

Proposal to change the designated areas of

a) Radstock and Whiteknights Primary Schools and

b) Aldryngton and Loddon Primary Schools.

Proposals

These are that the designated areas of Radstock and Aldryngton Primary Schools should also become shared designated areas for Whiteknights and Loddon primary schools respectively. The designated areas for Radstock and Aldryngton Primary Schools would remain as they currently are, but residents in these areas would also be considered to be resident in the designated areas of Whiteknights and Loddon Primary Schools respectively.

Commentary

Families living in the current Radstock and Aldryngton areas would therefore also be considered to be living in the designated areas of Whiteknights and Loddon, but there would be no reciprocal change in the status of families living in the current designated areas of Whiteknights and Loddon schools.

This should reasonably be expected to have no adverse impact on the families living in the current designated areas of Whiteknights and Loddon schools.

It should be noted that the proposals only affect the priority order for admission to Loddon and Whiteknights schools. Children will continue to be ranked for preferred schools by use of the published oversubscription criteria for each school (where schools are oversubscribed) and the Council will continue to allocate the highest preference it is able to. By law oversubscription criteria cannot take account of other expressed preferences (so if a parent living in the current Radstock School Designated Area decided to use their four preferences for four schools, not including Whiteknights, they would not be given a lower ranking for their preferred schools because they did not express a preference for Whiteknights).

In recent years we have seen approximately 15 children living in the designated area of Aldryngton Primary School who could not be offered a Reception place at that school. Conversely Loddon is growing by 30 places per year, and, although the Council also has a scheme to expand Aldryngton school, this is at an earlier stage of development. Extending the designated area of Loddon PS to overlap that of Aldryngton PS would give priority to current Aldryngton PS designated area residents over children living in the designated areas of other local schools who might otherwise be a higher priority because they lived closer to Loddon PS. Given the expansion of Loddon primary school the Council does not see a risk to current Loddon designated areas residents.

We know that the Radstock designated area is a very close fit (at best) to the number of resident children. Conversely we know that Whiteknights has proved popular across neighbouring parts of Reading, outside its designated area. Extending the designated area would send a signal to Earley families in the Radstock area that the school is a reasonable preference that could increase their likelihood of receiving a local offer. Again the Council does not see any risks to current Whiteknights school designated area residents given the number of admissions from outside the current designated area.