

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

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| <b>Decision Maker:</b> | Executive Member for Education                  |
| <b>Date:</b>           | 20 February 2024                                |
| <b>Title:</b>          | Determination of 2025/26 Admission Arrangements |
| <b>Report From:</b>    | Director of Children's Services                 |

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this paper is to inform the Executive Member for Education on the consultation carried out regarding the admission arrangements for the main admissions round for entry to school in September 2025, following advice from Hampshire's Admission Forum, schools, and other interested parties.

### Recommendation(s)

2. That the Executive Member for Education approve the proposed admission arrangements for the admission rounds for applying for school places in the academic year 2025/26. The admission arrangements have gone through the approved consultation process and have been recommended by Hampshire's Admission Forum and are documented in the:
  - Admission policies for community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools (Annexes A, B, C, D and E), as well as the school specific criteria (Annexe F).
  - 2025 published admission numbers (PANs) for community and VC schools (Annexes G and H).
  - Review of North Waltham Primary School, Hatch Warren Infant and Junior School and Kempshott Infant and Junior School catchments (Annexe I).
  - Review of Tweseldown Infant School and Church Crookham Junior School catchments (Annexe J).
  - Admission policy for Nursery Units attached to maintained schools (Annexe K).
  - Admission policy for Yateley School Sixth Form (Annexe L).
  - Co-ordinated scheme for main round admissions 2025-26 (Annexe M).
  - Document outlining Hampshire's 'relevant area' (Annexe N).
  - Supplementary Information Form for Voluntary Controlled Schools (Annexe O).
  - Random Allocation Procedure (Annexe P).

## **Executive Summary**

3. This report sets out the legislative background to the consultation and determination process, looks at the key issues behind the proposed changes and presents the detail of the proposed admission arrangements.

## **Contextual Information**

4. The School Admissions Code came into force on 1 September 2021 and the School Admission Appeals Code came into force on 1 October 2022. Both Codes place mandatory requirements on Local Authorities and Admission Authorities. There were no proposed changes to the oversubscription criteria provided in the admission policies for community and voluntary controlled schools as part of the statutory public consultation that commenced on 13 November 2023 and concluded on 29 December 2023, when compared to the 2024/25 admission policies.
5. The County Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools within Hampshire and is therefore responsible for determining the admission arrangements for these schools. Hampshire provides a co-ordinated and centralised main round process. For in-year admissions, schools and the authority support parents in making an application. Regulations require all admission authorities (i.e. the local authority for community and voluntary controlled schools and the governing body or Academy Trust for own admission authority schools: voluntary aided, foundation and trust schools and Academies, referred to in this report as OAA schools) to determine their school admission arrangements for 2025/26 by 28 February 2024 and to have notified other admission authorities and published the admission arrangements on their website by 15 March 2024.
6. The term 'admission arrangements' means the overall procedure, practices and oversubscription criteria used in deciding on the allocation of school places including any device or means used to determine whether a school place is to be offered (normally a supplementary information form is used by OAA schools where priority for admission cannot be determined from the information on the Local Authority's (LA) form). In the case of the LA, this includes a county admission policy with which community and voluntary controlled schools' policies must comply. A list of school specific criteria also forms part of the admission arrangements. In Hampshire, there is a separate policy for entry at Year R, Year 3, and Year 7 and for nurseries. One community secondary school has an appropriate policy for admission to their sixth form. Separate policies for junior schools which are in a federation with their linked infant school and for all-through schools (with the age range 4-16) have also been established. The admission arrangements also include the published admission number (PAN) for each community and voluntary controlled school.
7. Admissions authorities must consult by 31 January in the determination year on their admission arrangements, unless there are no changes proposed.

Consultation with schools, neighbouring local authorities and parents on the County's 2025 admission policies and PANs has been carried out in two phases:

**4 September – 18 September 2023:** consultations with schools on PANs and school specific criteria.

**13 November – 29 December 2023:** statutory consultation with schools, other local authorities, and parents on the intended arrangements, including any revised PANs. Consultation documents included any revisions advised by Forum and recommended by senior management in response to the informal consultation with schools.

8. Throughout the consultation for 2025/26 admissions, special attention has been paid to the consultation on PANs to find an appropriate balance between the effective management of school places and the successful expression of parental preference. The consultation in September 2023 gathered information on individual schools' requests to change their PAN and schools were asked whether they would like to request an amendment, removal, or additional school specific criterion for their policy. All proposed changes were shown in the consultation documents, with proposed reductions highlighted since any reduction to a PAN requires wider consultation. For all proposed PAN changes, the LA carries out the required statutory consultation.
9. The statutory consultation process for the 2025/26 arrangements was considered at the October and January meetings of the Hampshire Admission Forum. The Forum is made up of advocates for children, schools, and families from a variety of settings including County Councillors, Headteachers representing the range of schools in the County, representatives of the Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses, the armed forces, special educational needs, ethnic minorities, parent networks, early years providers and school governors. The Forum is advised by Council officers and meets three times a year to consider issues relating to school admissions. Whilst the Forum ceased to be a statutory body in February 2012, it has been maintained by the Council because of the vital scrutiny role that it provides in assessing the effectiveness of local admission arrangements. This includes reviewing and making recommendations on how well existing and proposed admission arrangements serve the interests of children and parents in Hampshire, the admissions information and advice that supports parents in navigating the application process, and the effectiveness of the arrangements for potentially vulnerable children. In recent years Forum was proactive in reviewing how well the inclusion of the child of staff criterion and displaced child criterion in the County Council's arrangements, would serve the interests of children, parents, and schools in Hampshire, before recommending their inclusion as part of the arrangements.

## **Finance**

10. There are no financial implications.

## **Performance**

11. The annual review of admission numbers and subsequent proposal of a reduction to a lower number for the identified schools, will better support those schools in managing their budget pressures and in making efficient use of resources.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

12. There has been one response to the County Council's proposed PANs for 2025/26. This response raised concern about the availability of places in Chandler's Ford, specifically in the vicinity of the Knightwood development, if the proposed reductions were agreed at Knightwood Primary School and Fryern Infant and Junior School. In this case, it is the LA's view that the proposed PAN reductions at Knightwood Primary School and Fryern Infant and Junior School, do not compromise the LA's duty to provide school places for local communities based on forecast data for all three schools and the local school place planning area. The comment is included as Annexe Q.
13. There have been no responses to the County Council's proposed admission policy over-subscription criteria.
14. For the catchment area reviews detailed at Annexe I and J, each schools' governing body has been consulted and affected families written to ahead of the statutory consultation on the proposed arrangements. There have been six responses to the proposed catchment changes for Hatch Warren Infant and Junior Schools, Kempshott Infant and Junior Schools and North Waltham Primary School. These comments are included as Annexe R. There have been sixteen responses to the proposed catchment changes for Tweseldown Infant School and Church Crookham Junior School. These comments are included as Annexe S. Paragraphs 16 – 25 provide further detail.
15. There has been one other response relating to a separate issue raised by a consultee. This comment and the LA's response is included as Annexe T.

## **New housing at Basingstoke Golf Course and new housing and a primary school at Hounsome Fields, Basingstoke**

16. There were six responses received in the case of Annexe I which is the proposed catchment change resulting from the new housing at Basingstoke Golf Course and new housing and a primary school at Hounsome Fields, Basingstoke. One response was supportive, one response highlighted a misprint, one response sought clarification on the inclusion of an existing housing estate, one asked a question related to an adjacent villages catchment area and two related to the implications for St Mark's CE (Aided) Primary School, where it was subsequently confirmed that the governing body, as admission authority, would not be adjusting their catchment area.
17. These proposed changes to the schools' catchment areas arise from the planned new housing at Basingstoke Golf Course and new housing and

primary school at Hounsome Fields, Basingstoke. The proposal is that children living in the new housing and in a small number of existing houses, will not have catchment priority at North Waltham Primary School, Hatch Warren Infant and Junior School and Kempshott Infant and Junior School from September 2025, instead having catchment priority for the new primary school at Hounsome Fields. Having considered the consultation responses, the LA does not consider it necessary to adjust the proposed changes consulted on, as the main principle of current and future provision is that the County Council will look to provide local schools for local children, and these changes ensure that the academy trust can determine a local catchment area to support this principle and contribute to the viability of the new Hounsome Fields Primary School, whilst respecting the principles detailed in paragraph 40.

18. The new school at Hounsome Fields will be an academy, sponsored by an academy trust. As part of the application process for sponsors, the proposed catchment area was detailed by the LA. The trust, as the admission authority, will be responsible for determining the admission arrangements, including the proposed new catchment area shown in purple at Annexe I. Transitional arrangements to 2028 are proposed to support the admission of siblings in families whose catchment will change because of the proposed catchment change.
19. As St Mark's CE (Aided) Primary School is its own admissions authority, the governing body would be required to undertake their own consultation to alter their catchment area and the governing body have indicated that this is not something they are considering. Therefore, children living in this part of the proposed Hounsome Fields catchment area would be part of a shared area and have catchment priority at two schools, the new Hounsome Fields Primary School and St Mark's CE (Aided) Primary School.

### **New housing at Albany Park, Fleet**

20. There were sixteen responses received in the case of Annexe J which is the proposed catchment change resulting from the new housing at Albany Park, Fleet. Eight responses were received that were not supportive of the change as they feel that Crondall Primary School should also be part of the shared catchment area. Another response was not supportive of adding further houses into the catchment areas of Tweseldown and Church Crookham Junior School, with concerns also raised about the transport arrangements. Two responses were received raising concern about the proposal not reflecting the current catchment arrangements for Crookham CE Infant School. A further response was supportive of the inclusion of Tweseldown Infant School and Church Crookham Junior School as the catchment schools but did not support Albany Park remaining in the catchment areas of Crookham CE Infant and Dogmersfield CE Primary School. Two neutral responses were received, but both made observations about safer routes to school, with one making observations about the potential increases in SEN children and the other about the importance of the priority that is given to

siblings in the Hampshire arrangements. One response was supportive of the proposal to align the Albany Park catchment arrangements for Crookham CE Infant School with Tweseldown Infant School, and a further response was supportive, but with observations made about safer routes to school.

21. These proposed changes to the schools' catchment areas arise from the planned new housing site at Albany Park. The proposal is that this new development, plus some existing houses located in the vicinity of the development, will be included in the catchment areas for Tweseldown Infant School and Church Crookham Junior School. This is to align the admission arrangements for the housing at Albany Park with the additional school places created at Tweseldown Infant School and Church Crookham Junior School in 2017, delivered as part of Hampshire's school place planning strategy.
22. Having considered the consultation responses, the LA does not consider it necessary to adjust the proposed changes consulted on, as the main principle of current and future school place provision is that the County Council will look to provide local schools for local children. The proposed catchment area change is in keeping with school place planning decisions to ensure the correct balance to meet forecast demand for the new housing in the best located schools predicted to have capacity for children in the new houses. This change will also ensure that children resident in Albany Park will have the best possible access to school places as they will have a safe and available walking route to the Local Authority determined catchment school(s), that being Tweseldown Infant School and Church Crookham Junior School.
23. Parents remain entitled to express three parental preferences as part of the Year R and Year 3 main admission rounds, including schools that are not their catchment area school. Changes to any catchment area do not place a limitation on the right to express a preference for a school.
24. There are no transitional arrangements proposed because families living in the affected areas with children already in the schools will retain catchment priority for the existing catchment schools.
25. As Dogmersfield Church of England (Aided) Primary School and Crookham Church of England (Aided) Infant School are their own admissions authorities, the governing bodies would be required to undertake their own consultation to alter their catchment areas, but both have indicated that this is not something they are considering. The result of this proposal, if approved, is that the Albany Park development, plus some existing houses located in the vicinity of the development, will become part of the catchment areas for Tweseldown Infant School and Church Crookham Junior School, whilst remaining in the catchment areas for Dogmersfield Church of England (Aided) Primary School and Crookham Church of England (Aided) Infant School.

## **Other Key Issues**

26. The informal consultation with all Hampshire Community and Voluntary Controlled schools carried out during September 2023, provided an opportunity for governing bodies, and Headteachers to indicate whether they wished to change their PAN for the 2025/26 academic year and whether they would like to retain, change or to request a new school specific criterion for their school's admissions policy. With no significant changes being proposed in Hampshire's admissions arrangements for 2025, schools were not asked for their views on any other policy changes.

**Infant/primary, junior, secondary, and all-through admissions policies for community and voluntary controlled schools 2025/26 (Annexes A, B, C, D and E)**

27. Admission policies set out how applications for each school are prioritised and provide key dates for the year in question. Whilst there were no proposed changes to the oversubscription criteria provided in the admission policies for infant/primary, junior, secondary, and all-through schools in the public consultation when compared to the 2024/25 admission policies, the LA has made some minor changes to the wording of the admission policies, to ensure they are as clear as possible and easy for parents to understand as follows:

28. The inclusion of:

- An explanation on how evidence will be considered for requests for priority under the medical / social criteria.
- A definition of catchment area.
- A link to the random allocation procedure.

29. The removal of:

- The explanation regarding equal preference.
- Information relating to the Fair Access Protocol.
- School closure information.

30. The removal of information was suggested by the Schools Adjudicator on the basis that it is not relevant to how places are allocated for the school in question and therefore, should not form part a school's admission policy. This information is instead published on the County Council website as part of its composite prospectus for parents.

31. There were no other changes that the Admission Forum was asked to support at their meeting in October 2023.

**The policies provided in Annexes A, B, C, D and E are recommended with the support of the Admission Forum to the Executive Member for his agreement.**

**School specific criteria (Annexe F)**

32. The County Council's policies apply to admissions for all community and voluntary controlled schools within Hampshire. The Admission Forum has, in the past, recognised that there are some cases where a small amount of flexibility is advised in relation to individual school policies. This is to avoid situations where rigid implementation of the LA's policy would lead to unacceptable anomalies. The required flexibility is delivered through school specific criteria, which includes, for example, the use of walking route as the method for measurement of distance for tiebreaker purposes (as an alternative to measuring by straight line) to suit local circumstances, or a criterion giving priority to children attending the linked infant school.
33. The need to centralise the administration of the main admissions round makes it more difficult to accommodate school specific criteria. Schools are advised that inclusion of a school specific criterion in their school policy may require them to directly support the processing of applications to the school. Annexe F lists all proposed school specific criteria for 2025, supported by the Admission Forum who considered these at their October and January meetings. This includes:
- Five criteria to be removed from school policies as the transitional arrangements will no longer be needed, highlighted in grey on Annexe F.
  - Five criteria to be included in school policies for transitional arrangements resulting from the proposed catchment changes, highlighted in yellow on Annexe F.
  - Three amended criteria in school policies, relating to each school's faith criteria, highlighted in yellow on Annexe F. For St John the Baptist CE Primary School and Rownhams St John CE Primary School, this is by way of inclusion of a link to the members of 'Churches Together in England' and for St James CE Primary School, this is outlining the churches that fall under their faith criterion.

**The list given at Annexe F is recommended with the support of the Admission Forum to the Executive Member for his agreement.**

**Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for infant/primary, junior and secondary schools (Annexe G and Annexe H)**

34. Every year, the LA must, as part of its admission arrangements, publish on its website the number of pupils who will be admitted to each school (the PAN). The LA consults governing bodies of community and voluntary controlled schools annually on the proposed PAN for their school. At its meeting in October 2023, Hampshire Admission Forum considered all PANs where a change from the 2024 figure was proposed. The enclosed tables for primary phase schools (Annexe G) and secondary schools (Annexe H) give the PAN for 2024 and the proposed PAN for 2025. If a school has specialist resourced SEN provision, the pupils to be admitted to this provision are often included within the PAN.



35. It is proposed that the PAN for two schools increase in line with strategic planning of places or as requested by the school. This is an increase in PAN from 270 to 300 at Crestwood Community School, Eastleigh and an increase in PAN from 67 to 68 at Oakley CE Junior School, Basingstoke. More information is available on Annexe G and H. It should be noted that there is also a proposal to reduce the PAN at fifteen primary phase schools, highlighted in red on Annexe G. Each school's governing body has made cogent financial, educational, and curricular arguments in favour of the reduction, which the LA is able to support based on pupil forecasts for each school.
36. When reducing the PAN at a particular school, there can be an impact on the expression of parental preference, as this potentially limits the number of offers that can be made to children lower down the oversubscription criteria, who may have named the school as a higher preference. The main principle of current and future provision for school places is that the County Council will look to provide local schools for local children, and so the LA's view is that based on forecast data (which accounts for the number of children resident in the school's area), the proposed reductions do not compromise its duty to provide local school places for residents. The County Council continues to encourage parents to use all three preferences when making main round applications, and to name their catchment school as one of their three preferences, so that if they are refused a place at a school of preference, they still receive a lower preference offer or a local school offer.
37. There is also a proposal to change the PAN, specifically the separation of the resourced provision (RP) places from the mainstream places at Guillemont Junior School, Kings Copse Primary School, Liss Infant School, Liss Junior School and Pinewood Infant School, highlighted in red on Annexe G.
38. The governors of community and voluntary controlled schools can object to the Schools Adjudicator if they consider that the PAN proposed by the LA is not appropriate for their school. An objection to a decision by the LA to increase or keep the same PAN at a community or voluntary controlled school cannot be brought, except where the objection is brought by the governing body of the school. An objection to the lowering of a PAN may be made to the Schools Adjudicator by a parent or other interested party.

**The lists given at Annexes G and H are recommended with the support of the Admission Forum to the Executive Member for his agreement.**

#### **Catchment Area Reviews (Annexe I and J)**

39. The School Admissions Code states that a catchment area is a geographical area, from which children may be afforded priority for admission to a particular school. A catchment area is part of a school's admission arrangements and must therefore be consulted upon, determined, and published in the same way as other admission arrangements. Catchment areas must be designed so that they are reasonable and clearly defined.

Catchment areas do not prevent parents who live outside the catchment of a particular school from expressing a preference for the school. Hampshire's admission arrangements include catchment areas to reinforce the LA's commitment to ensuring that, as far as possible, schools serve their local community.

40. Every year, the LA must, as part of its school place planning function, ensure that there are sufficient school places for Hampshire residents and for any new communities arising from housing development. Where the development is sufficient in scale to require a new school to be built, as per Annexe I, the LA will follow up all relevant guidance in relation to establishing an academy (free school) via the 'free school presumption'. The LA must then review the catchment areas of any surrounding community and voluntary controlled schools to ensure that they remain reasonable: ensuring extended communities are not fractured by a catchment boundary; the forecast size of the child population for the area can be accommodated within the school's capacity and that the new school has an established area that they might operate as a catchment area within their admission arrangements.
41. It should be noted that there is a proposal to change the catchment areas of the following schools: North Waltham Primary School, Hatch Warren Infant and Junior School, Kempshott Infant and Junior School, Tweseldown Infant School and Church Crookham Junior School (detailed in paragraphs 16 to 25 above and in Annexes I and J).
42. Transitional arrangements to 2028 are proposed to support the admission of siblings in families whose catchment will change because of the proposed change related to the Basingstoke Golf Course and Hounsome Fields developments.

**The catchment area changes provided in Annexe I and J are recommended with the support of the Admission Forum to the Executive Member for his agreement.**

#### **Admission policy for Nursery Units (Annexe K)**

43. There were no proposed changes to the oversubscription criteria or decision making provided in the nursery policy for 2025, but the LA has updated some wording to clarify and inform parents of the changed legal position around entitlement.

**The policy provided in Annexe K is recommended with the support of the Admission Forum to the Executive Member for his agreement.**

#### **Admission policy for Yateley School Sixth Form (Annexe L)**

44. There were no proposed changes to the Yateley School Sixth Form policy for 2025.

**The policy provided in Annexe L is recommended with the support of the Admission Forum to the Executive Member for his agreement.**

**Hampshire County Council's Co-ordinated Scheme for Main Round Admissions 2025-2026 (Annexe M)**

45. The scheme sets out the general principles and processes for the 2025 main admissions rounds. The key purpose of this scheme is to ensure that every child living in the LA area, whose parent has applied for a publicly funded school place, receives a single offer of a school place on the national notification date. This document is required to be updated annually to reflect changing dates, but there are no proposed changes to the general principles and processes.

**The Co-ordinated Scheme for Main Round Admissions 2025-2026 provided in Annexe M is recommended with the support of the Admission Forum to the Executive Member for his agreement.**

**Hampshire County Council's 'Relevant Area' (Annexe N), Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for Voluntary Controlled Schools (Annexe O), and Random Allocation Procedure (Annexe P)**

46. Each LA is required to establish a 'Relevant Area' in which admission authorities must consult regarding their proposed arrangements. LA's are required to review and consult on their proposed 'relevant area' every two years. There were no proposed changes to the County Council's 'Relevant Area'.

47. Parents requesting admission under denominational grounds in a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School are required to complete a SIF which asks for declaration and verification of active membership. There are no proposed changes to this form from 2024/25.

48. In the event of criteria being oversubscribed, straight line distance is used to prioritise applications. Where two or more applicants are equidistant, random allocation is used to allocate a place. Annexe P provides an explanation of the random allocation procedure used by the Local Authority. There are no proposed changes to this procedure from 2024/25.

**The 'Relevant Area' document provided in Annexe M, the SIF for Voluntary Controlled Schools provided in Annexe O and the Random Allocation Procedure provided in Annexe P are recommended with the support of the Admission Forum to the Executive Member for his agreement.**

**Objecting to admission arrangements determined by schools which are their own admission authority (OAA schools)**

49. It should be noted that admission arrangements for academies are approved by the Secretary of State as part of an academy's Funding Agreement and requires compliance with admissions legislation and relevant Codes.

Academies and other OAA schools are required to consult in the same way as any other admission authority: at least once every seven years or annually if there are changes to arrangements.

50. OAA schools are responsible for setting their own PAN and must inform the LA of their decision. They are not required to consult on their PAN where they propose either to increase or keep the same PAN.
51. Local authorities must refer an objection to the Schools Adjudicator if they are of the view that a PAN reduction will create a shortage of school places in an area or suspect that the admission arrangements that have been determined by OAA schools in its area are unlawful. *Objections to a decision by an academy or other OAA school to increase or keep the same PAN cannot be brought. An objection to a variation from the School Admissions Code agreed by the Secretary of State in relation to the admission arrangements for an Academy cannot be brought. Objections to any other aspect of an OAA school's admission arrangements will be considered by the Schools Adjudicator.*

### **Future direction**

52. The County Council's Admission Arrangements will be subject to review again in the autumn term 2024, when the statutory timeframes for consulting on the arrangements for 2026 commence.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

53. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
54. The decision for this report is to confirm the proposed admission arrangements for the admission rounds for applying for school places in the academic year 2025/26. The carbon mitigation tool and/or climate change adaptation tool was not applicable because the decision to be made is strategic/administrative in nature.

### **Conclusions**

55. That the proposed admission arrangements for the admission rounds for applying for school places in the academic year 2025/26 in Annexes A – P are recommended to the Executive Member for Education as they have gone through the approved consultation process and have been recommended by Hampshire's Admission Forum.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

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| <b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b> | Yes |
| <b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>              | Yes |
| <b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>                  | Yes |
| <b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>     | Yes |

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

Document

Location

None

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment:**

No adverse impact in regard to race, culture, gender or disability arising from this report has been identified. However, to ensure that the admission arrangements allow for the best interests of all children to be properly considered when applying the published policy an equality impact assessment has been undertaken.

By its very nature, the purpose of a school admission policy is to prioritise one group of children over another based on a set of oversubscription criteria. Oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. Admission authorities must ensure that their arrangements will not disadvantage unfairly, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social or racial group, or a child with a disability or special educational needs. All the admission criteria proposed in Hampshire's admission arrangements for 2025 are permissible in the School Admissions Code (DfE 2021) and therefore do not breach equality legislation.