



# Nottinghamshire community and voluntary controlled schools - admission oversubscription criteria 2016-17

## Consultation and determination of Nottinghamshire County Council's admission arrangements for 2016-2017

- As required by the School Admissions Code, Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC) admission arrangements are determined (agreed) annually.
- The 2016-2017 admission arrangements were determined by the County Council on 9 March 2015, following public consultation from 1 December 2014 to 31 January 2015.
- The consultation document was available on the County Council's public website ([www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)) for the whole of the consultation period.
- Information about where to access the consultation was sent in advance to:
  - all community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire
  - all own admission authority schools in Nottinghamshire
  - chairs of governing bodies of Nottinghamshire schools (where the chair's email was known to the authority)
  - all neighbouring local authorities
  - diocesan representatives
  - all registered early years providers within Nottinghamshire.
- In addition, an advert was published in the local press immediately prior to the consultation opening, to notify other persons in the relevant area who have an interest in the proposed arrangements that the document was available. (Evening Post, Mansfield Chad, Hucknall Despatch, Newark Advertiser, Retford Times, Worksop Guardian).

## Responses

There were 9 responses to the consultation question about removal of sibling for out of catchment area applications. 3 of which agreed with the proposal, 5 disagreed, and 1 neither agreed nor disagreed. All responses were considered.

## Publication of information

- After determination, the admission arrangements were posted on the County Council's public website.
- Information about where to access the arrangements was sent to:
  - all community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire
  - all own admission authority schools in Nottinghamshire
  - chairs of governing bodies of Nottinghamshire schools (where the chair's email was known to the authority)
  - all neighbouring local authorities
  - diocesan representatives
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- The admission oversubscription criteria for Nottinghamshire community and voluntary controlled schools are included in the Admissions to Schools: Guide for parents 2016-2017, which was available at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk) from August 2015.

## Priority for siblings within oversubscription criteria

The admission oversubscription criteria for Nottinghamshire community and voluntary controlled schools for 2016-2017 give priority to children who live in the catchment area at the closing date for applications and who, at the time of admission, will have a brother or sister attending the school or the linked junior/primary school (criterion 2).

The Office of the Schools Adjudicator Annual Report (December 2014) said that, when an admission authority decides to give priority to all siblings whether living in or out of catchment, there is a danger that first born or children new to the area will not gain a place at the school, their local school, nor will they have priority for any other catchment area school.

The advantages for one family of keeping siblings at the same, popular school leads to disadvantages for other families who may then end up with children in different schools. This is particularly relevant in a time of increasing pressure on school places nationally.

## School Admissions Code 2014

The School Admissions Code 2014 (para 2.1) states that admission authorities **must not** give any guarantees that a preference will be met. Therefore it is not possible to guarantee that siblings will be placed in the same school.

## Local Government Ombudsman

The Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) has also published a factsheet about infant class size appeals which states that “a decision that makes it impossible for you to transport your family to school on time or even impossible for you to continue working, is very unlikely to be perverse. The courts have established this”. (<http://www.lgo.org.uk/make-a-complaint/complaint-subjects/education/infant-class-size-appeals>)

## Advice available to parents when applying for a school place

- Parents need to consider all relevant information when making their preferences.
- NCC's Admissions to schools: Guide for parents 2016-2017 advises parents to apply on time, use all four preferences and ensure that at least one of their preferences is for a school where they are sure that their child will meet one of the higher criteria for admission.
- NCC's Admissions to schools: Guide for parents 2016-2017 includes (on page 7) a checklist of things to consider when applying for a school place. The third item on the list is: "I have read the admission oversubscription criteria for my preferred schools to see whether my preferences will receive a high priority".
- When submitting their application, parents are asked to confirm that they have referred to the relevant publication of NCC's Admissions to schools: Guide for parents.

## Outcome of application

- Parents have the right to go to independent appeal for any school where their application has been refused.
- Any application that has been refused will be placed on a waiting list.
- Information about waiting lists is available by contacting the school admissions team

## Contact information

Telephone: 0300 500 8080  
Email: [enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)