

School Admissions 2008

Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is: 2
October 2008

Your comments must reach us by that date.



THIS FORM IS NOT INTERACTIVE. If you wish to respond electronically please use the online or offline response facility available on the Department for Children, Schools and Families e-consultation website (<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations>).

The information you provide in your response will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations, which allow public access to information held by the Department. This does not necessarily mean that your response can be made available to the public as there are exemptions relating to information provided in confidence and information to which the Data Protection Act 1998 applies. You may request confidentiality by ticking the box provided, but you should note that neither this, nor an automatically-generated e-mail confidentiality statement, will necessarily exclude the public right of access.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.

Name Chris Goodey
Organisation (if applicable) Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education (CSIE)
Address: New Redland Building
Coldharbour Lane
Frenchay
Bristol
BS16 1QU

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact Arun Arul, Team Leader in the School Admissions Team on 020 7925 5277.

e-mail: review.admissions@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Consultation Unit on:

Telephone: 01928 794888

Fax: 01928 794 113

e-mail: consultation.unit@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

Please mark an X in the box below that best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent Governor
<input type="checkbox"/> Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> National Representative Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Representative Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Headteacher/teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Faith Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify)		

Please Specify: Voluntary organisation

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We welcome responses to these questions by completing the tick boxes and including additional comments in the corresponding text box (please attach additional sheets where necessary).

The following questions relate to the proposals outlined in the corresponding sections within the School Admissions Consultation Summary Document.

Section 2. Putting parents and children at the centre of the system

2.1 Improving the application and allocation process for school places

Q1 Do you support these proposals, such as requiring parents to only submit applications for school places to their home local authority, as a way of improving the application process for parents?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

Q2 Do you support more standardisation across the country for primary school admissions?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

Q3 Do you support the proposal for local authorities to coordinate admissions all year round?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

2.2 New local consultation process

Q4 Do you agree that consultation on admission arrangements should take place once every three years (unless changes are made to the arrangements in the meantime) instead of every year as is the case now?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

Q5 Do you think it should be left up to admission authorities to decide which local community groups, beyond parents, they consult with?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

2.3 Admission Forums

Q6 Do you think that these changes to the membership and role of Admission Forums will improve their effectiveness?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

Q7 Do you think we should make the establishment of an Admission Forum voluntary?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

2.4 School Admission Appeals

2.4.1 Infant class size appeals.

Q8 Do you agree with the proposal to appoint an independent and qualified reviewer who can assess whether an infant class size appeal is likely to be successful and provide advice to parents accordingly?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments

2.4.2 Ensuring transparency and reducing burdens on popular schools

Q9 Do you agree with the concept of admission appeals being administered by an independent body? We would also welcome views on other options for improving the appeals process for parents and schools.

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments

Q10 Do you think that appeal panels should be required to consider the lawfulness of admission arrangements when considering appeals?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

2.5 Information for parents

Q11 Do you think that the new guidance about information for parents in Appendix 4 of the draft revised Schools Admission Code is clear?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments

Q12 Do you think that these changes will improve information to parents? We would welcome views on what other improvements to the information provided by local authorities and schools you feel could further empower parents.

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

2.6 Ensuring fair and lawful admission arrangements - new duty on local authorities to report on admission arrangements in their area

Q13 Do you agree that the correct information is being required for inclusion in the local authority reports?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments

2.7 A wider role for the Schools Adjudicator

Q14 Do you agree that the new role for the Schools Adjudicator will improve compliance with the School Admissions Code and admissions legislation?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

Q15 Do you think the draft School Admissions (Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2009 will enable the Schools Adjudicator to undertake his role effectively?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments

Q16 Do you think there are other measures we could take to improve the effectiveness of the Schools Adjudicator's role?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

2.8 Service families

Q17 Do you think parents in the Armed Forces have seen improvements in the school admissions process since September 2007?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments

Q18 Do you think schools and local authorities have found meeting the requirements in the School Admissions Code about handling applications from Service families straightforward?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

Q19 Do you think there are aspects of the admission process we can improve further for families in the Armed Forces? If so, how?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

Section 3. Fair access for all children – improvements to Fair Access Protocols

Q20 Do you agree with the extended guidelines and further detail included in the draft revised School Admissions Code about the content and operation of Fair Access Protocols?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Q21 Do you agree with the new guidelines in the draft revised School Admissions Code on placing children with challenging behaviour in suitable educational provision?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments

See our response to 4.7

Section 4. Other changes

4.1 Supporting the ethos of the school

Q22 Do you agree that the suggested ethos statement set out in paragraph 2.31 of the draft revised School Admissions Code is acceptable?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments

Q23 Do you agree that admission authorities should be able to ask parents applying for a school place to indicate that they support the ethos of the school and give priority in their oversubscription criteria to parents who are willing to do this?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

4.2 School sixth forms

Q24 Do you think the guidelines in the draft revised School Admissions Code about the new rights for young people to express a preference are clear?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments

Q25 Do you think the guidelines in the draft revised School Admission Appeals Code are clear about the rights of parents and young people to appeal about a decision made by an admission authority and the procedure that admission authorities must follow?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

4.3 New schools

Q26 Do you agree with the proposal to revoke The New School (Admissions) (England) Regulations 2003? We welcome comments on the process for setting admission arrangements for new schools.

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

4.4 Published Admission Numbers

Q27 Do you think that removing the requirement to publish statutory proposals to increase or admit above a school's published admission number is helpful?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments

Q28 Do you agree with the requirements and guidelines in paragraphs 1.20 to 1.28 of the draft revised School Admissions Code on admitting above the published admission number?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

4.5 School charging.

Q29 Do you agree that schools must not ask for voluntary financial contributions as part of the admissions process?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

4.6 Banding arrangements

Q30 Do you agree with the three reference groups used for banding arrangements?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

4.7 General Comments

Q31 In what ways do these proposals contribute to achieving fair access to educational opportunities for all children from all social groups, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with disabilities?

Comments:

It is not clear why disability should be a discrete question, since the proposals apply to all children. It seems that the Department is, rightly, acknowledging the continued tacit picking and choosing of disabled children by mainstream schools. Head teachers have informal ways of letting parents know that their disabled child will not be welcome in the school, with the result that the parents retreat; only a handful will have the nerve or emotional resources to pursue their legal right to a choice of mainstream through the SEN Tribunal. The Department is quite right to be alert to this, and we therefore suggest that all documentation and communication on admissions contains a footnoted reference to the Disability Discrimination Act and the duty on schools to make reasonable adjustments. The Department's good intentions in this respect need to be made clear; in any fair access scheme all children, with whatever level or type of disability, are considered appropriate recipients of "fairness". Since

there is this den facto category of exclusion which the Department is sensitive to and which goes against the spirit of the law, then it is the Department's duty to acknowledge it explicitly, in order to address it. This will reduce the level of stress and extra work affecting disabled children and their parents as far as possible to the average level undergone by non-disabled ones.

Q32 Please provide any further comments on the draft revised School Admissions Code or draft revised School Admission Appeals Code here, clearly stating which Code your comments refer to.

Comments:

Q33 Please provide any comments on the draft Regulations here, clearly stating which of the five sets of Regulations are being referred to.

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply

Here at the Department for Children, Schools and Families we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

Yes

No

All UK national public consultations are required to conform to the following standards:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

Further information on the Code of Practice can be accessed through the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Website:
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file44364.pdf>

Phil Turner - DCSF consultation Co-Ordinator 01928 794304

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 2 October 2008

Consultation Unit
First Floor
Castle View House
East Lane, Runcorn WA7, 2GJ

Send by e-mail to: review.admissions@dcf.gsi.gov.uk