

School Admissions Forum 10 February 2015

Urgent Business Item

Document circulated at the meeting

Amendment to the 2016/17 Coordinated Arrangements for Primary Admissions Scheme

Wording that to be used in the 2016/17 Coordinated Arrangements for Primary Admissions Scheme, to amend Section 3 – *Timing of entry to Primary Education* - in light of the recently issued guidance from the DfE and the revised School Admissions Code. The wording of the three new paragraphs will replace the last paragraph of the section.

“Children are normally allocated to their chronological year group. Where a parent considers that their summer-born child will not be ready and would like their child to work a year behind; the admissions authority would consider such requests in accordance with their policy relating to admission outside the normal age group (the council’s is shown on page 9 of Appendix A). In order that such requests (supported by evidence from relevant professionals) can be fully considered, the parent will be asked to submit their request together with an application for the normal age group by the deadline. This ensures that if the request is refused, the child’s application for preferred schools will not be disadvantaged and the request can be considered appropriately including the views of the preferred schools either prior to the offer date or after. The parent will be informed of the implications of making such a request.

If the request is agreed, their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before a place is offered. If their request is refused, the parent must decide whether to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group, or to refuse it and make an in-year application for admission to year one for the September following the child’s fifth birthday. Where a parent’s request is agreed, they must make a new application as part of the main admissions round the following year. Requests to continue working out of normal age group would need to be made whenever the child moves schools.

An admissions panel will make decisions for community and voluntary controlled schools based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. (Where preferences are expressed for own admission authority schools, the parent must submit information to each school for consideration.) Consideration will include taking account of the parents’ views; information about the child’s academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, the child’s medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The views of the head teacher of the school concerned and the child’s early years setting will also be taken into account. When informing a parent of the decision on the year group to which the child should be admitted, the parent will be notified of the reasons for the decision and where possible, the decision will be made prior to the offer date for the child’s chronological year group.

Where it is agreed that a child will be admitted out of the normal age group and, as a consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to a relevant age group (i.e. the age group to which pupils are normally admitted to the school) the local authority and admission authority must process the application as part of the main admissions round on the basis of their determined admission arrangements only, including the application of oversubscription criteria where applicable. The parent has a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.”