with S1 children moved into zone in session 2010-2011	Number of S1 placing requests already received for session 2011-12	Number of 'in-zone' children for session 2011-12	Proposed Roll Cap for Session 2011-12	Proposed number of S1 reserved spaces for session 2011-12
Aberdeen Grammar School	6	19	138	153	<b>210</b>	<b>6</b>
Cults Academy	6	22	62	172	<b>210</b>	<b>8</b>
Harlaw Academy	6	2	111	99	<b>180</b>	<b>4</b>
Oldmachar Academy	4	24	44	104	<b>180</b>	<b>4</b>

The proposed number of reserved spaces, therefore, takes account of

- the number of 'in-zone' pupils due in session 2011-12,
- the anticipated number of families moving into the zone during the course of the school year,
- the number of out of zone placing requests already received and

- the roll cap as proposed above.

These figures will be reviewed on an annual basis.

This mechanism will allow the Education Authority to fulfil, as far as is practically possible, its commitment to providing local schooling for local children.

### 5.3 Roll Capping - Primary Schools

Historically only a small number of primary schools have ever had to be capped. This decision being taken as it was not possible to create additional classes within the school building. It therefore has not been normal practice to request reserved places for any of our primary schools.

However due to the increasing demand for places in certain schools, the Council's decision to reduce class size to a maximum of 18 pupils in all P1 classes in schools within areas of deprivation will be determined by each school's ability to accommodate the increase in classes. Regulations provide that the maximum class size in P1 is 25. This may require some schools to reserve places for pupils who may move in-zone during the school year. This would allow Aberdeen City to maintain its policy of local schools for local children.

The 10 Primary Schools potentially affected are:

Manor Park School  
Bramble Brae School  
Riverbank School  
Tullos School  
Kittybrewster School  
Seaton School  
Walker Road School  
Woodside School  
Heathryburn School  
St Peter's RC School

Parents will be informed of the result of their request no later than 30th April 2011, as per our legal requirements.

The decision to cap a primary school will be based on the number of Primary classes the school can accommodate rather than the number of pupils. This is related to the optimum class configuration schools have to adopt.

To ensure that the numbers of excess staff are kept to a minimum, some staff may be employed on a fixed term basis until pupil figures can be confirmed at the start of the new session.

## 6. **IMPACT**

Corporate:

This report fits within the second of the six key priorities of the five year business plan:

- Help to ensure that all school children reach their potential.

People:

Since a school's basic staffing complement is allocated according to a very sensitive roll related formula, the decision to raise or lower a roll cap will have a consequential impact upon the staffing level of a particular school.

Systems and Technology:

There are no systems and technology implications

Property:

There are no property implications if the recommendations of this report are agreed and implemented. If a schools intake were not capped there is the possibility that additional accommodation would be required.

Risk Management:

It is important to reach agreement on the appropriate number of pupils to be admitted to a school for the forthcoming session to ensure that the school is capable of making all necessary arrangements within an appropriate timescale.

Failure to do so might incur the risk of the school not being able to make decisions regarding the admission of pupils within the statutory requirement and in compliance with the Council's Policy of Local Schooling for Local Children.

Equal Opportunities:

Equal opportunities issues are addressed within the arrangements in place for admitting pupils to schools including those arrangements with pertain to pupils who cannot be immediately admitted due to the school being at capacity at a given time.

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Policy and procedures for dealing with admissions etc approved by the Education and Leisure Committee on 29 August 2000.

## **8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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