

**Local Authority Report**

to

**The Schools Adjudicator**

from

**Bradford Local Authority**

to be provided by

**30 June 2019**

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[**www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-schools-adjudicator**](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-schools-adjudicator)

**Please email your completed report to:** [**osa.team@schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk**](mailto:osa.team@schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk) **by 30 June 2019 and earlier if possible**

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**Introduction and guidance on completing the report**

1. Section 88P of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the Act) requires every local authority to make an annual report to the adjudicator. The Chief Adjudicator then includes a summary of these reports in her annual report to the Secretary for State for Education. The School Admissions Code (the Code) sets out the requirements for reports by local authorities in paragraph 6. Paragraph 3.23 specifies what must be included as a minimum in the report to the adjudicator and makes provision for the local authority to include any other matters. The report **must** be returned to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by **30 June 2019**.
2. Please note that the specified date for returning this form by 30 June is a Code requirement; this is why some data are asked for by financial year.
3. We have made some changes to the information and categories of information sought this year:
   1. we have removed references to “all through” schools and instead would be grateful if local authorities would follow the approach used in statutory provisions and in the Department for Education Statistical First Release[[1]](#footnote-1) and the Education Middle School (England) Regulations 2002[[2]](#footnote-2), and
   2. we have decided not to use the term “own admission authority schools” to mean those schools for which the local authority is not the admission authority (that is foundation, voluntary aided and academy schools). This is because a large number of arrangements are now determined by multi-academy trusts. We will therefore refer to ‘schools for which the local authority is not the admission authority’.
4. Local authorities will notice that we have not included this year a number of questions which have been asked in past years. This is because we judge that we are unlikely to receive much information that adds to the existing body of knowledge and do not wish to take up local authorities’ time unnecessarily. We have not asked:
5. for details of the particular provisions of admission arrangements determined by other admission authorities challenged by local authorities;
6. local authorities’ views of how well the interests of children with special educational needs or disabilities are met at the normal points of admission;
7. about the advantages and disadvantages of co-ordinating in year admissions;
8. about the reliance on paragraph 3.12 of the Code by other admission authorities in the local authority’s area;
9. for information about admission authorities’ approaches to deciding whether or not they had places available in year; or
10. for the number of children refused admission to a school under the fair access protocol.

Local authorities are, of course, free to comment on any of these matters if they wish to do so under section 6. The views expressed by local authorities in previous years also remain a matter of public record.

1. We are asking new questions this year about:
   1. the proportion of schools with other admission authorities in the local authority area for which the local authority ranks preferences for the schools concerned on the admission authorities’ behalf;
   2. use of oversubscription criteria which give priority to children adopted having previously been in care abroad; and
   3. how well served are children who are looked after by another local authority but being educated in the area of the local authority submitting the report.
2. We continue to ask about the use of the premiums in admission arrangements but have provided further guidance on this in footnote 11. In particular, we ask local authorities to include in their responses schools using part of any of the premiums (such as free school meals eligibility). Please consider this footnote before answering the questions on this matter.

**Information requested**

# Section 1 - Normal point of admission

1. **Determined arrangements**
2. Please give the date your local authority determined arrangements for admission in 2020 to its voluntary controlled and community schools.

05**/**03**/**2019

* 1. This local authority has no community or voluntary controlled primary schools (please tick box if this applies)
  2. This local authority has no community or voluntary controlled secondary schools (please tick box if this applies)

1. Please specify the date the determined arrangements for voluntary controlled and community schools were published on the local authority’s website.

05**/**03**/**2019

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Please provide a link to where the admission arrangements can be viewed on the local authority’s website on publication.   <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/education-and-skills/school-admissions/admission-arrangements/> |

iv. What proportion of arrangements for schools for which the local authority is not the admission authority was provided to the local authority by 15 March 2019?

None Minority Majority All

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Primary | Secondary |
| 1. How many sets of admission arrangements of schools for which the local authority is not the admission authority were queried directly by your local authority because they were considered not to comply with the Code? | 18 | 5 |
| 1. Please provide any comments on the determination of admission arrangements not covered above.   Multi Academy Trusts making changes to all of their policies incorrectly are an issue.  In general academies do not understand consultation and compliance with the Code.  Individual schools who are their own authority often believe the LA is responsible for their policy. | | |

1. **Co-ordination**
2. Provision of rankings:
   1. What proportion of schools for which the local authority is not the admission authority provided their rankings correctly undertaken by the agreed date?

None Minority Majority All

* 1. For what proportion of schools with other admission authorities in the local authority’s area did the local authority rank preferences expressed for those schools in 2019?

None Minority Majority All

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Please provide any comments you wish to make in respect of provision of rankings:   Own admitting authorities who rank their own often do not understand their own admission policies or how to administer their policy. |

1. Does the local authority charge schools for providing rank preferences?

Yes No

1. Does the local authority rank preferences for other admission authorities in OTHER local authority areas and, if so, for how many schools?

NO

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. How well did co-ordination of the main admissions round work? | Not well | A large number of small problems or a major problem | Well with few small problems | Very well |
| Reception |  |  | X |  |
| Year 7 |  |  | X |  |
| Other relevant years of entry |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Please give examples to illustrate your answer:   Issues with other LAs’ modelling’ outcomes and exchanging data late.  Late opening of new schools not involved in co-ordination and parents receiving two offers. Funding agreement still not signed off July 2019  Other LA’s not communicating or understanding neighbouring processes causing issues for our parent informing them incorrectly. | | | | |

1. **Looked after and previously looked after children**
2. How well does the admissions system in your local authority area serve the interests of looked after children at **normal points of admission**?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable[[3]](#footnote-3)

* + 1. How well do the admissions systems in other local authority areas serve the interests of children looked after by your local authority at **normal points of admission**?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable3

* + 1. How well does your admissions system serve the interests of children who are looked after by other local authorities but educated in your area **at normal points of admission**?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable3

* + 1. How well does the admissions system in your local authority area serve the interests of previously looked after children at **normal points of admission**?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable3

1. Priority in admission arrangements for 2020 for adopted children previously in care abroad.
   1. Do the arrangements for any **community or voluntary controlled** **primary** schools include this priority for 2020? Yes No

If yes please provide the number of community or voluntary controlled primary schools that include this priority.

ALL in the LA

* 1. Do the arrangements for any **community or voluntary controlled** **secondary** schools include this priority for 2020? Yes No

If yes please provide the number of community or voluntary controlled secondary schools that include this priority.

ALL in the LA

* 1. Do the arrangements for any primary schools for which the local authority is **not the** **admission authority** include this priority for 2020?

Yes No

If yes please provide the number of primary schools for which the local authority is **not the admission authority** that include this priority.

Unknown

* 1. Do the arrangements for any secondary schools for which the local authority is **not the** **admission authority** include this priority for 2020?

Yes No

If yes please provide the number of secondary schools for which the local authority is **not the admission authority** that include this priority.

Unknown

e. Please comment on the use of a priority in admission arrangements for a child adopted who was previously in care abroad if you wish.

Most schools have chosen to include this. Catholic schools have chosen not to include this on advice from the diocese. All schools have been asked by the LA to include it but have only done so if they were consulting on changes or doing a 7 year review.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Please give any examples of good or poor practice or difficulties which exemplify your answers about the admission to schools of looked after and previously looked after children at the **normal points of admission**:   Schools are resistant and some feel overwhelmed with the number of CLA and PLAC especially those who are good and outstanding. |

1. **Special educational needs and disabilities**

1. Please provide any comments you wish to make on the admission of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities at the normal points of admission:

Schools resistant to admit children with EHCPs into Yr7 and cite unable to meet need.

LA give priority for those parents without EHCP who wish to apply under Medical or social but require a professional recommendation as to which is the only school that can meet child’s needs. Parents rarely follow the guidelines for applying and securing priority.

**Section 2 - In year admissions[[4]](#footnote-4)**

1. **The number of in year admissions**
   * 1. Do you know the number of in year admissions to primary schools in your local authority area? Yes No
     2. If ‘no’ is this for one or more of the following reasons (tick boxes as appropriate) because:

schools with other admission authorities are not complying with the requirement in paragraph 2.22 of the Code to notify the local authority of applications for places and the outcome;

the local authority does not use the information provided by schools with other admission authorities to collect the numbers of in year admissions; and/or

other?

(please specify)

* + 1. Do you know the number of in year admissions to secondary schools in your area? Yes No
    2. If ‘no’ is this for one or more of the following reasons (tick boxes as appropriate) because:

schools with other admission authorities are not complying with paragraph 2.22 of the Code;

the local authority does not use the information provided by schools with other admission authorities to collate the numbers of in year admissions; and/or

other?

(please specify)

* + 1. If the local authority does know the number of in year admissions to state funded schools in its area, please complete the following table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Primary aged children | Secondary aged children |
| Number of in year admissions between 1/9/17 and 31/8/18 | 3091 | 1113 |
| Number of in year admissions between 1/9/18 and 31/3/19 | 2512 | 881 |

**B Co-ordination of in year admissions**

* + 1. To what proportion of community and voluntary controlled schools did the local authority delegate responsibility for in year admissions in the academic year 2018/19?
       1. Primary: Not applicable[[5]](#footnote-5) None Minority Majority  All
       2. Secondary: Not applicable5 None Minority Majority  All
    2. For what proportion of schools for which the local authority is not the admission authority does the local authority co-ordinate in year admissions?
       1. Primary: None Minority Majority  All
       2. Secondary: None Minority Majority  All

iii. Please provide any comments on the co-ordination of in year admissions if you wish.

Catholic schools remain outside of co-ordination as does one VA school. Bradford has an In Year Co-ordination scheme for all other schools in the LA which schools can choose to be part of.

Please note these figures are for actual admissions not actual applications which are far higher.

**C Looked after children and previously looked after children**

1. How well does the in year admissions system serve children who are looked after by your local authority and who are being educated in your area?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable[[6]](#footnote-6)

1. How well do the in year admission systems in other local authority areas serve the interests of your looked after children?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable6

1. How well does your admissions system serve the interests of children who are looked after by other local authorities but educated in your area?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable6

1. How well does your in year admissions system serve the interests of previously looked after children?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable6

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Please give examples of any good or poor practice or difficulties which support or exemplify your answers about looked after and previously looked after children:   See previous comments regard LAC  Difficulties arise in other LAs where In Year Co-ordination does not exist as SW have to contact schools directly and delays are inevitable as schools try to reuse admissions. In Year Co-ordination allows us to prioritise and monitor admissions for LAC and PLAC |

**D Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities**

* + 1. How well served are children with special educational needs and/or disabilities who have an education health and care plan that names a school when they need to be admitted in year?

Not at all Not well Well Very well  Not applicable[[7]](#footnote-7)

* + 1. How well served are children with special educational needs and/or disabilities who do not have an education health and care plan when they need to be admitted in year?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Don’t know

|  |
| --- |
| * + 1. Please give examples of good or poor practice or difficulties which support or exemplify your answers:   Schools feeling under pressure due to funding constraints and staffing issues and unable to meet need for those without EHCPs and with EHCPs.  High volumes of children with EHCPs in mainstream school and SEN support. |

**E Other children[[8]](#footnote-8)**

* + 1. How well served are other children when they need a new school place in year?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Don’t know

|  |
| --- |
| * + 1. Please provide any comments you wish to make in respect of other children:   Issues around the number of school moves for individual children. Moving to avoid PEX, off rolling and going EHE to try and manipulate the system to get schools of their choice which they have not qualified for through normal year of entry. Children with undiagnosed needs, new to are or new to the UK who must be placed in mainstream school are an issue. |

**F Fair access protocol**

1. Has your fair access protocol been agreed[[9]](#footnote-9) with the majority of state-funded mainstream schools in your area?

Yes for primary

Yes for secondary

|  |
| --- |
| 1. If you have not been able to tick both boxes above, please explain why: |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. How many children were admitted to schools in your area under the fair access protocol between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019? | | |
| Type of school | Number of children admitted | |
| Primary aged children | Secondary aged children |
| Community and voluntary controlled | 167 | 5 |
| Foundation, voluntary aided and academies | 265 | 658 |
| Total | 432 | 663 |

1. How well do you consider hard to place children are served by the fair access protocol in your area?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable[[10]](#footnote-10)

|  |
| --- |
| Please make any relevant comment on the protocol not covered above.  Schools struggle with the concept that being on or over Pan is not a reason for refusal. Oversubscribed/Outstanding schools believe children should be placed in undersubscribed schools regardless of the challenges they face or the needs and challenges of the children and young people, including splitting sibling groups and travelling. This is counteracted by the Protocol and challenged by officers regularly. |

# Section 3 - Directions

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. How many directions did the local authority make between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 for children in the local authority area? | | | | |
|  | Primary aged children (not looked after) | Primary aged looked after children | Secondary aged children (not looked after) | Secondary aged looked after children |
| Voluntary aided or foundation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1. Please add any comments on the authority’s experiences of making directions in these circumstances. | | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. How many directions did the local authority make between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 for a maintained school in another local authority area to admit a looked after child? | |
| For primary aged children | For secondary aged children |
| 0 | 0 |
| 1. Please add any comments on the authority’s experiences of making directions in these circumstances. | |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **E.** | Primary aged children (not looked after) | Primary aged looked after children | Secondary aged children (not looked after) | Secondary aged looked after children |
| How many requests to the ESFA to direct an academy to admit a child did the local authority make between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| How many children were admitted to an academy school as a result of the request for a direction by the local authority to the ESFA between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| How many requests were outstanding as at 31 March 2019? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1. Please add any comments on the authority’s experiences of requesting directions in these circumstances.   Takes too long and too much too much ‘to and fro’ between the ESFA, school and LA | | | | |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Any other comments on the admission of children in year not previously raised.   Without In year Co-ordination there would be many children out of school for long periods of time. It would be helpful for this to be statutory to bring the catholic schools in line and stop any further removals from academies etc. Giving parents one point of contact and adhering to their legal rights such as being able to apply for a place, being refused and being given their right to appeal. In addition being able to offer a place in another local school, all from one application for multiple schools, rather than parents contacting multiple schools. |

# **Section 4 - Pupil, service and early years pupil premiums** (the premiums)[[11]](#footnote-11)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. How many **community or voluntary controlled** **schools** in the local authority area will use each premium as an oversubscription criterion (including the tiebreaker) for admissions in 2020? | Primary | Secondary[[12]](#footnote-12) excluding grammar | Grammar12 |
| Early years pupil premium | 0 | N/A | N/A |
| Pupil premium | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Service premium | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total number of schools using at least one premium in their oversubscription criteria | 0 | 0 | 0 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. How many **schools for which the local authority is NOT the admission authority** in your area will use each premium as an oversubscription criterion (including the tiebreaker) for 2020? | Primary | Secondary12  excluding grammar | Grammar12 |
| Early years pupil premium | 0 | N/A | N/A |
| Pupil premium | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Service premium | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total number of schools using at least one premium in their oversubscription criteria | 0 | 0 | 0 |

# Section 5 - Electively home educated children

1. How many children were recorded as being electively home educated in the local authority area on 29 March 2019?

611

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Any comments to make relating to admissions and children electively home educated that you have not previously raised?   There is very high movement amongst electively home educated children in terms of moving back onto school rolls, particularly at secondary age. This may be related to parents deciding not to continue home educating, or the LA concluding that provision is not suitable, and therefore putting a School Attendance Order in place. Bradford has initiated over 60 of these within the last two school years.  Through the Fair Access Protocol children returning from EHE are fast-tracked back to their previous school, in most cases, to be returned to roll and School Attendance Orders put in place where there is refusal to engage. |

# Section 6 - Other matters

Are there any other matters that the local authority would like to raise that have not been covered by the questions above?

|  |
| --- |
| In Year Co-ordination to be mandatory, Fair Access Protocol to include CLA to enable quick placement and an open and transparent system of placement with CLA recorded as admitted.  Summer Born offset requests and the lack of change in guidance and legislation but the Ministers public insistence that parents should be allowed to choose if a child born in April (!) should defer for an entire year. |

# Section 7 - Feedback

We would be grateful if you could provide any feedback on completing this report to inform our practice for 2020.

|  |
| --- |
| The template was difficult to use. As it became populated things kept moving around an in some places that made it illegible.  Find the section on Pupil premium irrelevant and the questions on In Year admissions |

Thank you for completing this template.

Please return to Lisa Short at [OSA.Team@schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk](mailto:OSA.Team@schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk) by 30 June 2019

1. [Department for Education Statistical First Release](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2018) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [The Education Middle School (England) Regulations 2002](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/1983/contents/made) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. ‘Not applicable’ will only be appropriate if there are no children falling within this definition. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. By in year we mean admission at the start of any school year which is not a normal point of entry for the school concerned (for example at the beginning of Year 2 for a five to eleven primary school) and admission during the course of any school year after the end of the statutory waiting list period in normal years of admission. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. ‘Not applicable’ will only be appropriate if the local authority has no community or voluntary controlled primary/secondary schools. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. ‘Not applicable’ will only be appropriate if there are no children falling within this definition. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. ‘Not applicable’ will only be appropriate if there are no children falling within this definition. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Other children are those not looked after, previously looked after or with special educational needs and/or disabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. An existing protocol remains binding on all schools up until the point at which a new one is adopted. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. ‘Not applicable’ would mean that there were no hard to place children for which the protocol was required. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Please include in these figures all schools whose arrangements give priority on the basis of eligibility for one or more of the premiums or part thereof except where the only sub-group is looked after and previously looked after children as all schools must give first priority to these children.

    Admission authorities can limit priority to specific sub-groups of those who attract a premium. Examples are:

    children of parents who are currently serving in the UK regular armed forces (rather than all children who attract the service premium); or

    children who are eligible for free school meals at the time of application (rather than all children who attract the pupil premium).

    If such sub-groups have priority at any point within the oversubscription criteria, they should be included in the totals for this table even if there is no specific use of the terms, ‘pupil premium,’ ‘early years premium’ or ‘service premium’ in the arrangements. Paragraphs 1.39A and 1.39B of the Code provide the relevant exceptions to paragraph 1.9f (which prohibits giving a priority to a child according to the occupational or financial status of parents applying). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Do not include use in post 16 arrangements [↑](#footnote-ref-12)