

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	27th March 2014
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Aberdeen City Schools Roll Capping and Reserved Places (2014/15)
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/14/016
CHECKLIST RECEIVED:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Officers report to ECS committee on an annual basis information on the capacity in schools following the figures becoming available for incoming S1 and P1 in zone pupils. This report brings to the attention of the committee the schools where there is pressure on places. The report outlines the action that can be taken to ensure schools retain capacity for in-zone pupils and that will manage pupil numbers fairly across the city.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1) Agrees limits to the S1 intakes of the following secondary schools and agree the reservation of spaces for children who may/are likely to become resident in the zone of those schools during the school year:

Aberdeen Grammar School 210 (including 10 reserved spaces);
Bucksburn Academy 120 (including 6 reserved spaces);
Cults Academy 180 (including 14 reserved spaces);
Harlaw Academy 180 (including 4 reserved spaces).

- 2) Agrees that the S2 intake and reserved spaces for session 2014/2015 will be set at the level previously agreed for their entry into S1 and that the S3 intake and reserved spaces for session 2014/2015 will be set at the level previously agreed for their entry into S1.

- 3) Agrees to limit the P1 intakes of the named primary schools for August 2014 by limiting the number of classes at P1 and P1/2 composite as below.

For August 2014 schools in this category are:

Airyhall	13 classes
Ashley Road	14 classes
Cults	19 classes
Hanover Street	8 classes
Heathryburn School	12 classes
Kaimhill School	10 classes
Kingswells School	17 classes
Manor Park School	12 classes
Mile End School	16 classes
Seaton School	10 classes
Stoneywood	7 classes
St Peters	11 classes
Tullos	13 classes
Walker Road	17 classes

4) Agree to reserve spaces in Primaries

In primary schools in session 2014-15, the following reserved places at P1 are proposed:

Airyhall	3 reserved places
Ashley Road	3 reserved places
Cults	3 reserved places
Hanover Street	3 reserved places
Heathryburn School	3 reserved places
Kaimhill School	2 reserved places
Kingswells School	3 reserved places
Manor Park School	3 reserved places
Mile End School	4 reserved places
Seaton School	3 reserved places
Stoneywood	3 reserved places
St Peters	3 reserved places*
Tullos	3 reserved places
Walker Road	3 reserved places*

*The in zone pupil numbers currently identified will not provide space for further enrolment until a space becomes available.

5) Agree to continue to apply the class size maximum of 18 for Primary 1 and Primary 1/2 composite classes in the following schools.

Bramble Brae
Heathryburn
Kittybrewster
Manor Park
Muirfield
Riverbank

Seaton
Tullos
Walker Road
Woodside

6) Reserves St Peters from the list of maximum class sizes of 18 in Primary 1.

7) Instruct the Schools Service Managers to closely monitor the number of pupils transferring to the identified capped schools in August 2014 relative to the roll limits and classes being recommended.

8) To devolve authority to the Director of EC&S to make decisions as to the management of roll capping, and the reservation of school places in both primary and secondary schools, and to instruct officers to update the Scheme of Delegation accordingly.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The budget has been established from the roll forecasts in primary and secondary schools.

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.
- Ensure the most effective teaching and learning in Aberdeen City and beyond to deliver 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.

For session 2014/2015, S2 and S3 capping levels for these schools will remain as previously agreed for these year groups on 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 roll 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 or further exceeded. This will allow Aberdeen City to maintain its policy of local schools for local children.

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 who make a placing request by 15th March 2014 will be informed of the result of their request no later than 30th April 2014, as per our legal requirements.

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 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.

5.4.2 St Peter's School

Given the forecast of extreme pressure on space at St Peters it is recommended to remove St Peters from the schools with a limit of 18 in P1 classes to break the 1:18 teacher/pupil ratio.

5.5. Delegated Powers

5.5.1 ACC has to revise the roll numbers for primary and secondary schools based on projected roll forecast on an annual basis. The local authority has to ensure that places are available for in zone pupils while giving parents the right to make placing requests where possible. The legislation is laid out in Education (Scotland) Act 1980.

There has been a consistent trend of a high number of placing requests for out of zone children in the secondary sector for a number of years and a few schools have remained roll capped in order to ensure that the numbers did not exceed capacity in certain schools. There has also been an increase in recent years of out of zone placing requests for primary schools. Taken together with the projected increase in primary roll numbers, particularly in city centre schools, figures at primary level will need to be monitored and capped more frequently, with appropriate reservation of school places for children moving into school zones during the academic year, to ensure there are sufficient places for in zone children in their local schools. As such decisions are essentially operational decisions; the Director seeks an appropriate delegation of power which will allow flexibility in responding to pupil movement throughout the annual placing round and throughout the academic year.

6. IMPACT

Aberdeen – the Smarter City:

This report contributes to the *Smarter People* outcome through the provision of high quality education that improves the attainment and life chances of children.

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:

This report, if agreed and implemented, mitigates overall property implications. It will however require reconfiguration of the overall EC&S accommodation within the existing facilities at the Mile End site and consideration of options at St Peter's. If schools intake were not capped there is the possibility that additional accommodation would be required in all the schools listed above.

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

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