

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

COMMITTEE	<b>Education, Culture and Sport</b>
DATE	<b>28th March 2013</b>
DIRECTOR	<b>Gayle Gorman</b>
TITLE OF REPORT	<b>Roll Capping in Aberdeen City Schools (2013/14)</b>
REPORT NUMBER:	<b>ECS/13/021</b>

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

- agree limits to the S1 intakes of the named secondary schools in Aberdeen City for the 2013/2014 school session
- agree that the S2 and S3 intakes in the named secondary schools in Aberdeen City for the 2013/2014 session should be set at the levels previously agreed by committees.
- agree to limit intakes to named primary schools in Aberdeen City for the 2013/2014 school session;
- agree to reserve places in named secondary 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) Agrees the following limits 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 10 reserved spaces);  
Bucksburn Academy 120 (with 4 reserved spaces);  
Cults Academy 180 (with 10 reserved spaces);  
Harlaw Academy 180 (with 4 reserved spaces).

b) Agrees that the S2 intake and reserved spaces for session 2013/2014 will be set at the level previously agreed for their entry into S1 and that the S3 intake and reserved spaces for session 2013/2014 will be set at the level previously agreed for their entry into S1.

c) Agrees to limit the P1 intakes of the named primary schools for August 2013 to ensure that the number of classes within each school does not exceed the following:-

Hanover Street	8 classes
Heathryburn School	10 classes
Kaimhill School	8 classes
Kingswells School	15 classes
Manor Park School	9 classes
Mile End School	14 classes
Seaton School	9 classes

d) Agree to apply the class size maximum of 18 for Primary 1 and Primary 1/2 composite classes in Muirfield School as recommended in paragraph 5.4.7.

e) Require the Schools Service Managers to closely monitor the number of pupils transferring to the identified capped schools in August 2013 relative to the roll limits being recommended.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Depending upon the size of the primary 1 intake to the school, the inclusion of Muirfield School in those schools where primary 1 and primary 1/2 composite classes are set at a maximum of 18 may require an additional 1 full-time equivalent teacher. The part-year cost for 2013/2014 would be 28K and the full year cost for 2014/2015 would be 41K. If necessary this will be resourced from within the existing primary teaching staffing budget.

### **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 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.

The secondary schools that are currently roll capped are Aberdeen Grammar School, Bucksburn Academy, Cults Academy, and Harlaw Academy. It is proposed that the same schools are roll capped in session 2013-14 with the following limits to S1 intakes:

Aberdeen Grammar School - 180  
Bucksburn Academy - 120  
Cults Academy - 180  
Harlaw Academy – 180

For session 2013/2014, S2 capping levels for these schools will remain as previously agreed for this year groups entry into S1 and S3 capping levels for these schools will remain as previously agreed for this year groups entry into S1.

These numbers will be reviewed on an annual basis and this mechanism will allow the Education Authority to fulfil, as far as is practically possible, its commitment to providing local schooling for local children.

### **5.2 Roll Capping - Primary Schools**

The decision to cap a primary school is based on the number of primary classes the school can accommodate rather than the number of pupils. Due to the increasing demand for in zone places in certain primary schools there are a number of schools where roll capping is now required to ensure that sufficient classroom space remains available. It is proposed that P1 intakes to these schools are limited so that the optimum number of classes within the schools are not exceeded. This will allow Aberdeen City to maintain its policy of local schools for local children.

For August 2013 schools in this category are:

Hanover Street	8 classes
Heathryburn School	10 classes

Kaimhill School	8 classes
Kingswells School	15 classes
Manor Park School	9 classes
Mile End School	14 classes
Seaton School	9 classes

#### 5.2.1 St Peter's School.

Given the projected extreme pressure on space at St Peters in August 2012 the ECS Committee took the decision in June 2012 to break the 1:18 teacher/pupil ratio in P1 in St Peter's School. The options for the school for August 2013 are addressed in the paper on Capacities at St Peter's school also being considered by the Education Culture and Sport Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013

#### 5.3 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. Parents will be informed of the result of their request no later than 30th April 2013, as per our legal requirements.

#### 5.3.1 In secondary schools in session 2013-14, the following reserved spaces are proposed: (See appendix 1)

Aberdeen Grammar School - 10 reserved spaces;  
 Bucksburn Academy - 4 reserved spaces;  
 Cults Academy - 10 reserved spaces;  
 Harlaw Academy - 4 reserved spaces.

#### 5.3.2 The reserved places for S2 and S3 in these schools will remain as previously agreed for entry to sessions 2012/2013 and 2011/2012

#### 5.4 Schools in areas of deprivation.

#### 5.4.1 As a commitment to reducing primary class sizes to 18, Aberdeen City Council currently limits P1 and composite P1 and P2 class sizes to 18 in 10 schools in areas of deprivation. The restricted size of the pupil intake and the consequent increase in the number of classes can put pressure on available space and increase the possibility of capping. Since the original allocation of resources was cash limited funding is only available to invest in the necessary additional teachers in 10 schools. The schools are

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

5.4.2. Historically these 10 schools have shown the highest levels of deprivation as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). However the revised SIMD for 2013 has shown that Muirfield school now has a higher level of deprivation than Heathryburn school.

5.4.3 Heathryburn School is now the 11<sup>th</sup> highest with 34% of the pupils in the most deprived 20% of the population.

5.4.4 Muirfield is now 8<sup>th</sup> highest with 47% of the pupils in the most deprived 20% of the population

5.4.5 The options are therefore

- 1) To replace Heathryburn with Muirfield as one of the 10 schools
- 2) To include Muirfield in the rankings and apply the 18 class size limits to 11 and not 10 schools

5.4.6 Implications

Option 1 would require Heathryburn to lose a class in August 2013 and Muirfield to gain a class.

Option 2, depending on the size of the P1 intake to Muirfield school would require an additional class in August 2013 and would require additional budget to be identified for the additional teacher.

5.4.7 Option 2 is recommended

## **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 which were previously approved by the Education and Leisure Committee on 29th August 2000.

## **8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

Neil McLennan

Acting Service Manager – Schools (12-18) and Curriculum

[nmclennan@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:nmclennan@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

(52)3187

Liz Gillies

Service Manager – Schools (Early Years and Primary)

[lgillies@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:lgillies@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

(52)3455

## Appendix 1

### Roll capping for Secondary Schools 2013-2014

School Name	Nov 2011 – P7 to S1 for Aug 2012	Roll Cap Aug 2012 Term 2012-2013	Reserved Places Aug 2012	Moved in zone 15/3/12 - 31/12/12	Nov 2012 – P7 to S1 for Aug 2013	Roll Cap Aug 2013 Term 2013-2014	Reserved Places Aug 2013
Aberdeen Grammar	160	180	6	10	145	180	10
Bridge of Don Academy	84			3	88		
Bucksburn Academy	105	120	4	3	98	120	4
Cults Academy	156	180	10	6	161	180	10
Dyce Academy	91			2	103		
Harlaw Academy	102	180	4	4	104	180	4
Hazlehead Academy	124			15	147		
Kincorth Academy	144			2	133		
Northfield Academy	220			4	213		
Oldmachar Academy	152			1	131		
St Machar Academy	271			5	242		
Torry Academy	92			1	83		