

Report To: Education & Communities Committee **Date:** 7 May 2013

Report By: Corporate Director Education,
Communities and Organisational
Development **Report No:**
EDUCOM/41/13/AH/WB

Contact Officer: Wilma Bain (Head of Education) **Contact No:** 01475 712824

Subject: Admissions and Placing Requests for Primary 1 and Secondary 1
Pupils in School Session 2013/14

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee members with the details of the decisions agreed by the Pupil Placement Panel relating to Admissions and Placing Requests for school session 2013/14 affecting Primary 1 and Secondary 1 pupils.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The annual exercise has been carried out to identify the number of children and young people from their defined catchment areas who will start Primary 1 and Secondary 1 in August 2013 together with those for whom placing requests were made.
- 2.2 This process consists of determining the allocation of places in accordance with the Council's Admissions and Placing Request Policy together with the policy on class sizes in Primary 1.
- 2.3 The pupil placement panel was set up and comprised the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Head of Property Assets and Facilities Management.
- 2.4 The Head of Education made recommendations to the pupil placement panel.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Education and Communities Committee note the admissions and placing requests relating to Primary 1 and Secondary 1 that have been granted for the school session 2013/14.
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Albert Henderson
Corporate Director – Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Admission and Placing Request policy was approved by the Committee in November 2009.

4.2 Following this year's pupil placement exercise, it was determined that all defined catchment pupils could be accommodated in their catchment primary or secondary school.

4.3 We received 126 placing requests for primary 1 pupils to attend schools other than their catchment school. After reviewing the impact of these placing requests, it was agreed that one school (Lady Alice Primary School) was oversubscribed by one placing request. It was determined that all placing requests to other primary schools could be granted.

4.4 Lady Alice Primary School

34 catchment area children registered for primary 1 in Lady Alice Primary School. Of these 34 children, 6 placing requests were submitted to attend a different school (Ardgowan x 1, King's Oak x 1, Whinhill x 2, Whinhill Gaelic x 2). We received 5 placing requests to attend Lady Alice Primary School (from Aileymill x 1, Ardgowan x 1, St Andrew's x 1, and Whinhill x 2).

In line with our policy on class sizes, Lady Alice Primary School only had the capacity to accept 4 out of the 5 placing requests. The Council's priorities for placing requests were applied, and the result was as follows:

- 2 places were allocated to siblings
- the remaining 2 places were allocated in accordance with distance from home to the school

The placing request that was refused was the one where the home address was furthest from the school.

4.5 We received 80 placing requests for secondary 1 pupils to attend schools other than their catchment school. After the reviewing the impact of the placing requests, it was agreed that all placing requests for secondary 1 pupils could be granted.

4.6 The Pupil Placement Panel was convened on 18 April 2013 to consider the recommendations of the Head of Education and to ensure the criteria had been applied appropriately.

4.7 The Panel, having considered all recommendations, decided that the criteria had been properly applied and agreed the recommendations made by the Head of Education.

4.8 The decisions were intimated to parents in advance of the statutory deadline of 30 April 2013. The parents of the pupil (Primary 1) who was refused a place have the option to appeal the decisions to the Education Appeals Committee and, if unsuccessful, to appeal further to the Sheriff.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance

There are no financial implications.

5.2 Legal

There are no legal implications.

5.3 Personnel

There are no personnel implications.

5.4 Equalities

Equality is embedded in our Admission and Placing Request Policy.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation has taken place with the Pupil Placement Panel.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 The admissions and placing requests granted for school session 2013/14 are noted by the Committee.