Primary Schools in Luton
Coordinated Admission Arrangements for September 2019

1. Summary

1.1 This paper outlines the co-ordinated admission arrangements for primary schools for the Reception and Year 3 intakes in September 2019. It also sets out arrangements for processing in-year admissions for academic year 2019/20. This scheme excludes admissions to special schools.

2. Background

2.1 Co-ordinated admission schemes are intended to simplify the admissions process for parents whilst reducing the likelihood of any child being left without a school place. Co-ordination for Year R intakes and Year 3 intakes for Junior Schools establishes a mechanism that ensures every parent of a child living in a local authority area who has applied to a maintained school or academy is sent one, and only one, offer of a school place by their (home) local authority (LA).

2.2 Co-ordinated admission schemes do not affect the rights and duties of the governing bodies of Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools and academies to set and apply their own admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria.

3. Luton Context

3.1 There are 9 infant, 9 junior schools and 30 primary schools in Luton. All schools are comprehensive.

3.2 The following schools are Community Schools. Responsibility for admission to these schools rests with the LA.
Cheynes Infant School  Sundon Park Junior School
Ferrars Junior School  Foxdell Infant School
Foxdell Junior School  Hillborough Infant School
Hillborough Junior School  Someries Infant School
Someries Junior School  Warden Hill Infant School
Warden Hill Junior School  William Austin Infant School
William Austin Junior School  Farley Junior School
Beech Hill Primary School  Beechwood Primary School
Bramingham Primary School  Bushmead Primary School
Denbigh Primary School  Downside Primary School
Icknield Primary School  Maidenhill Primary School
Norton Road Primary School  Perton Hill Primary School
Ramridge Primary School  Putteridge Primary School
Southfield Primary School  St Matthew’s Primary School
Stopsley Primary School  Surrey Street Primary School
Tennyson Road Primary School  The Meads Primary School
Waulud Primary School  Whitefield Primary School
Wigmore Primary School

3.3 The following schools are Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Schools or Academies. Responsibility for admission to these schools rests with the governing bodies.

St Joseph’s Primary School  St Martin de Porres Primary School
St Margaret of Scotland Primary School  Sacred Heart Primary School

3.4 Wenlock Junior School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School. Responsibility for admission to this school rests with its Governing Body.

3.5 Crawley Green Infant School and Leagrave Primary School are Foundation Schools where its Governing Body is responsible for admission arrangements.

3.6 The following schools are Academies; responsibility for admissions rests with the governing bodies.

Chantry Primary Academy
Dallow Primary School
The Ferrars Academy
Whipperley Infant Academy

3.7 River Bank Primary School and The Linden Academy (formerly known as Moorlands Primary School) are free schools where responsibility for admissions rests with the Governing Body.

3.8 Luton operates a catchment area system. Parents are advised of their catchment area school and of their right to express a preference for any school.
3.9 Pupils are admitted to Luton Schools up to the published admission number for each school.

**Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements for the Reception and Year 3 Intakes**

### 4. Admissions Process

#### Stage 1
Parents will be invited to express three preferences on a ‘common application form’. Parents who specify a voluntary aided Roman Catholic School or a Church of England School as one of their preferences will also need to complete a supplementary form attached to the main application form.

#### Stage 2
Applications are considered using the admissions criteria determined by the relevant admission authority.

#### Stage 3
If a pupil qualifies for a place at more than one school the highest ranking school will be offered, and any lower ranking offers will be disregarded.

#### Stage 4
Those pupils who have not been allocated a place at any of their preferred schools will be allocated a school place at one of the nearest schools to their home address with vacancies.

### 5. Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week commencing 3 September 2018</th>
<th>Parents of Year 2 pupils, attending infant schools, receive information on the transfer to Junior School admissions process.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week commencing 8 October 2018</td>
<td>Parents of pupils born between 1/9/14 – 31/8/15 receive information on the Starting School admissions process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 January 2019</td>
<td>Closing date for receipt of application forms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 February 2019</td>
<td>Applications from Luton residents for voluntary aided and foundation schools are passed to the relevant school for consideration. Applications from Luton residents for out of borough schools are passed to the relevant LA for consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 March - 29 March 2019</td>
<td>Exchange of data:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 March – Luton VA and foundation schools provide the LA’s Admissions Team with a list (including tiebreaker measurements) that ranks applications against their school’s admissions criteria. Out of borough applications for VA and foundation schools will be passed to the relevant admission authority as they are received.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luton LA receives notification of the outcome of applications, for Luton resident pupils, for schools outside of the Borough.</td>
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<td>Luton LA will notify neighbouring LAs of the outcome of applications, for a place at a Luton school, from pupils residing in their area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 April 2019</td>
<td>Allocation lists sent to community schools by the LA.</td>
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<td>In the case of foundation and voluntary aided schools a list of pupils who have been granted or refused a place will be sent to the relevant school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 April 2019</td>
<td>Decision letters are posted to parents.</td>
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<td>Offer emails sent to parents during the course of the working day.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Junior school decision letters are sent to parents, via the infant schools.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td>Admission appeals take place from May 2019.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.1 If schools receive direct applications the Headteacher must inform Luton LA of the application and forward it to the Council by the closing date of 15 January 2019, regardless of whether the child(ren) reside in the Luton area.

6. **Change of address**

6.1 For the purposes of allocating places, in the initial allocation, where a school is oversubscribed the pupil’s catchment area will be determined by their home address as at 15 January 2019.

6.2 Children who gain a place at a school because their parents/carers have given the LA a false home address will have their places withdrawn.

7. **Late Applications**

7.1 Applications received after the closing date will not be considered in the initial allocation of places, except in very exceptional circumstances.
7.2 Where parents have submitted an application form before the closing date, but then seek to change their preference after the closing date, this late expression of preference will be treated as a ‘late’ application and will not be considered in the initial allocation of places.

7.3 Late applications and changes of preference will be processed as soon as possible after 16 April 2019. Late application forms from Luton resident parents must be submitted to direct to Luton LA.

8. Applications for Schools outside of Luton

8.1 Luton resident parents wishing to apply for a school outside of the Borough must apply using Luton LA’s Application Form. The Council will ensure that applications for a place at schools outside of the Borough are sent to the relevant local authority (LA) for consideration. Application forms submitted by Luton parents, direct to other LAs, will not be accepted.

8.2 The Council will have regard to whether a place can be offered at a school outside of the Borough. If a pupil qualifies for a place at more than one school, and the highest ranking offer is for an out of borough school, this place will be offered and any lower ranking offers will be disregarded.

8.3 Parents will also be advised to check with the out of borough school to see if they need to complete any supplementary forms.

8.4 Luton LA will liaise with neighbouring LAs over the outcome of applications for Luton pupils. Luton Borough Council will send the decision letter to the parent.

9. Applications for Luton Schools from parents residing outside of the LA area

9.1 Parents living outside of Luton must apply to their home LA for a place at a Luton school. Their home LA will pass the application to Luton Borough Council for processing. Luton LA will then notify the applicant’s home LA as to whether a place can be offered. The applicant’s home LA will inform the parent of the outcome of their application.

9.2 Where a family is moving to Luton they may apply direct to Luton Borough Council for a school place when they have documentation to confirm that contracts are signed on a purchase of a new house in Luton or a rental agreement is signed.
In-Year Admission Arrangements

10. In-Year Admissions

10.1 In-year admissions are applications that are submitted during the academic year for entry to school outside of the normal admission round/intake point.

11. Mandatory Requirements for In-Year Admissions Arrangements

11.1 The requirement for local authorities to co-ordinate in-year admissions for all of Luton’s schools (including academies, foundation and voluntary aided schools) has been revoked for academic year 2013/14. The Admissions Code sets out the following requirements with regard to the co-ordination of in-year admissions:

2.21 There is no requirement for local authorities to co-ordinate in-year applications, but they must provide information in the composite prospectus on how in-year applications can be made and will be dealt with. Local authorities must, on request, provide information to a parent about the places still available in all schools within its area, and a suitable form for parents to complete when applying for a place for their child at any school for which they are not the admission authority. Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time to any school outside the normal admissions round. They can do this by applying directly to admission authorities, except where other arrangements are in place locally (e.g. the local authority coordinates all in-year admissions).

2.22 Own admission authority schools must, on receipt of an in-year application, notify the local authority of both the application and its outcome, to allow the local authority to keep up to date figures on the availability of places in the area. The admission authority must also inform parents of their right to appeal against the refusal of a place.

12. Luton’s Scheme for In-Year Admissions

12.1 The Council will co-ordinate in-year admission arrangements for community schools and other own admission authority schools/academies that ‘opt-in’ to these arrangements. For these schools parents will be asked to complete one application form stating three preferences. The Council will liaise with the schools/academies on the application form to ascertain the highest preference that can be offered and will send the decision letter to the parent. Where higher ranked preferences are refused, parents will be advised of their right of appeal and the waiting list procedure. Where the parent does not qualify for a place at any of their preferred schools they will be asked to apply for a place at an alternative school with vacancies.
12.2 Own admission authority schools that ‘opt-in’ to the in-year co-ordinated scheme can, if they wish, commission the LA to rank application forms against their School’s admissions criteria, maintain waiting lists and check proof of address.

12.3 The Council will provide an alternative application form for parents wishing to apply for schools/academies ‘opting out’ of the in-year co-ordinated admission scheme. Own admission authority schools must accept applications made on the form supplied by the LA. Parents can use this form to apply directly to these schools and will be able to make individual applications to all of the schools that interest them. Own admission authority schools will be responsible for:

(a) giving parents the opportunity to make a formal written application, even if the year group is full. This will ensure that where a place cannot be offered at the preferred school(s) the pupil’s name is placed on the relevant waiting list(s) (where these operate) and the parent will be advised of their right of appeal.

(b) informing the Council that they have received an application (within three school days) and providing brief details of the application (e.g. name, address, date of birth, previous/current school).

(c) sending a decision letter, either offering a place or refusing the application and advising the parents of their right of appeal and the waiting list procedure. Where a pupil is without a school place the school must refer the parents to the LA. A copy of the decision letter and application form must be sent to the Council’s Admissions Team for their records.

(d) processing applications in a timely manner e.g. within 10-15 school days.

12.4 Where the LA receives an application for a school that has ‘opted out’ of the co-ordinated in-year scheme, the application will be sent to the School and the parent will be advised that the School will let them know the outcome of the application.

12.5 All Headteachers/Principals of schools and academies must nominate a member of their staff to provide the Admissions Team with the number of pupils on roll in each year group on a fortnightly basis. If vacancies occur in the interim the nominated representative at the school/academy must notify the Admissions Team.

12.6 The in-year application forms can be completed by Luton resident parents and those living outside of the Borough wishing to apply for a Luton school. Luton parents wishing to apply for a place at a school outside of Luton should use that LA’s In-Year Application Form.

12.7 Parents applying for a place at a voluntary aided school within Luton will also need to complete a supplementary form.
13. Children in Care

13.1 The admission of children in care follows a separate process. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, local authorities must admit children in care to a school that is considered to be in the child’s best interests, even if this would exceed the School’s admission number. The Council may direct admission authorities to admit a child in care to the school.


14.1 Some pupils will be placed in a school using Luton’s In-Year Fair Access Protocol. Such placements override the normal admission arrangements; this includes admitting children above the published admission number to schools/academies that are already full.

15. Waiting Lists

15.1 Each Luton admission authority has set out whether it will operate waiting lists in its published admission arrangements. Waiting lists must be ranked using the admissions authority’s published admissions criteria; not the date the pupil’s name was added to the waiting list.

15.2 The Council will maintain waiting lists for community schools and other admission authorities ‘buying back’ the in-year admissions service.

General Information for both In-Year and Year R and 3 Intakes

16. Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan

16.1 Luton provides a range of facilities and services for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and aims to meet those needs within the local mainstream schools as far as possible.

16.2 For children with a Statement of SEN or an Education, Health and Care Plan, the LA acts as the admission authority.

16.3 Where a school is proposed to be named in a child’s Statement of SEN/EHC Plan the LA, in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice, will consult with the ‘named’ school on the proposal.
17. Publication of Admission Arrangements

17.1 The LA will publish an information booklet for parents of pupils transferring into Year 3 in September 2019 and for parents of children born between 1/9/14 – 31/8/15 who will enter the Reception Year in September 2019.

17.2 An information booklet will also be published for parents of pupils seeking admission outside of the normal admission rounds (in-year admissions).

17.3 Assistance for parents with English as an additional language can be arranged through the LA’s Translation and Interpretation Service.