

**CABINET**  
**2 NOVEMBER 2017****UPDATED POLICY ON DELAYED AND ACCELERATED  
TRANSFER – PLACEMENT OF PUPILS OUT OF THEIR  
CHRONOLOGICAL AGE GROUP INCLUDING SUMMER  
BORN CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL**

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**Relevant Cabinet Member**

Mr M Hart

**Relevant Officer**

Director of Children, Families and Communities

**Recommendation**

- 1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills recommends that Cabinet:**
  - a) approves the updated policy document and the reasons for the update;**
  - b) authorises the Director of Children, Families and Communities to publish and implement the updated policy with immediate effect.**

**Background**

2. It is the responsibility of the admissions authority to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the School Admissions Code. Admission arrangements refer to overall procedure, practices, criteria and supplementary information to be used in deciding on the allocation of school places and refers to any device or means used to determine whether a school place is to be offered. The School Admissions Code has the force of law, and where the words 'must' or 'must not' are used, these represent a mandatory requirement.
3. The arrangements for Delayed and Accelerated entry into schools in Worcestershire forms part of the admission arrangements. The protocol currently in place has been in effect prior to the legislative changes introduced by the current School Admissions Code (2014), in relation to Summer born children and as such is non-compliant with the mandatory requirements of the Code. Immediate steps must be taken to rectify this and this does not require consultation.
4. The Schools Adjudicator must consider whether admission arrangements referred to the Adjudicator comply with the Code and the law relating to admissions. An Adjudicator's determination is binding and enforceable. A large number of admission authorities have found themselves subject to objections raised by parents, to the Office of School Adjudicator, with regards to non-compliance with the

requirements to have a clear, fair and objective process for dealing with Summer Born children.

5. The updated proposed policy is attached as Appendix 1.

### **Legal, Financial and HR Implications**

6. Whilst the admissions authority has been giving effect to these requirements and has established processes in place, in terms of the information that is made available to parents and schools, to ensure the Local Authority complies with the legislation and does not find itself the subject of any objections to the OSA, Cabinet are requested to authorise the publication of the revised policy with immediate effect.

7. Summer born children can continue to receive Nursery Education Funding up to the term following their 5th birthday, they will continue to be submitted on the Early Years Census therefore the Local Authority will receive funding for them.

8. The number of requests for delayed entry to school have been increasing over the last four years. The table below details the number of requests that have either been approved or rejected each year:

	<b>Actual Start</b>				<b>Grand Total</b>
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	
<b>Total Count of Agreed</b>	9	15	36	33	<b>93</b>
<b>Total Count of Refused</b>	4	2	0	0	<b>6</b>
<b>Total number of requests</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>99</b>

9. For 2017 and 2018 over 30 children (which equates to 1 form of entry) have been granted delayed entry to start school one year later than expected. Of the 36 agreed for September 2017 (0.55% of total children due to start school), 34 are Summer-born children and 16 are known to SEND / Pre-School Forum. Of the 33 agreed for September 2018 (0.53% of total children due to start school), 30 are summer-born children and 19 are known to SEND / Pre-School Forum.

10. The number requests for delayed entry for non-summer born children remain low therefore there is not deemed to be a financial impact upon the Local Authority at present but this will need to be monitored year on year.

11. There are no HR implications to the revised policy.

### **Privacy and Public Health Impact Assessments**

12. There are no privacy or public health implications to the revised policy.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

13. An Equality Relevance Screening has been completed (Appendix 2) in respect of these recommendations. The screening did not identify any potential Equality considerations requiring further consideration during implementation.

## **Supporting Information**

- Appendix 1 – Policy on Delayed and Accelerated Transfer
- Appendix 2 – Equality Relevance Screening

The appendices are available electronically at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk) with the agenda for this meeting.

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

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## **Background Papers**

None