

CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEME

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

2010/11

Introduction

1. The 1998 Act, as amended by the Education Act 2002, has introduced new statutory requirements for every Local Authority (LA) to draw up a scheme covering every maintained school in its area. Stockton-on-Tees LA has drawn up a full co-ordinated admissions scheme for Primary and Secondary school admissions for the academic year 2010/11.

The scheme also complies with the changes introduced in the new School Admissions Code written to reflect the new legislation laid out in the Education & Inspections Bill 2006.

Interpretation

2. In this scheme:

“the LA” means Stockton on Tees Borough Council acting in their capacity as local education authority;

“the LA area” means the area in respect of which the LA are the local education authority.

“primary education” has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Education Act 1996;

“secondary education” has the same meaning as in section 2(2) of the Education Act 1996;

“primary school” has the same meaning as in section 5(1) of the Education Act 1996;

“secondary school” has the same meaning as in section 5(2) of the Education Act 1996;

“school” means a community, foundation or voluntary school (but not a special school) which is maintained by the LA;

“VA schools” means such of the schools as are voluntary-aided schools;

“admission authority” in relation to a community or voluntary controlled school means the LA and, in relation to a VA school means the governing body of that school;

“the specified year” means the school year beginning at or about the beginning of September 2009;

“admission arrangements” means the arrangements for a particular school or schools which govern the procedures and decision making for the purposes of admitting pupils to the school within the normal round of admissions;

“casual admission means any applications received for those primary or secondary schools whose normal age of entry is other than 5 or 11.

“nearest appropriate school” is defined as the school closest to the home address with places, unless your child is a baptised Catholic then a place would be offered at the nearest Roman Catholic School with places.

Applying for a school place

3. There will be a standard form known as the Common Application Form (CAF) which will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into the reception class for primary school and the first year of secondary education in the specified year and separate form (Transfer Request form) for any applications made for a “casual admission” into any year group during the academic year 2010/11.
4. The CAF must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by parents resident in the LA area who wish to express a preference for their child –
 - (a) to be admitted to a school within the LA area (including VA schools).
 - (b) to be admitted to a school located in another LA’s area (including VA schools and Academies).

5. The CAF will –
 - (a) invite parents to express three preferences by completing the form including, where relevant, any schools outside the LA's area, in rank order of preference;
 - (b) invite parents to give their reasons for each preference.
 - (c) Specify the closing date and where it must be returned.

6. The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure:
 - (a) that the CAF is available on request from the LA; and
 - (b) that a written explanation of the scheme is available from the LA and on their website.

7. All preferences expressed on the CAF are valid applications. The governing body of a VA school can require parents who wish to nominate, or have nominated, their school on the CAF, to provide additional information on a supplementary form only where the additional information is required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria to the application. Where a supplementary form is required, this will be requested after the VA schools have received information from the LA about who has applied for their schools. Information requested should be returned by the parent to the individual school.

8. Where a school receives a supplementary form it will not be regarded as a valid application unless the parent has also completed either the Stockton on Tees CAF or, if resident in another area which has a CAF, their home area's common application form, and the school is nominated on it. Where supplementary forms are received directly by VA schools the school must inform the LA immediately so it can verify whether a CAF or neighbouring area's CAF has been received from the parent and, if not, contact the parent and ask them to complete one. In these circumstances, the school should also send the LA a copy of the supplementary form if so requested. Under the requirements of the scheme, parents will not be under any obligation to complete an individual school's supplementary form where this is not strictly required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria.

Processing of CAFs

9. Completed CAFs should be returned to the LA:
 - (a) for secondary schools by the **23 October 2009** in the self addressed envelope provided. The LA will enter information for all the schools within the Borough onto their system and forward information for applications to VA schools at the latest by the **13 November 2009**.
 - (b) primary schools by the **22 January 2010** in the self addressed envelope provided. The LA will enter information for all the schools within the Borough onto their system and forward information for applications to VA schools at the latest by **8 February 2010**.
 - (c) **Online applications** – the facility to apply for a school place on line will be open during the time for application.

Allocation of places

10. Places will be allocated using the Equal Ranking Scheme* for Primary and Secondary by all admission authorities within Stockton on Tees.
 - Equal Ranking means that all of the preferences written on the CAF will be treated as a separate application for each school.

SECONDARY ADMISSIONS - Determining offers in response to the CAF

12. The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the CAFs. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the CAF where
 - (a) it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority; or
 - (b) an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school, or
 - (c) an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has nominated.

13. **By the 13 November 2009** the LA will notify the voluntary aided admission authority for each of the schools of every application that has been made for that school. Where parents have requested a place at a school outside of the LA area, the information will be forwarded to the relevant authority/authorities.

14. **By 15 January 2010** - VA schools, other LAs and any Academies established following statutory consultation, inform LA of allocation of places for all applications received in the priority order of their admission policy. Any applications which are refused also need to be listed in order of priority.

The LA compares lists and considers all preferences from the parent and if first preference is refused, look to see where 2nd or 3rd preferences can be accommodated. The lists will be sent back to the VA schools for their approval before finalising allocations.

Liaison will take place with VAs and other LAs/Academy until the allocation of places is resolved for each application, as required.

15. **By the 12 February 2010** - the LA will match ranked lists for all schools and:

- where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the nominated schools, that school will be allocated to the child;
- where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the nominated schools, they will be allocated a place at whichever of these is the highest ranked preference.

Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, they will be offered a place at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy.

16. **On 1 March 2010** the LA will post letters (2nd class post) to parents to let them know which school has been allocated to their child. The letter will also tell them of their statutory right to appeal if they have been refused a place at their preferred school.

Parents will be asked to return their appeal forms to the appropriate admission authority e.g. Community Schools to the LA (Democratic Services). VA Schools to the individual school who will then forward to the LA (Democratic Services). The same system will apply to "any Academies established following statutory consultation."

PRIMARY ADMISSIONS - Determining offers in response to the CAF

17. The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the CAFs. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the CAF where

- (a) it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority; or
- (b) an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school, or
- (c) an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parents has nominated.

18. **Week commencing 1 December 2009** – Packs for admission to Primary School will be distributed to all parents. Applications are to be made on common application form and all applications returned to LA. The LAs system for online applications will become 'live' from the 1 December to midnight on the 22 January 2010.

19. **Closing date for return of CAFs and online applications** – 22 January 2010

20. **Week ending 5 February 2010** – the LA will notify the admission authority for each of the schools of every application that has been made for that school. Where parents have requested a place at a school outside of the LA area, the information will be forwarded to the relevant authority/authorities.

After 8 February – All VA schools make arrangements to gather information required from parents and set up admission committees for allocation of places.

21. **19 March 2010** VA schools inform the LA of allocation of places for all applications received in the priority order of their admission policy. Any applications which are refused also need to be listed in order of priority.

The LA compares lists and considers all preferences from the parent and if first preference is refused, look to see where 2nd or 3rd preferences can be accommodated. The lists will be sent back to the VA schools for their approval before finalising allocations.

Liaison will take place with VA schools until the allocation of places is resolved for each application, as required.

22. By the 26 March - the LA will match ranked lists for all schools and:

- where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the nominated schools, that school will be allocated to the child;
- where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the nominated schools, they will be allocated a place at whichever of these is the highest ranked preference.

Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, they will be offered a place at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy.

23. On the 16 April 2010 the LA will post (2nd class) out a letter to parents informing them of their allocated school. The letter will tell them which school has been allocated and their statutory right to appeal if they have been refused a place at their preferred school.

Parents will be asked to return their appeal forms to the appropriate admission authority e.g. Community Schools to the LA (Democratic Services). VA Schools to the individual school who will then forward to the LA (Democratic Services). The same system will apply to “any Academies established following statutory consultation.”

NO CAF RECEIVED BY THE LA

24. Where no CAF is submitted for primary or secondary school, the child will be offered a place at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy or will receive a letter from the LA requesting that they make contact to discuss further.

LATE APPLICATIONS

25. CAFs received after the closing date will be dealt with after all the other applications have been looked at unless there is a good reason, e.g. if a family moves into the area. If that is the case, the application can be considered along with all of those that came in on time as long as the allocations have not been completed.

The LA will continue to co-ordinate applications for admission in September 2010 for any late applications for primary or secondary, received eg after the closing date and post offer date up until the start of that school year.

WAITING LISTS

26. All admission authorities will maintain a waiting list for all oversubscribed maintained Stockton on Tees Schools. The waiting list will be open for Primary and Secondary schools during Autumn Term of September 2010. Places will be allocated, if they become available, in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria.

27. Where the LA is able to offer a place to a non-Stockton on Tees child from the Waiting List, we will liaise with the home LA.

SECONDARY AND PRIMARY CO-ORDINATED ADMISSIONS

TIMETABLE 2010/11

SECONDARY

Wc 7 September 2009	CAFs and other information to parents
23 October 2009	Closing date for return of CAFs
13 November 2009	Lists of applications sent to VA schools and other LAs received by home LA.
15 January 2010	VA schools and other LAs inform LA of their allocations as well as list of pupils who have been refused places with reasons. Liaison between admission authorities to resolve offers
12 February 2010	Finalise allocations and further liaison as necessary
1st March 2010	Letters posted (2 nd class) to all parents of those resident in home LA area of allocated schools.
End April 2010	Appeal hearings arranged.

PRIMARY

WC 30 November 2009	CAFs and other information to parents
22 January 2010	Closing date for return of CAFs and online applications.
5 February 2010	Lists of applications sent to VA schools.
19 March 2010	VA schools inform LA of their allocations as well as list of pupils who have been refused places with reasons. Liaison between admission authorities to resolve offers
26 March 2010	Finalise allocations and further liaison as necessary
16 April 2010	LA post (2 nd class) out allocation letters sent out to all parent offering places and refusals giving reasons and right of appeal.
End of May 2010	Appeal hearings arranged.