
Report to Clackmannanshire Council

Date of Meeting: 9 March 2017

Subject: Placing Request – Reserved Places

Report by: Chief Education Officer

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. This paper identifies the number of places requiring to be reserved in Clackmannanshire's schools during academic session 2017/18 to ensure there is sufficient provision for children at their local catchment schools. Reserving places allows the Education Authority to manage the admission to schools within the local area ensuring that children arriving late in the catchment area can still be accommodated and that there is no detriment to provision of education.
- 1.2. The Council's placing request policy takes account of reserved places. This paper updates the reserved places position for academic session 2017/18.
- 1.3. The paper provides information on the schools where it is recommended that places be reserved.

2.0 Recommendations

Clackmannanshire Council agrees to:

- 2.1 approve the recommended places to be reserved for catchment area children for session 2017/18 at the following primary schools : Abercromby, Menstrie, Redwell, St Serf's, and Sunnyside.
- 2.2 delegate authority to the Chief Education Officer to determine allocation of reserved places at specific year stages in each school.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents have the right to express a preference for their child to attend a school of their choice other than the local catchment school. The local authority accommodates these requests where it has no resource or other implication for the requested school.

- 3.2 The Education (Scotland) Act 1996, as amended by the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 gives Education Authorities the power to reserve places at specific schools for children who move into school catchment areas after enrolment had been completed. Numbers can be significant through build or other factors. Reserved places may be allocated to particular year stages by the Chief Education Officer, or nominated officer.
- 3.3 Clackmannanshire Council continues to experience pressure on school rolls in some schools. Provision for pupils moving into the catchment area needs to be made by utilising the reserved places legislation to reserve spaces within establishments and avoid the need for alternative placements having to be made.
- 3.4 The Service continues to work closely with colleagues in Planning over the educational implications of new housing developments.
- 3.5 Places are reserved on a combination of factors including:
- Anticipated capacity pressures due to planned house build within school catchment areas. Information on this is gathered from local land plan audit and meetings with the Council's planning service.
 - A history of late enrolment. In this context a late enrolment is defined as an enrolment that takes place after placing request decisions are made for the following academic year in April and the end of the session in June
- 3.6 The schools at which places will be reserved and the number of places to be reserved are reviewed annually.
- 3.7 In Clackmannanshire certain schools are near capacity at certain year stages and it is recommended that places be reserved at the following schools:

3.7.1 Abercromby Primary School

Abercromby Primary School has received 11 late enrolments for 2016/17 and currently only has 3 spaces available at Primary 1 for next session. It is also recognised that as the work progresses on the new Tullibody South Campus that the popularity of Abercromby Primary will increase. 9 spaces were reserved at Abercromby for this session and it is recommended that these places be maintained at 9 for 2017/18.

3.7.2 Menstrie Primary School

The roll of Menstrie Primary is increasing and an additional classroom is required for the 2017/18 school session, as a result it is important that placing requests are managed carefully. It also has a number of year groups which already have classes for next session which are full. The school had 17 late enrolments in 2016/17 and it is recommended that reserved places be set at 8 for 2017/18 session.

3.7.3 Redwell Primary School

Redwell Primary School, remains is very popular with parents. It received 15 placing requests last year, 8 of these were accepted from parents of children who have siblings in the school. The school continues to have a high level of late enrolments (20 in 2016/17), partly due to the continuing build of new houses in the area. It is having to create an additional class for next session and has a number of year groups which are larger than average as a result of historical placing requests into the former St Johns primary school who transferred to Redwell when it was built. Last year 12 places were reserved and it is recommended that this number be retained on the basis of the continuing demand for places and the number of late enrolments.

3.7.4 St Serf's Primary School

St Serf's Primary School had 16 placing requests accepted in the current session (from families who already had children attending at the school). 10 places were refused. The school is nearing capacity and an additional class was created in 2016. St Serfs had 25 late enrolments in 2016/17 and it is proposed that the 8 reserved places in 2016/17 be maintained for 2017/18

3.7.5 Sunnyside Primary School

Sunnyside Primary School received 20 placing requests last year. Of these 10, were refused. It is recommended that the number of reserved spaces be retained at 14 for 2017/18

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1 By reserving places the Education Authority can ensure places are available for children moving into the catchment area, including families who may have been placed in temporary accommodation or from travelling families.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1 Financial Details

Reserving places supports efficient use of resources and reduces the likelihood of having to deploy additional resources to accommodate catchment pupils at a later date. Failure to secure reserved places could result in resource implications such as additional staffing, transport or building costs.

- 5.2 There will be no financial implications if reserved places are secured in line with recommendations in this report.

- 5.2.1 Finance has been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report.

5.3 There will be no staffing implications if reserved places are secured in line with recommendations in this report.

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1 Is this report exempt? No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) Our Priorities

The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses
Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive
People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment
Our communities are safer
Vulnerable people and families are supported
Substance misuse and its effects are reduced
Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing
The environment is protected and enhanced for all
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

(2) Council Policies (Please detail)

Not applicable

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

9.0 Legality

9.1 In adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Placing Requests – Reserved Places (Current and Proposed)

11.0 Background Papers

None.

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CLACKMANNANSHIRE EDUCATION SERVICE

Placing Request – Reserved Places (Current and Proposed)

School	Late enrolments 2015/16	Reserved Places Current 2016/17	Placing Request Received 2016/17	Reserved Places Proposed 2017/18
Abercromby Primary	11	9	4	9
Menstrie Primary	17	9	6	8
Redwell Primary	20	12	17	12
St Serfs Primary	25	8	33	8
Sunnyside Primary	16	14	20	14

