

Meeting date: 11 January 2021

Report to: Cabinet Portfolio Holder Children,
Education and Skills

Subject/report title: School admissions 2021 - applications for secondary, junior and reception places with exceptional social or medical reasons

Report from: Director of Children's Services and Skills

Report author/lead contact officer: Lois Brough, Team Leader School Admissions and Transport
lbrough@solihull.gov.uk



Wards affected:

All Wards

Public/private report: Public

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform the Cabinet Portfolio Holder of the outcome of the Advisory Group for School Admissions meeting at which consideration was given to applications for secondary, junior and reception places for September 2021 with exceptional social or medical reasons

2. Decision(s) recommended

2.1 The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and Skills is asked to receive the recommendations of the Advisory Group and grant priority 2 to applications with 'exceptional social or medical reasons'.

3. Matters for Consideration

3.1 On 23 January 2020 Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and Skills approved the admission arrangements for September 2021-2022. Under the arrangements, priority 2 is given to applications for children deemed to have exceptional social or medical reasons.

3.2 The School Admissions web pages explain to parents that if they wish exceptional social or medical reasons to be considered then they must provide independent evidence in support of their application.

3.3 If an application has been made claiming exceptional social or medical reasons and no independent supporting evidence is sent, the application will be processed under the remaining criteria.

3.4 The Advisory Group for School Admissions meets immediately prior to this meeting to consider evidence in support of claims for exceptional social or medical reasons.

3.5 In recommending exceptional social or medical reasons, the Advisory Group must be persuaded by the evidence that is supplied, that the school requested is the only school that can meet the child's needs.

3.6 After consideration by the Advisory Group, Cabinet Portfolio Holder will receive the recommendations of the Group and decide the granting of priority 2 to applications with 'exceptional social or medical reasons'

4. What options have been considered and what is the evidence telling us about them?

4.1 Each case has been considered carefully by the Advisory Group, and the evidence submitted by the parents scrutinised. The recommendations of the Advisory Group meeting will be presented verbally.

4.2 Awarding priority 2 - 'exceptional social or medical reasons' is consistent with, and ensures compliance with, the published admission arrangements. In accordance with the published admission arrangements, the Cabinet Portfolio Holder is required to award priority 2 'exceptional social or medical reasons' to those applications that meet the criterion.

5. Reasons for recommending preferred option

5.1 In accordance with the published admission arrangements, the Cabinet Portfolio Holder is required to award priority 2 'exceptional social or medical reasons' to those applications that meet the criterion.

6. Implications and Considerations

6.1 State how the proposals in this report contribute to the priorities in the [Council Plan](#):

6.1.1 This report does not specifically contribute to a Council priority, it is concerned with the proper administration of school admissions within the requirements of the School Admissions Code.

6.2 Consultation and Scrutiny:

6.2.1 None required.

6.3 Financial implications:

6.3.1 None as a direct consequence of this report.

6.4 Legal implications:

6.4.1 Ensures compliance with published admission arrangements.

6.5 Risk implications:

6.5.1 No formal risk assessment has been undertaken.

6.6 Equality implications:

6.6.1 No formal equalities impact assessment has been undertaken; however consideration of social or medical reasons is to ensure equality of access with the published admission arrangements

7. List of appendices referred to

7.1 None.

8. Background papers used to compile this report

8.1 Admissions Code 2014

8.2 Admission arrangements for Solihull community and voluntary controlled schools 2020-2021.

8.3 Recommendations of Advisory Group (reported verbally).

9. List of other relevant documents

9.1 None.