

Consultation on Admission Arrangements 2021/22

1. Introduction

1.1 This document provides background to the statutory consultation exercise for the admission arrangements to community primary and secondary schools and seeks comments on the proposed changes.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Consultees are asked:

2.1.1 to consider the admission arrangements for community schools and, if they so wish, to comment on the proposed changes:

- Removal of mini catchment areas of Coppermill Primary School, The Jenny Hammond Primary School and Gwyn Jones Primary School

2.2 The consultation will run for 7 weeks from Monday, 02 December 2019 until Monday 20 January 2020 and responses should be made by schools to school.admissions@walthamforest.gov.uk under the title (Subject: Consultation on admission arrangements 2020).

3. Background to Consultation Arrangements

3.1 Consultation is required on the following issues:

a. Removal of mini catchment areas of Waltham Forest schools

3.2 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as subsequently amended, and the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended, prescribe the consultation to be undertaken by admission authorities.

3.3 It should also be noted that all admission authorities – voluntary aided and foundation schools and academies, including free schools - are required to act in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014. This includes consultation on any proposed changes to their admission arrangements, including any supplementary forms used. Any own admission authority school that has not consulted in the last 7 years must consult on their admission arrangements even if there have been no changes during that period (see 1.42 of the School Admissions Code 2014). Schools can only change their arrangements if they consult, so without consultation they must remain unchanged.

4. Basis of consultation – community schools' admission arrangements

The basis for consultation on admission arrangements for Waltham Forest primary and secondary community schools 2021/22 is:

To remove mini catchments/catchments from Coppermill Primary School, The Jenny Hammond Primary School and Gwyn Jones Primary School.

To consult on the Relevant Area for admission policy consultation with schools.

The School Standards & Framework Act 1998 requires Local Authorities to establish a Relevant Area for admission policy consultation. The Relevant Area is the area in which admission authorities must consult with schools regarding their proposed admission arrangements before finalising them and covers the entire borough of Redbridge.

The Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999 requires the Local Authority to consult on and review its Relevant Area every two years.

5. Further Action

5.1 Consultees are advised that the admission authority requires any comments on the issues in this report by Monday 20 January 2020. Comments should be made through the online consultation or e-mailed to school.admissions@walthamforest.gov.uk under the title "Consultation on admission arrangements 2021".

6.0 All comments will be submitted to Cabinet at their meeting in February 2020.

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Any objections from the current consultation must be referred to the Adjudicator by 15 May 2020.

Waltham Forest Council complies with the regulations and legislation set out in the School Admissions Code 2014 and the School Admission Appeals Code 2012, including:

- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998