



Admissions Forum

9th March 2010, 2pm, The Campus

Present

Terri Knowlton	NSC Admissions and Transport Manager
Anne-Marie Heath	NSC Choice Advice
Chris Hustwick	NSC Governor Services
Geoff Flynn	NSC Education Welfare
Jack Dagnall	Governor (Clevedon & All Saints)
David Gradwell	Community SEN
Tess Robinson	Diocese of Bath and Wells
Gillian Quick	Church of England Primary Schools
Justin Templer	Clifton Diocese

1. Apologies

Trevor Bailey, Caroline Hostein, Graham Silverthorne, Julie Fox, Eufron Parry, Sally Varley, Bill McEntee, Tony Pearle, Lynne Packer, John Wells, Liz Tunnard, Cllr Anne Kemp.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Agreed

3. Matters arising

- Bill has found out that there is no need to consult neighbouring authorities Forums.
- The meeting between Bill, Geoff, Anne-Marie and Fola has been rearranged
- Tess sent the letter to the schools adjudicator; she received a reply, but not in time for the consultation. She has a number of things to look at.
- There will be a new code; the timing will depend on the election.

4. Proposed admission arrangements - including update on responses received to proposed policies, schemes and changes to secondary school Geographical Areas

- Church of England schools have received no responses.
- Bill has responded to a parent who wrote in concerned that St Josephs propose to rank Catholics from any location above siblings of those already attending the school.
- Bristol children are getting into Portishead schools even though there currently are not enough school places there, and more housing are due to be built. Six reception aged children from Portishead will be transported to Nailsea in September as they only expressed one preference. Bristol children named a Portishead school, and therefore got the places. No decision on St Joseph's has been made as yet in relation to changes in their admissions criteria numbering.

- Two parents responded with concerns about the later primary offer date. The offer date has been agreed regionally, and is later due to the later submission date. One parent expressed concerns that this will cause a later induction process, less time to buy uniforms, later appeals, and difficulties involved in applying later for before and after school clubs.
- Kingston Seymour's Parish Council does not want Backwell's Geographical Area to be changed, and they want more capacity at Backwell and Yatton schools.
- One Portishead Councillor was concerned about the overall capacity in Portishead.
- One Portishead parent suggested giving priority after siblings to those whose parents lived in the town for the longest, and attended the school.
- Two parents have responded in favour of the proposed Weston Geographic Area, and the group of Worlebury parents are also in favour.
- Worle and Priory are consulting on some proposals.
- Broadoak's head and chair have written in against the new proposed Geographic Area. They are concerned that the areas will influence people to apply only for their own area, and that those who want Broadoak won't get in. They are also worried that their Geographic Area is smaller than other schools, especially when Wyvern expands as an academy. Bill is responding to their concerns, explaining that people from other Geographic Areas can still apply for Broadoak. The forum will keep this under review to ensure Broadoak doesn't struggle when Wyvern expands.

5. Responses to proposed admission numbers

Tony to report at the next meeting.

6. Trinity Anglican Methodist School, Portishead – Statutory Process

The Forum recommends that the proposal for expansion is approved.

7. In year Fair Access protocols, and Permanent Exclusions and Managed Transfers

- There have been five permanent exclusions so far this year, compared to eight for the same period last year.
- There have been seven negotiated transfers this year compared to eight last year.
- There has been an increase in the movers in going into Short Stay Schools (not shown in the figures as these pupils were not previously on a school role).
- Less than 50% are successfully reintegrated back into mainstream schools.

8. Choice Advice – self evaluation

Anne-Marie Heath took the forum through the form.

9. DCSF Consultation on Change to Admission Regulations

The DCSF have proposed putting a tick box on the admissions application form for parents to acknowledge that they have read the school's behaviour policies. The Forum was not in favour of this proposal as admissions can not be conditional to reading behaviour policies, especially on the application form when behaviour policies for all preferences would need to be read, and the allocated school may not be one of the named schools. It would also make the application process harder for some families who cannot read/write/speak English very well. A suggestion put forward was to put the tick box on the acceptance form.

10. AOB

The coordination of In-Year admissions needs to take place from September 2010. Clarification is needed on if this means from July 2010 when applications for September 2010 places are made or if coordination starts from applications made in September. Therefore the Forum may need to look at the policy which has already been consulted on, and an amendment may be requested.

11. Meeting Dates

Monday 26 th April 2010,	9:30 – 12:30,	The Campus
Monday 14 th June 2010,	9:30 – 12:30,	Four Oaks