

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	23 February 2012
DIRECTOR	Annette Bruton
TITLE OF REPORT	Roll Capping in Aberdeen City Schools (2012/13)
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/12/001

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 2012/2013 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, for school session 2012-13, upon the S1 intakes of the following secondary schools and agree the reservation of spaces for children likely to become resident in the zone of those schools during the school year:

Aberdeen Grammar School 180 (with 6 reserved spaces);

Bucksburn Academy 120 (with 4 reserved spaces);

Cults Academy 180 (with 10 reserved spaces);

Harlaw Academy 180 (with 4 reserved spaces).

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 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 monitor closely the number of pupils transferring to the identified capped schools in August 2012 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.

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 the number of pupils entering S1 and 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.

Under Curriculum for Excellence, pupils in S1 to S3 undertake a broad general education and schools have the flexibility to introduce a degree of curricular choice to meet the needs of their pupils for any year group between S1 and S3. In the Senior Phase (S4 to S6), there is more specialisation and pupils will choose to study a more limited range of courses.

At the stage where curricular choice is introduced, it is possible that not all classes will be full. A placing request could be accepted where it can be demonstrated that a viable curriculum can be offered. This would, of course, only be the case where there is no requirement for additional accommodation, creation of additional classes or for additional staff or where any other statutory grounds of refusal exist.

The roll cap at S1 will therefore only be continued when the year group moves into the next school session where all pupils follow a common course structure. Where schools introduce curricular choice, in S2 for example, the roll cap will only apply where no viable curriculum can be offered.

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 2012/2013:

Aberdeen Grammar School - 180

Bucksburn Academy - 120

Cults Academy - 180

Harlaw 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.

In secondary schools in session 2012-13, the following reserved spaces are proposed:

Aberdeen Grammar School - 6 reserved spaces;

Bucksburn Academy - 4 reserved spaces;

Cults Academy - 10 reserved spaces;

Harlaw Academy - 4 reserved spaces.

Roll Capping for Secondary Schools 2012-13

School Name	Roll Cap Aug 2010		Reserved Places Aug 2010		Nov 2010 – P7 to S1 for Aug 2011		Roll Cap Aug 2011		Reserved Places Aug 2011		Moved in zone 1/11-31/12/11		Nov 2011 – P7 to S1 for Aug 2012		Proposed Roll Cap Aug 2012		Proposed Reserved Places Aug 2012	
	Term 2010-2011		Term 2010-2011		Term 2011-2012		Term 2011-2012		Term 2011-2012		Term 2011-2012		Term 2012-2013		Term 2012-2013		Term 2012-2013	
Aberdeen Grammar	210	6	144	210	6	15	210	6	15	160	180	6	160	180	6			
Bridge of Don Academy			109			0			0	84			84					
Bucksburn Academy			115			5			5	105			105	120	4			
Cults Academy	180	6	177	210	8	16	210	8	16	156	180	10	156	180	10			
Dyce Academy			122			3			3	91			91					
Harlaw Academy	180	6	115	180	4	7	180	4	7	102	180	4	102	180	4			
Hazlehead Academy			128			3			3	124			124					
Kincorth Academy			107			1			1	144			144					
Northfield Academy			206			3			3	220			220					
Oldmachar Academy	180	4	111	180	4	0	180	4	0	152			152					
St Machar Academy			254			4			4	271			271					
Torry Academy			91			0			0	92			92					

These numbers 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 which 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

Derek Samson (Secondary Schools)
Service Manager – Schools (12-18) and Curriculum
dsamson@aberdeencity.gov.uk
(52)3187

Sohail Faruqi (Primary Schools)
Service Manager – Schools (5-14) and ASN
sfaruqi@aberdeencity.gov.uk
(52)2695