



## **Bristol City Council Admission Arrangements for the 2025/2026 Academic Year.**

### **Supporting Evidence**

#### **Background and Overview**

It is the responsibility of all Admission Authorities to set admission arrangements which adhere to the Department for Education's (DfE) [School Admissions Code \(2021\)](#), ensuring a clear and fair system is in place for all school applications.

Admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools are determined by the Local Authority (LA). The responsibility for all other primary and secondary schools is with the individual school or academy trust.

The LA is responsible for the co-ordinated admission schemes for all Bristol Primary and Secondary schools to process applications for school places in the normal admissions round for reception and year 7 as well as participating schools and trusts for in-year applications.

The LA also establishes the Relevant Areas for admission arrangement consultations. Each local authority is required to define a 'relevant area' in which admission authorities must consult on their proposed admission arrangements.

To comply with the School Admissions Code these arrangements need to be formally agreed by 28<sup>th</sup> February in the year prior to admission year and published by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

#### **Decision Details**

##### **Admission Documents**

The following admissions policy documents have been updated for the 2025/2026 academic year;

- The admission arrangements for all Bristol community and vc primary schools
- The admission arrangements or selected Bristol infant to junior school transfers
- Bristol Relevant Areas

##### **Public Consultation**

A public consultation ran from 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 through to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 allowing the opportunity interested participants including; school/trust staff, governors, and parents/carers to give feedback on the policy documents.

The consultation was hosted on the BCC consultation hub and promoted to all admission authorities; Bristol schools, relevant academy trusts as well as on the BCC admissions webpage and Ask Bristol e-bulletin. The consultation was targeted to all relevant and interested parties including; parents and early years providers.

## **A Summary of Consultation Feedback**

There were no changes to the policy documents, or to relevant Published Admission Numbers (PAN). we received just 3 responses to the consultation and are summarised below along with a response by officers on behalf of from Bristol City Council. Some of the feedback covered similar areas so have been combined.

### **Feedback related Policy Content**

- i. Henleaze Junior School missing from list of Schools processing their own in-year admissions.
- ii. It is difficult giving meaningful feedback when changes have not been highlighted.
- iii. The policy should be more inclusive and give meaningful priority to Pupil Premium students. Brighton and Hove LA are introducing this in their admissions policy.

### **Response**

- i. Omitting Henleaze Junior was an oversight. The list was swiftly updated early in the consultation process.
- ii. It was mentioned in the consultation information that the policy documents were unchanged from previous years.
- iii. BCC admissions offered over 90% of families their first preference primary school during the bulk admission round for 2023 and almost all received a place at one of their three preferences. SEND and children in/previously in care are already given top priority. There would be no clear accessible method for the LA to appropriately verify all applications related to Pupil Premium. Some Bristol primary schools are including it as part of our schools' over subscription criteria and applications are independently verified. It is important that schools encourage and celebrate inclusion and diversity but it is also significant that they serve a community with children attending their local school. This includes considerations for accessible travel, reducing the number of cars on roads and promoting walking and cycling to school. Brighton and Hove consulted on including Free School Meals in their secondary policy. Child data for the previous 6 years would be available from primary school FSM records but this is not the only classification for pupil premium. All Bristol secondary schools are academies. This means the LA is not a secondary admission authority so does not have a secondary admission policy.

### **The Decisions Taken**

To proceed with the proposed admission arrangements for 2025/2026 and to review again in October 2024.

James Last

School Organisation Officer

School Place Planning

15<sup>th</sup> February 2024