



Enclosure 1
North Somerset Admissions Forum

Minutes of meeting on Monday 4th October 2010 at The
Campus, Weston-super-Mare

Present

Peter Binding (for part of
meeting)

Justin Templer

Caroline Hostein

Sally Varley

David Gradwell

Jack Dagnall

Cllr Anne Kemp

Bill McEntee

Julie Fox

Ann-Marie Heath

Gillian Quick

Gary Lewis

Eurfron Parry

Tony Pearle*

*guest for item on term dates.

Trust Schools

Diocese of Clifton

Catholic VA Primary Schools

Local Authority

Community SEN

Governor (Secondary)

Local Authority

Secretary & NS Policy Officer

Community Schools Primary

North Somerset Council, Choice Advice

CE VA Primary Schools

Foundation Schools

Methodist Church

North Somerset Council

1. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Theresa Gale was nominated as Chair (subject to agreement), Cllr Ann Kemp was elected as Vice-Chair and Bill McEntee was elected as Secretary.

2. Apologies

Terri Knowlton, Liz Tunnard, Theresa Gale, Lynne Packer, Chris Hustwick, Geoff Flynn, Tim Pollock

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of 4th June – Agreed and signed by Vice-Chair

4. Actions and Matters arising

Forum membership – advertising hasn't resolved the matter, we are still short of parent representatives. The GANS Conference is on Saturday, Sally/Bill to speak to Chris Hustwick about putting the vacancies on the agenda.

There was a discussion on whether changing the times of the Forum would encourage parents to volunteer.

All other matters are on this agenda.

5. Report on consultation of proposed Term Dates for 2012-13

We are the first authority to propose term dates. The Term Dates will all except for one run from a Monday to Friday. The consultation is open and will run until 17th December, when a post consultation report in January 2011 will be submitted to the Executive Member to agree and will then be published. Neighbouring authorities were in agreement.

6. Review of Forum Membership and Remit for 2010-11

Jack Dagnall suggested a few amendments No.1 Paragraph 1 and No.4 wording in relation to what some may consider as discrimination by faith schools. It was pointed out that faith schools are legally allowed to give preferences to applicants on the grounds of their faith and that all criteria, by the nature of giving a preference to one group or another, could be classed as discriminatory. There was a discussion on the role of the Admissions Forum. The Vice-Chair proposed not to change the wording, which was agreed by all with the exception of Jack.

Appendix 1 – a few amendments to names and Roman Catholic should have VA before Primary Schools.

Gillian Quick has decided to stand down, which creates a new vacancy for VA Primary Schools. The Vice-Chair thanked Gillian for previous support to the Forum.

7. In-year Fair Access protocols (standing item)

Permanent Exclusions and Managed Transfers (Standing item)

Bill stated it would be difficult to discuss this item as Geoff Flynn who was due to present it has had to give his apologies. It was noted that 6 permanent exclusions was very high. An e-mail from Geoff says this is both unexpected and unusual. Geoff also flagged up the issue of schools saying they are full. Sally explained that Fair Access applies to all schools irrespective of whether they are full or have vacancies. The Forum had a discussion on the Fair Access Protocol and the code of practice.

Jack asked why Worle and Priory are taking more negotiated transfers than other schools. There was a discussion on the number of approaches to schools and why, it was explained it could possibly be geography, close proximity to where the child was excluded from and that St Katherine's was approached from Bristol pupils. The Fair Access Protocol working party is due to meet again and an update will be given at the next meeting.

9. Adjudicator's Decision – re St Francis School

St. Francis school policy was referred to the Adjudicator but the school subsequently made the requested change. The objection was therefore withdrawn but the adjudicator advised that they would still have to consider it. The adjudicator has raised 2 other objections a) the definition of sibling didn't agree with the local authority definition* and b) the In Year admission paragraph on the Governing Body being the admission authority. The Governing Body have now put an amendment in to read (in the event of over subscription). We are still waiting to hear the decision of the Adjudicator. A further report will go to the next meeting.

* Caroline Hostein has since confirmed that the actual wording of the Adjudicator was St Francis's definition is "narrower than that used by Catholic schools".

10. Local Authority Report to School's Adjudicator

Bill explained it is a statutory obligation of the LA to produce the report and answered questions on it. The report was submitted on 25th June 2010.

11. School Organisation update

Wyvern – the agreement of the Hans Price Academy planned for 1st September was postponed over the summer. The decision nationally on Capital Funding new academies is on hold.

The process will have to start again in November with a 3 week consultation. A report will then go to the Scrutiny Panel and the Admissions Forum. The academy is planned to open on 1st May with a soft launch with a bigger launch from 1st September 2011 (subject to consultation and all approvals).

12. Parent Guides for new admissions for 2011-12 and In-Year for 2010-11

The new guides have been produced and were made available to forum members. Comments back to Bill at any time but formal review of them by the Forum will take place later in the year.

13. Forum Working Party on allocations and ethnicity – update

Work on this has had to be suspended due to work commitments but Bill hopes to complete by the next meeting.

14. Relevant Area Consultation 2012-14

The forum supported the report for the relevant area.

15. Any other business

In –Year Co-ordination Admission Arrangements

Should be included at the next meeting as an item on how it's progressing.

Budget Cuts

Sally explained on budget cuts to refreshments at meetings.

Next meetings

24 November 2010	1:30 - 4:30	Four Oaks
20 January 2011	9.30 – 12.30	The Campus
17 March 2011	1.00 – 4.00	The Campus <u>not</u> Four Oaks!!!!!!!
28 April 2011	1.00 – 4.00	The Campus
7 July 2011	1.00 – 4.00	Four Oaks