

## **REPORT TO EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17 MARCH 2022**

### **SECONDARY SCHOOL S1 ADMISSION LIMITS AND RESERVED PLACES**

#### **1 Executive Summary/Recommendations**

**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. This report sets out the proposed S1 limit and reserved places for the school term 2022/23 which Councillors are asked to agree.

#### **1.2 The Committee is recommended to:**

**1.2.1 Agree the Secondary School admission limits for the school term 2022/23; and**

**1.2.2 Agree the number of reserved places for Secondary Schools for the school term 2022/23.**

#### **2 Decision Making Route**

**2.1** Admission limits require to be reviewed regularly and varied to adapt to demand for in zone places. These variations must be approved by Education & Children's Services Committee.

**2.2** 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.

**2.3** To ensure that the S1 limit is 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 2022). Primary Schools within dual zones were also contacted to establish where pupils had chosen to attend to ensure no duplications.

**2.4** The reserved spaces are determined by considering previous number of placing requests, new families moving in zone during the session and expected housing growth.

#### **3 Discussion**

**3.1** On 18 March 2021, Education & Children's Services Committee agreed the current 2021/22 S1 admission limits for all Aberdeenshire Secondary Schools.

**3.2** Over the last three years the Learning Estates Team have processed 756 placing requests for secondary schools. Of these, 36 placing requests were refused due to the secondary admission limit being reached. Therefore setting

a secondary school limit for S1 is vital to safeguard the reserved places for in zone pupils and maintaining the school roll within overall capacity.

- 3.3 The recommended admission limits for S1 in 2022/23 inclusive of the recommended reserved places for the cohort S1 2022/23 through to S4 is shown in 3.21. This table shows the admission limit and reserved places shown in brackets.
- 3.4 As an example if a school has a limit of 160 with 5 reserved places this is shown as 160(5) which means placing requests can be accepted until a roll of 155 is reached for that cohort.
- 3.5 Once this limit is reached, any further out of zone placing requests for that year group will be refused, on the basis that accepting this 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.
- 3.6 The recommended S1 limit and reserved places for Aboyne, Banff and Portlethen, will stay the same from the previous 2021/22 session, however the following schools will require an adjustment to their limit.
- 3.7 Alford Academy - The current S1 Admission Limit is 135 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 the forthcoming session is 115. An Admission limit of 135 with 10 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.
- 3.8 Banchory Academy - The current S1 Admission Limit is 160 with 3 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 150. An Admission limit of 160 with 5 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.
- 3.9 Ellon Academy - The current S1 Admission Limit is 240 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 174. An Admission limit of 220 with 7 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.
- 3.10 Fraserburgh 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 243. An Admission limit of 260 with 10 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.
- 3.11 Inverurie Academy - The current S1 Admission Limit is 280 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 242, this includes pupils from Kinellar who 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. An Admission limit of 270 with 10 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.

- 3.12 Kemnay Academy - The current S1 Admission Limit is 190 with 4 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 185, this number takes into account the pupils from Kinellar who 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. An Admission limit of 200 with 6 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.
- 3.13 Mackie 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 196. An Admission limit of 205 with 5 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.
- 3.14 Mearns Academy - The current S1 Admission Limit is 120 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 133. An Admission limit of 140 with 5 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.
- 3.15 Meldrum Academy - The current S1 Admission Limit is 220 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 175. Meldrum Academy has had an increase in their capacity to 1050 due to reconfiguration works over summer 2021. Pressure on the capacity is expected to continue at Meldrum Academy. An Admission limit of 200 with 10 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.
- 3.16 Mintlaw 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 169. An Admission limit of 180 with 5 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.
- 3.17 The Gordon Schools - The current S1 Admission Limit is 160 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 the forthcoming session is 120. An Admission limit of 140 with 5 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.
- 3.18 Peterhead Academy - The current S1 Admission Limit is 300 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 258. An Admission limit of 270 with 5 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.
- 3.19 Turriff Academy - The current S1 Admission Limit is 160 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 112. An Admission limit of 140 with 5 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.

3.20 Westhill Academy - The current S1 Admission Limit is 180 with 7 reserved places. The latest figures available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in forthcoming session is 132. An Admission limit of 160 with 5 reserved spaces is therefore proposed for the 2022/23 S1 year group.

3.21 Table for S1 Limit and Reserved Places 2022/23

School	Published Capacity	Working Capacity	S1 current Admission Limit (2021/22)	Recommended S1 Admission Limit 2022-23 (inclusive of reserved places S1 to S4)
Aboyne	750	750	140(5)	140 (5)
Alford	700	700	135(5)	135 (10)
Banchory	900	1050 (T)	160(3)	160 (5)
Banff	1220	1220	220(5)	220 (5)
Ellon	1300	1300	240(10)	220(7)
Fraserburgh	1450	1450	240(5)	260 (10)
Inverurie	1600	1600	280(10)	270(10)
Kemnay	730	980(T)	190(4)	200(6)
Mackie	1290	1640 (T)	240(5)	205(5)
Mearns	700	700	120(10)	140(5)
Meldrum	1050	1050	220(5)	200(10)
Mintlaw	900	900	180(8)	180(5)
The Gordon Schools	870	1160 (T)	160(5)	140(5)
Peterhead	1700	1700	300(5)	270(5)
Portlethen	970	970	200(12)	200(12)
Turriff	840	870 (T)	160(5)	140(5)
Westhill	1000	1000	180(7)	160(5)

**4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk**

4.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority “Education” and “Health and Wellbeing” within the pillar “Our People”, 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.

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

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

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

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

4.4 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken. This report does not require an impact assessment as it is believed that it will not have a negative impact on any of the groups or individuals with protected characteristics, wellbeing or rights. Setting of the S1 limit and reserved places annually safeguards each Secondary School in Aberdeenshire exceeding it's overall capacity whilst allowing all pupils a place in their zoned Academy.

4.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- ACOPR004 Business and organisational transformation and ACORP007 Social Risk (population changes) Corporate Risk Register.

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

- ECSR003 To have improved business support and resource management arrangements in place across ECS. Directorate Risk Register.

## **5 Scheme of Governance**

5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

5.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section E.1.1b and E.3.1a of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to Education and setting of school capacities.

**Laurence Findlay**  
**Director of Education & Children's Services**

Report prepared by Kelly Tennant, Learning Estates Officer  
Date 1 March 2022