

Response Form

Consultation on Proposed Changes to the PAN for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2021/22, revised Fair Access Protocol and co-ordinated schemes

School/Organisation/ Name Haybridge High School and Sixth Form

1. Are there any comments you wish to make on the proposal to decrease the PAN from 45 to 30 at Grove Primary School?

Comments:- None.

2. Are there any comments you wish to make on the proposal to decrease the PAN from 25 to 15 at Feckenham CE First School??

Comments:- None.

3. Are there any comments you wish to make on the proposed Fair Access Protocol?

Comments:-

Re: the following sentence on page 3, where those children not eligible for FAP are defined:

"The Fair Access Protocol does not apply to:

- a. Looked After Children or previously Looked After Children, as these children must be admitted. "*

The circumstances in which a school "must" admit a LAC/previously LAC are not defined or qualified here, which may be confusing to readers who do not recognise the original context of this wording which is quoted directly from the Admissions Code. It could therefore be interpreted as a requirement that all LAC must be admitted in all circumstances. The Admissions Code has the above wording in para 3.12 in relation to FAPs but there is no further definition or qualification regarding LAC admissions in that paragraph of the Code. There is however other guidance elsewhere in the Code which applies to LAC admissions and the Worcestershire protocol on LAC admissions (2018) also clarifies the procedure, so it would be helpful to have a reference and hyperlink to the current Worcestershire protocol and the Admissions Code in this paragraph and on the final page under "Other useful documents".

4. Are there any comments on the Co-ordinated Secondary School Scheme you wish to make?

Comments:-


The Timetable of Admissions Process for Year 7 applications for 2021 proposes that the LA will forward information on applications to be considered by academies on 30 Nov and academies must return their first ranked list by 16 Dec 2020. This allows only 12 school days for own admission authority (OAA) schools to complete their checking and ranking. In recent years OAA

schools have had approximately 16-17 school days, but in practice Haybridge has often received its data later (two days late for 2019). Reducing the window to 13 school days, with a possible further over-run, means an unfeasibly tight turnaround for those oversubscribed OAA schools who want to check applications, seek documentary evidence from families for verification where home address or other circumstances are not clear, and present this to Governors, as the admission authority, for their decision. The reduced time means that the first ranked list sent to the LA is likely to be only a rough idea and further changes by OAA schools to their ranking in January or February are very likely. Additionally, there is no final deadline indicated for OAA schools to return any late amendments to their ranked data (including decisions on late applications). In our data file of applications for September 2019 the LA did flag up a few home addresses given in applications where these did not match those recorded by primary schools, which was a helpful development but did not reduce the burden on Haybridge to check all data and verify where necessary.

Worcestershire's report to the Schools Adjudicator of June 2018 stated that "36% of secondary schools returned their ranked lists after the deadline set in the co-ordinated schemes" and "64% of Secondary Schools returned their ranked lists incorrectly ranked, they had to be advised to re-rank the list. Due to the lateness of schools returning ranked lists and the fact that a number had to be asked to re-rank lists this delayed the exchange of information with other Local Authorities in our region". It was also noted that "staff tasked within new academies with ranking the list of children do not seem to have been provided with adequate information in relation to their own admission arrangements, the duties placed upon them and how to accurately rank applications in line with their policies. More time this year has had to be provided than ever before in providing advice and assistance to these schools, without any additional resources within the Local Authority to do so." I do not believe that these problems applied specifically to Haybridge as we have a well-established and rigorous process for checking and ranking our application data and in recent years there has been no suggestion that we have made errors in ranking, but clearly there seems to be a general difficulty with timings. It is not clear how it would ease these reported problems if application data were to be received even later by OAA schools, thus reducing the time in which they can process the data and return it to the LA, and leading to late amendments which would potentially further delay the exchange of data with other LAs.

5. Are there any comments on the Co-ordinated Primary and Middle School Scheme you wish to make?

Comments:- None.

Signed.....

Rowena Quinlan, Admissions Officer, Haybridge High School and Sixth Form, Brake Lane, Hagley, Stourbridge DY8 2XS.

Responses are required by 6th December 2019. They should be sent to:

Admission Arrangements Consultation 2021/22, School Admissions, Prime House, Woodbury Lane, Norton, Worcester, WR5 2NP

Or by e-mail to tracey.wilson@babcockinternational.com

Wilson, Tracey

From: M Gunston (Headteacher) <mgunston@dysonperrins.worcs.sch.uk>
Sent: 04 December 2019 12:05
To: Wilson, Tracey
Subject: CAUTION: External email - RE: Consultation on Admission Arrangements 2021/2022 Academic Year for Worcestershire Schools (UNCLASSIFIED)

Hi Tracey,

Re Fair Access consultation.

I raised these points at the last Fair Access meeting but I'm not sure if they have been submitted as part of the consultation.

Pg4 talks of a 'data dashboard' circulated by the LA to Fair Access panels. I've not seen this so hard to comment on its accuracy or usefulness. My concern would be that school's with low exclusion rates are penalised because it would appear they have fewer behavior challenges. School context should also take into consideration the number of vulnerable students e.g. those with SEN/EHCP/LAC.

Pg5 point 11. I realise Fair Access is a statutory process but I didn't think it was statutory to attend the panel. I thought the panel could still make a decision in a school's absence and the LA would direct the outcome if necessary.

Pg6 The groupings of schools may create a barrier to placing a student. For example, we are much closer geographically to Christopher Whitehead & Chantry than Pershore & Evesham. Should there be something that allows for cross group discussion on placing a student in a local school?

Pg8 pt27. Seven days is very fast. We rarely get paperwork back from parents in this time frame. We are talking about complex students and plans need to be in place in order to get them off to the right start.

Pg8 pt32. Schools can direct alternative provision but this gives parents the ability to bypass the system and apply elsewhere. Assuming the student genuinely needs AP, it is unreasonable for another school to have to take a student and pay for them to go straight to AP.

We are regularly finding that students are looking to move to us having been told they are likely to be permanently excluded from their school. It would be helpful if these students could be referred to Fair Access where one outcome might be a managed move rather than straight admission. Sadly, not all schools play fair on this one.

Thanks

Mike

Mike Gunston
Headteacher
Dyson Perrins Church of England Academy

Subject: RE: Consultation on Admission Arrangements 2021/2022 Academic Year for Worcestershire Schools
(UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification:UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Colleagues

This email is to remind you that the Consultation on Admission Arrangements 2021/2022 Academic Year for Worcestershire Schools ends on Friday 6th December. If you have not already made a response and wish to do so, can you please submit your response by the end of the day on Friday.

Kind Regards

Tracey Wilson | Mainstream Admissions Manager

Networks and Equipment Support | Land

Babcock International Group

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From: Wilson, Tracey

Sent: 17 October 2019 12:02

Subject: Consultation on Admission Arrangements 2021/2022 Academic Year for Worcestershire Schools
(UNCLASSIFIED)

Importance: High

Classification:UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Colleagues

Can you please bring the attached Consultation letter to the immediate attention of the Head Teacher, Chair of Governors and any Admission Officer you may have. There are some significant proposals that you may wish to make a response to including:

- PAN reductions and increases
- Proposed new Fair Access Protocol

It would be most helpful if you could include in your next School Newsletter, SMS message, MyEd or any other notification service to parents, a notification of the consultation and a signpost to [Consultation on Admission Arrangements 2021 and Fair Access Protocol](#)

Consultation will close on 6th December 2019.

Kind Regards

Wilson, Tracey

From: Waters, NJ (Staff) <WatersNJ@droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk>
Sent: 06 December 2019 14:36
To: Wilson, Tracey
Subject: CAUTION: External email - Response to Consultation on the FAAP Protocol/In Year Admissions Policy

Hello Tracy,

I hope this finds you well.

Are you happy to take the bullet points below as the response of the Worcester City FAAP or is there a form I should be using?

Thank you,

Natalie

Response of Worcester City, Martley and Droitwich Fair Access Panel

- Schools would like a clear definition of challenging behaviour, as referenced on page 3 of the document. Also, clear definition of 'range of professionals' referred to on page 4.
- It was highlighted that the protocol will look at the whole school, but there may be an issue within a particular cohort that would mean that admitting another pupil with challenging behaviour has a de-stabilising effect.
- There was lengthy discussion about the weightings and how these are used to ensure that allocations are fair and equitable. It was accepted, however, that this system works in other LAs and at least provides a context for the discussions at FAAP..
- Concerns were raised about the accuracy of the data the LA holds on the number and nature of the students on a school roll.
- Generally, it was felt that the revised protocol is a positive step.

Natalie

Natalie Waters

**Headteacher
Droitwich Spa High School
Briar Mill
Droitwich Spa
WR9 0AA**

Tel: 01905 774421

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Wilson, Tracey

From: Mr G O'Connor <goc@saintsa.co.uk>
Sent: 04 December 2019 18:16
To: Wilson, Tracey
Subject: CAUTION: External email - FW: concerns FAAP proposals

Hi Tracy,

Please see my concerns regarding FAAP proposals, please get in contact if you require any further information

Kind regards

Gerald O'Connor

From: Mr G O'Connor
Sent: 26 November 2019 18:35
To: Mr A Ward <head@trinityhigh.net>
Subject: concerns FAAP proposals

Hi Adrian,

I cannot be there on Thursday, could you pass on my concerns regarding the current proposals

- 1) Given the points system I think that the most vulnerable schools will build up the most negative points, therefore be forced to attract more mobility, this is not good for schools or students
- 2) Points systems should not roll over
- 3) The whole system is not in the best interests of the child, we should be aiming to move students earlier, before it is too late. We need a system to encourage this. I have passed a suggested version to you

Thanks

Gerald O'Connor (BSc, NPQH), Principal

St Augustine's Catholic High School

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Wilson, Tracey

From: Fowler, Michelle
Sent: 29 November 2019 14:11
To: Wilson, Tracey
Cc: Parker, Donna
Subject: FAP consultation

Hi Tracey

I like it !

Seems very fair and thorough – thank you for sharing this – if it is agreed it will provide solutions to a lot of the issues we've previously encountered with protracted placements of CME children into Worcestershire schools.

2 comments/thoughts in response from me:

- Could it be made clear in instances whereby a child is placed '**outside**' of a FAAP meeting that there is still a responsibility/expectation upon xxx (head/chair?) for the parents to be informed of any agreed placement, in writing, within a set timeframe (and pupil admissions cc'd in)?

This would alleviate any potential for a loop hole with regard to evidence required under PACE should the LA need to pursue a SAO once a place has been offered and not taken up. (An issue encountered with various previous cases).

- ~~Parents notified as exclusions and CME officer. I'm not aware of his findings. CME officer, I think there are a few examples of this.~~

Many thanks
M

Michelle Fowler | Senior Education Investigation Officer
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