

REPORT TO EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2021

SECONDARY SCHOOL S1 ADMISSION LIMITS AND RESERVED PLACES

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 Education & Children's Services Committee set an admission limit and number of reserved places for each Secondary School in Aberdeenshire on an annual basis.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 **Agree the Secondary School Admission Limits for school term 2021/22; and**
- 2.2 **Agree the number of reserved places for Secondary Schools for school term 2021/22.**

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 Admission limits require to be reviewed regularly and varied to adapt to demand for in zone places. These variations must be approved by the Education and Children's Services Committee.
- 3.2 The setting of S1 admission limits and reserved places will help ensure that existing resources are better utilised, particularly in areas with substantial population growth.
- 3.3 To ensure that the number of reserved places are appropriate and relevant to each school setting, the Learning Estates team have collaborated with Secondary schools to determine their expected pupils and used current P7 in-zone data (as of January 2021).

4 Discussion

- 4.1 On 19 March 2020 Education and Children's Services Committee agreed to the current 2020/21 S1 admission limits for all Aberdeenshire Secondary Schools.
- 4.2 Over the last three years the Learning Estates team have processed 758 placing requests for secondary schools. Of these, 44 placing requests were refused due to the secondary limit being reached, this is vital to safeguard the reserved places for in zone pupils.
- 4.3 The recommended admissions limits for S1 in 2021/22 inclusive of the recommended reserved places for the cohort S1 2021/22 through to S4 is

shown in 4.21. This table shows the admission limit and reserved places shown in brackets.

- 4.4 As an example if a school has a limit of 140 with 5 reserved places this is shown as 140(5) which means the placing requests can be accepted until a roll of 135 is reached for the cohort.
- 4.5 Once this limit is reached, any further out of zone placing requests for that year group will be refused, on the basis that accepting the request would prevent the Council reserving a place at the school for a child likely to move into the area of the school in-year.
- 4.6 The recommended S1 Limit and reserved places for Aboyne Academy, Inverurie Academy and The Gordon Schools will stay the same from the previous 2020/21 session. However, the following schools will require an adjustment to their limit.
- 4.7 Alford Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 140 with 5 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone and dual zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 122-131. An Admission limit of 135 with 5 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2021/22 S1 year group.
- 4.8 Banchory Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 160 with 5 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 151. An Admission limit of 160 with 3 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.
- 4.9 Banff Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 200 with 5 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 206. An Admission limit of 220 with 5 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.
- 4.10 Ellon Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 240 with 5 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 180. An Admission limit of 240 with 10 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.
- 4.11 Fraserburgh Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 260 with 5 reserved places. The capacity of Fraserburgh Academy has had a slight decrease from 1510 to 1450 due to the removal of the annexe building and reconfiguration of practical spaces. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 203. An Admission limit of 240 with 5 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.
- 4.12 Kemnay Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 180 with 4 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 198. Of these (as of 08 February 2021) 12 P7 pupils from Kinellar have indicated to take the option of attending

Inverurie Community Campus, however these pupils can still make the decision up to 15 March in line with the placing request policy. Kemnay Academy has had a slight increase in their capacity to 730 and decrease of the working capacity to 980 due to internal reconfiguration and the removal of non-linked accommodation. An Admission limit of 190 with 4 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.

- 4.13 Mackie Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 210 with 5 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 212. An Admission limit of 240 with 5 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.
- 4.14 Mearns Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 140 with 10 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 107. An Admission limit of 120 with 10 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.
- 4.15 Meldrum Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 180 with 10 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone and dual zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 194 to 213. Reconfiguration works are planned at Meldrum Academy in summer 2021, this will increase the capacity from 980 to 1050. An Admission limit of 220 with 5 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.
- 4.16 Mintlaw Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 200 with 15 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 164. An Admission limit of 180 with 8 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.
- 4.17 Peterhead Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 270 with 5 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 288. An Admission limit of 300 with 5 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.
- 4.18 Portlethen Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 180 with 8 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 177. An Admission limit of 200 with 12 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.
- 4.19 Turriff Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 150 with 5 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 153-155. An Admission limit of 160 with 5 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.
- 4.20 Westhill Academy – The current S1 Admission Limit is 160 with 5 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 159. An Admission limit of 180 with 7 reserved places for the 2021/22 S1 year group is therefore proposed.

4.21 S1 Admission Limit and Reserved Places for 2021/22

School	Published Capacity	Working Capacity	S1 current Admission Limit (2020/21)	Recommended S1 Admission Limit 2021-22 (inclusive of reserved places S1 to S4)
Aboyne	750	750	140 (5)	140(5)
Alford	700	700	140 (5)	135(5)
Banchory	900	1050 (T)	160 (5)	160(3)
Banff	1220	1220	200 (5)	220(5)
Ellon	1300	1300	240 (5)	240(10)
Fraserburgh	1450	1450	260 (5)	240(5)
Inverurie	1600	1600	280 (10)	280(10)
Kemnay	730	980(T)	180 (4)	190(4)
Mackie	1290	1640 (T)	210 (5)	240(5)
Mearns	700	700	140 (10)	120(10)
Meldrum	980	980	180 (10)	220(5)
Mintlaw	900	900	200 (15)	180(8)
The Gordon Schools	870	1160 (T)	160 (5)	160(5)
Peterhead	1700	1700	270 (5)	300(5)
Portlethen	970	970	180 (8)	200(12)
Turriff	840	870 (T)	150 (5)	160(5)
Westhill	1000	1000	160 (5)	180(7)

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

5.1

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Education Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Infrastructure Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy & Enterprise Estate Modernisation

This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority “Education” and “Health and Wellbeing” within the pillar “Our People”, and the “Economy and Enterprise” within the “Our Economy” pillar, securing continuous improvement in outcomes for ALL children and young people.

This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority “Estate Modernisation” within the Pillar “Our Economy”, having responsible finances and having an estate that is sustainable, efficient and fit for purpose.

- 5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			X
Staffing		X	
Equalities			X
Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Town Centre First			X
Sustainability			X
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X

There is no risk or implications of Equalities or Fairer Scotland Duty as this report is to safeguard the Secondary Schools from exceeding their overall capacity.

Implementing the recommended S1 limit and reserved places will prevent an impact on staffing as schools are able to plan their staffing formula based upon in-zone pupil numbers.

- 5.3 An equality impact assessment is not required because it is not believed that this will have a negative impact on any of the groups with protected characteristics and does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics as all pupils are provided a place at their zoned academy.
- 5.4 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: ACORP007 Social risk (demographic change). [Corporate Risk Register](#).

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level: ECSR002 Developing Excellence and Equality [Directorate Risk Registers](#).

6 Scheme of Governance

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section E.1.1.b and E.3.1.a of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to setting school capacities.

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