

Appendix A

Responses to the formal consultations on the Primary and Secondary Coordinated Schemes and Admissions Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools.

1. Primary Co-ordinated Scheme & Admissions Arrangements

1.1 Consultation on Primary Scheme

All Primary admission authorities within Kent agreed the scheme. Out of the 154 schools who responded (94 Voluntary Aided & Foundation admission authorities and 60 Local Authority Controlled school) and the Rochester Diocesan agreed the scheme. Only 1 response returned by a LA controlled school disagreed to the scheme (Herne Infant School).

The following comments were made:

Disadvantage of late catholic applicants	1 comment
St Johns Catholic Primary School, Gravesend, indicated concerns over late applicants applying after the 30 January regarded them disadvantaged as they are unable to gain a place in a catholic school. <i>The LA do not share this view</i>	
Primary Scheme is successful and fair.	3 comments
Sissinghurst Church of England Primary School, Ramsgate, Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, Diocesan & Payne Smith Church of England Primary School	
Date of RCAF return	1 comment
Herne Church of England Infant School (LA controlled) Disagreed the scheme stating the RCAF return date of 16 January 2010 clashed with the school census and suggested 23 January as an alternative date. <i>The LA have moved the closing date to the 19 January.</i>	

1.2 Consultation on Oversubscription Criteria

The above oversubscription criteria for all Community and Voluntary Controlled primary schools is outlined in Appendix C and was agreed by 132 Schools. 7 School's did not agree: Bredgar Church of England Primary School (VA), Holy Trinity & St John's CE Primary (VA), St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School (VA), Great Chart Primary School (LA), Herne C.E. Infant & Nursery School (LA) Kingsnorth Church of England Primary (LA), St Peter's Methodist Primary School (LA). 4 schools felt unable to answer the question: Colliers Green CEP School (VA), Ditton CE Junior School (VA), Our Lady of Hartley Catholic Primary School (VA) & St Simon RCP School (VA).

The following comments were made:

General Oversubscribing Criteria	4 Comments
<p>Diocesan & Payne Smith agreed the oversubscription criteria was clear & well communicated.</p> <p>Bredgar Church of England Primary School disagreed with the oversubscription criteria stating Community & VC Schools should have different criteria to suit the needs of the school</p> <p>Great Chart Primary School disagreed with the oversubscription criteria stating at some point the oversubscription criteria should include pupils of teachers at the school to be given priority. If Kent want to keep good teachers then provision should be given to them in the admission process. <i>This would be unlawful</i></p> <p>Wentworth Primary School disagreed with the oversubscription criteria stating 'Parental choice' should be ranked higher than 'nearness'. We would much prefer to offer a place to a parent who wants their child to attend our school, but who lives further away, than to offer a place to a parent who lives very close but puts our school as last choice. <i>This would be viewed as first preference first which is now illegal.</i></p>	
Special Education Needs Criteria	1 Comment
<p>Harcourt Primary School agreed to the oversubscription criteria however raised concerns over schools having the ability to exclude children due to their disabilities. <i>The LA do not consider this is the case.</i></p>	
Current Family Association	1 Comments
<p>Sissinghurst Church of England Primary School (Aided) stated the oversubscription criteria is fair for siblings.</p>	
Denominational Preference	5 comments
<p>Deal Parochial Church of England Primary School commented this could compromise the denominational criteria, an example being Looked after Children have a higher priority than denominational grounds. <i>This is in line with Admissions Code.</i></p> <p>Kingsnorth Church of England Primary School disagreed commented VC schools should place sibling link above that of denominational preferences.</p> <p>St Gregory's Catholic Primary School & St Mary's CE (VA) Primary School, agreed the oversubscription criteria and raised the point church schools would usually ask for the baptismal certificate.</p> <p>St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School disagreed with the oversubscription criteria and commented Voluntary Controlled Church of England schools should be allowed to keep their uniqueness by having church attendance as their oversubscription criteria 2.</p> <p>St Peter's Methodist Primary School disagreed the oversubscription criteria stating denominational preference should be made clearer on the form</p>	
Current Family Association	1 Comment
<p>Sissinghurst Church of England Primary School agreed the criteria and commented it was fair for siblings</p>	
Nearness of a Child's home to School	4 Comments

<p>Sissinghurst Church of England School agreed to the oversubscription criteria and commented this was easier for gauging distance from school.</p> <p>Herne C.E. Infant & Nursery School disagreed stating as detailed, it may lead to confusion re the sibling connection. It appears that siblings in a linked Junior school have priority over siblings within the same school. They should have the same weighting and should be made clearer in order to avoid misinterpretation.</p> <p>Holy Trinity & St John's CE Primary disagreed the scheme stating some account should be taken of schools with maintained nurseries on site. Could this be regarded as a link in the same way as infant and junior schools are linked. <i>This would contravene the Admissions Code.</i></p> <p>St Peter's Methodist Primary School disagreed with the oversubscription criteria stating distance should be increased to three miles. Schools in the city centre are often surrounded by small terraced houses. As families expand, parents want to move to larger accommodation but are often faced with siblings not then being eligible for the same school</p>	
Unable to Comment	4 Comments
<p>Colliers Green CEP School, Ditton Junior School, Our Lady of Hartley Catholic Primary School & St Simon RCP School, felt as the schools are VA / Foundation Schools they were in no place to comment.</p>	

1.3 Consultation on Relevant Statutory Consultation Area

135 Schools agreed the above criteria 2 Schools disagreed: St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School VA and Frittenden CEP School (LA). 2 Schools felt unable to comment: Colliers Green CEP School & Our Lady of Hartley Catholic Primary School.

The following comments were raised:

Defined Distances	2
<p>Frittenden CEP School disagreed and commented three miles may not be sufficient in rural areas</p> <p>Riverview Infant School agreed however commented caution must be taken where a family has moved and is happy to travel further to keep child in same school and then wishes siblings to attend as well.</p>	
General Comments	2
<p>Sissinghurst Church of England Primary School (Aided) agreed with the consultation areas</p> <p>St Philip Howard School disagreed and commented catholic schools should be involved, as there could be an impact on pupil numbers if church attendance is not a requirement for faith schools.</p>	
Defined Districts	1 Comment
<p>The Anthony Roper School commented the school is closer to Swanley & district and the school would need to liaise with these schools.</p>	
Unable to Comment	2
<p>Colliers Green CEP School & Our Lady of Hartley Catholic Primary School</p>	

1.4 Consultation on Published Admissions Numbers

134 Admission authorities agreed the Planned Admission Numbers for LA schools. 1 LA school disagreed: Frittenden CEP School 4 Schools felt they were unable to comment: Holy Family RCP School, Our Lady of Hartley Catholic Primary School, St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, St John's Catholic Primary School Gravesend.

Canon John Smith from the Rochester Diocesan Board felt there could be an increase in PAN see note below.

Omitted Schools / PANs	
Frittenden CEP did not agree as they felt the PAN of all schools should be included in the consultation. Sissinghurst CEP School has been omitted from Paddock Wood and Cranbrook cluster. Brenchley & Matfield CEP School have been omitted from the list of PAN <i>Brenchley & Matfield CEP School is is a VA school and may not have consulted on their admissions arrangements by the time the consultation was agreed.</i> St Gregory's Catholic Primary School could not understand why catholic schools were not listed. <i>Catholic schools are Voluntary Aided and therefore may not have consulted on their admissions arrangements alongside the LA. The information may not have been available at this time.</i>	
Increasing PAN	1 Comment
I would prefer that Watringbury be raised to 40, as the school is very popular, and with a certain amount of good will could be expanded in a context where proposed funding changes might mean a need for more accommodation in C of E Schools in the area	

2. Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme & Admissions Arrangements

2.1 Consultation on Co-ordinated Secondary Scheme

The following schools did not agree to the LA consultation on the co-ordinated scheme with Testing Before Preference:

Bennett Memorial Diocese School	The Skinners' School
Bradbourne School	St Anselm's Catholic Comprehensive School
Canterbury High School	St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive School
Chatham House Grammar School	St Johns Catholic Comprehensive School
Dover Grammar School for Boys	St Simon Stock Catholic School
The Hayesbrook School	Weald of Kent Grammar School
Homewood School	Ursuline College
Hugh Christie Technology School	
Mascalls School	
Minister College	

Key reasons identified for objecting to the Co-ordinated Secondary Admission scheme:

1. Disadvantages non selective school (especially comprehensives)

Raised by: Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, Canterbury High School Mascalls School & St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive School

2. Children not fully developed in September especially boys

Raised by: Chatham House Grammar School, Folkestone School for Girls, Mascalls School, Skinners School, St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive School & St Simon Stock Catholic School.

3. The test dates needs to be later than September

Raised by: Chatham House Grammar School (test in Nov / Dec) Dover Grammar School for Boys, Folkestone School for Girls, St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive School believe September is too early) Skinners School (later in September), Tonbridge Grammar School (test in October). Weald of Kent Grammar School (test in November),

4. Families who cannot afford summer tutoring will be disadvantaged

Raised by: Dover Grammar School for Boys, Homewood School, Skinners School & Tonbridge Grammar School.

5. Unsettled pupils due to return from summer break and new environment.

Raised by Bennett Memorial Diocesan, Skinners School & Tonbridge Grammar School

6. Tight timetable – no margin for error or out of county testing

Raised by Homewood School, Leigh Technology Academy, St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive.

7. Increasing number of choices encourages parents to name school they do not really want their children to attend.

Raised by Homewood School, St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive.

8. Increased pressure, stress level & emotional pressure on year 5 pupils due to earlier testing – contradicts Every Child Matters policy.

Raised by: Mascalls School, St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive, Weald of Kent Grammar School.

9. Demotivation of pupils leading to poor attendance & KS2 results.

Raised by Skinners' School, Homewood School, St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive

10. Return to 1st preference 1st

Raised by St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive, St Simon Stock Catholic School

11. Learning loss due to summer break

Raised by Tonbridge Grammar School

12. Retain existing scheme.

Raised by: Bennett Memorial Diocesan School – change to current system unnecessary, Hugh Christie Technology College – 1st pref 1st abolished why alter scheme again.

St Simon Stock Catholic School – want period of stability, Tonbridge Grammar school – no legal requirement to alter testing under the code only recommendation – why alter?

13. Appeals will not be heard until 5 months after decision

Raised by Homewood School

14. Additional Comments

Tonbridge Grammar School - protests in the strongest terms that parents are not provided with their 11+ score at the time they are informed of their result as set out in proposal 6 for the following reasons. 1) Parents who wish to apply to a grammar school which ranks by score will need to gather additional information thereby posing risk of lack of equity in the system. 2) Parents who wish to apply to a grammar that ranks within Kent who live outside Kent will experience further disadvantage as they do not always receive score information from their school. 3) To restrict information on students PESE scores means that Kent is not in line with other bordering local authority who do provide scores (Bromley/Medway). 4) A clear rationale for restricting this information on educational or administrative grounds has not been provided. The practice appears to be operating against the interests of openness and transparency for some parents and grammar schools and without sound justification for this I strongly urge that scores be provided to parents at the time they are informed of the test result

Folkestone School for Girls – Want to be included in Dover Test

Homewood School- want parents to have 1 preference

Mascalls School & St Anselms Catholic School - wish to abolish testing

Tonbridge Grammar School - want to know when test scores will be available

Schools who in principal disagreed to September testing but agreed to the Scheme

Angley School

1. Too early to assess potential
2. Appeals will be taking place while SCAF choices made

Aylesford School

1. January testing for child to develop

Cornwallis Academy

1. Parent can make an informed choice

Hillview School for Girls

1. Raises stress level for pupils
2. Do not raise the preference to 4 as parents struggle naming 3 schools

The Malling School

1. Abolish 11+

The Wildernesse School

1. Pupils not developed.
2. Demotivation following 11+ results leading to poorer KS2 results.
3. Move preparation for test to year 5

2.2 Consultation on oversubscription criteria

122 schools responded

7 Secondary schools disagreed: Folkestone School for Girls' (F), Marsh Academy, Ursuline College (VA), St Edmund's Catholic School (VA), Wildernesse School (F) The North School (LA), Northfleet College (F). 4 primary schools disagreed the oversubscription criteria: Culverstone Green Primary School (LA), Kemsing Primary School (LA), St Gregory's CEP School (VA) & St Phillip Howard Catholic Primary School (VA). 3 VA/F Secondary School were undecided: Chatham House Grammar School, Sir Roger Manwoods School, and Leigh Technology Academy.

General Comments

Current Family Association	1 comment
	<p>Northfleet College for Boys disagreed the oversubscription criteria and commented under current family association we still wish to give preference to boys whose sister(s) attend Northfleet School for Girls</p> <p>Culverstone Green Primary School disagreed stating grammar schools should not have sibling links.</p>
Selection Testing	comments

Bennett Memorial Diocesan School VA agreed the oversubscription criteria and commented these criteria look fine, although I cannot see reference to selection here - there are a number of community selective schools - it is not clear to me that these criteria will actually be used in this form for them.

Canterbury High School agrees to the oversubscription criteria and commented dislikes schools having their own admission test.

St Peter CE Primary School VA agree and comment non-selective schools that discount applications made by children who have sat or are sitting the 11+ should not be allowed to as this is an unfair curtailment of parental choice. Non-selective schools who refuse children who sit the 11+ should be stopped from doing so as it is discriminatory.

Folkestone School for Girls disagreed the oversubscription comment they would like to be included in the Dover test dual testing arrangements, we consider that our pupils are disadvantaged as they only have a single testing system.

St Edmunds catholic School disagreed to the oversubscription criteria stating Astor College have adopted 'up to 10% on aptitude in the Visual Arts' Given the huge percentage of students going to selective schools in Dover is this not a further method of selection.

The Marsh Academy disagreed the oversubscription criteria on the basis Dover Girls should not be allowed a dual entry process – unless all grammar schools follow this.

Denominational Preference	2 comments
<p>St Gregory’s CEP School disagreed the oversubscription criteria on the basis that religious aspects must be part of the over-subscription data</p> <p>St Phillip Howard Catholic Primary School disagreed the policy stating church schools need to have church attendance as a criteria. <i>The LA has no voluntary controlled secondary schools.</i></p>	
Reintroduce First Preference First	1 comment
<p>Ursuline College disagreed with the oversubscription criteria stating in the light of proposed changes we would propose reintroducing first preference first. In the last year that this formed part of the entire process we among many schools had the smoothest possible admissions process with the lowest number ever of unhappy parents. This issue must be revisited. <i>First preference first is now illegal and therefore cannot be reintroduced.</i></p>	
Nearness of a child’s Home to School	4 comments

Thamesview School (F) agree to the oversubscription criteria however is concerned over residences that are some distance from any school. If proximity is the criterion, could children from these areas be disadvantaged? Linked to this would be the relationship with any bordering LAs - East Sussex, Surrey, Medway & London Boroughs.

The North School disagreed to the oversubscription criteria stating students for whom a particular school is their nearest and easiest to get to should have preference over a student living nearer who also lives much closer to another suitable and appropriate school. It makes no sense to make a student travel past a school to get to another when there are students deprived of a place for whom a school is their nearest. If we are promoting sustainability then the county should also adopt a similar stance. Also why can Astor College select 10% for Arts if another specialist colleges cannot. This is not an equal opportunity policy and either all specialist schools should be allowed to select 10% or none.

Ulcombe Primary School (LA) agreed to the oversubscription criteria and raised concerns with schools outside of Community and VC schools and their oversubscription criteria. Which, in theory, could see a child from Dover being given a place in a Maidstone school to the detriment of children in Maidstone and the surrounding area.

Kemsing Primary School (LA) disagreed to the oversubscription criteria stating using distance as a criteria is disadvantageous to our pupils in Kemsing. Schools such as Weald of Kent Grammar give priority to Sevenoaks primary schools over those in Tunbridge Wells. Weald is our nearest girls' grammar school even though we are further away than Tunbridge Wells. Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys is our nearest grammar (that does not select again like Judd) and yet last year 3 of our pupils who had passed the selection tests only obtained a place on appeal. This situation must be addressed for the future.

Other comments	1 comment
<p>Wildernesse School disagrees the oversubscription criteria stating Para 21 point 3 - it is not clear how the LAs would define the 'appropriateness' of a school. Para 23 point 4 - it is clear that this system does not currently operate fairly, transparently or in accordance with the current scheme. There is little confidence that the proposal would do so either. Para 23, last line - there is no apparent justification for not informing parents of available places.</p>	

2.3 Consultation on Relevant Consultation Area

122 Secondary Schools responded

7 Secondary Schools disagreed with the relevant consultation area: Barton Court Grammar School (F) Herne Bay High School (F), Hayesbrook School (F), Mascalls School (F) Minster College (F), Sandwich Technology College (F), Wildernesse School (F). 5 Primary Schools disagreed: Herne Bay Junior School (VA), Reculver Primary School (LA), Anthony Roper Primary School (LA) Salmestone Primary School, Willesborough Junior School.

The following schools did not specify an opinion: Canterbury High School, Chatham House Grammar School, Leigh Technology Academy, Willesborough Junior School.

Individual Consultation Areas	10
<p>Mascalls School disagreed on the basis Paddock Wood should be included in Tonbridge and Malling and specifically mentioned in Tunbridge Wells and Cransbrook.</p> <p>Northfleet School for Girls (LA) agreed to the consultation but questioned where Southfleet & Bean figured.</p> <p>Thamesview School agrees and questioned how will bordering LAs be kept informed and will protocols be established?</p> <p>Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Girls agreed however stated with Maidstone Grammar school proposing a move to 'super selection' I would like Kings Hill and West Malling to be included in the T/Wells consultation area.</p> <p>Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School (LA) agree and commented that Chilham is within Canterbury although we are Ashford 1 Cluster and all our transition work is within this cluster.</p> <p>Anthony Roper Primary School disagreed and comments the school sends children to Dartford, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge.</p> <p>Herne Bay High School, Herne Bay Junior School and Reculver Primary School felt they could not agree stating Herne Bay should be included in the Canterbury district as their intake is affected by Canterbury Schools rather than the Thanet schools.</p> <p>Sandwich Technology College disagrees There appears to be no provision for the Deal area and we feel this area should be included on the list.</p>	
Cluster Review	1
<p>Chartham Primary School disagreed as the school felt a Cluster review needed across Kent or schools in cluster should be in Area etc and nearest secondary school. Also needs looking at again – sustainability.</p>	
No comments	2
<p>Minster College disagreed to the relevant consultation area no comment received.</p> <p>The Wildernesse School disagrees - no comment</p> <p>Salmestone Primary School disagreed – no comment</p>	

2.4 Consultation on Published Admission Numbers

122 Schools responded.

The following schools disagreed to the published admission number presented in the consultation: Bennett Memorial Diocesan School (VA), Wildernesse School (F), The Abbey School (LA)

The following schools did not specify an opinion: Sir Roger Manwoods School (F) Leigh Technology Academy (ACAD), Northfleet College (F), Willesborough Junior School (F)

Foundation and VA Schools PAN	1 Comment
<p>Thamesview School (F) Gravesend agree the PAN and commented it would be useful if Foundation Schools were added so a complete picture of provision could be established.</p>	
Previous Year PANs	1 Comment

Bennett Memorial Diocesan School I cannot agree to these without seeing a comparison in tabular form with PANs for the same schools in previous years. Changes are not highlighted and it is therefore not possible to agree them.	
Selective School PAN	1 Comment
The Wildernesse School disagreed with the PANs and commented in the area directly affecting this school, 13 selective schools admitted a total of 166 pupils who had not passed the selective tests in 2007. In 8 cases it was these pupils that allowed the schools to reach their PAN. Until this unfairness is removed this school is unable to agree to any amendments to the current scheme.	
Reduction In PAN	5 Comments
<p>The Abbey School disagrees with the PANs and comments the school has not been near 235 for years but agree assuming that if there is a falling roll situation the Grammar Schools should have their PAN reduced to stop the Grammar's filling up later with borderline students which impacts upon high School results that are keen to improve! In school variation project – Ask.</p> <p>Meopham School There should be strategic reductions of PANs in areas as we have agreed in Gravesham in order to deal effectively with falling rolls in Kent. Too much is left to chance.</p> <p>St Edmunds Catholic School agrees and comments Astor College for the Arts we note again the gross unfairness of the use of the 'Dover Test' by the Grammar schools - particularly in the context of falling roles in the area - to top up to their PAN. The ability profile of the High School students will be further reduced as a result. There is the potential for failing High Schools in Dover.</p> <p>St Thomas Catholic Primary School agree and comment the school questions the PAN for Tunbridge Wells Boys Grammar School versus Tunbridge Wells High Schools given the proportions of the population they allege to serve.</p> <p>St Peter's CE Primary School agrees and comments yes because I have to supply an answer but have no idea why they are calculated thus.</p>	
General Comments on PAN	1
Northfleet School for Girls agree however we will keep this under review	

Other General Comments on Consultation 2009

Bennett Memorial Diocesan School - There is nowhere else to record the following point, so it is placed here: you ask in the document for views on the number of choices on the SCAF, but there does not appear to be a place for recording the views here you ask for. That seems unfortunate to say the least. For the record, I am NOT in favour of increasing the number of schools chosen. Three is adequate in my view.

St Edmund's Catholic School comments you haven't asked, but I don't agree with going to four preferences. The only changes will be increased administration at the school and more appeals because parents getting the third choice at present do not really want the school they put down but merely try to fill up the form. A fourth choice would be similar.

St Peter Methodist Primary School General Comment re consultation: The timing of this consultation leads me to believe that the above decision has already been made and that our views will sadly not effect the outcome.