

Meeting:	Harrow Admissions Forum
Date:	19 July 2006
Subject:	Single Intake to Reception – Pilot 2005/2008
Responsible Officer:	Geoff Wingrove
Contact Officer:	Madeleine Hitchens
Portfolio Holder:	Janet Mote
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Public

Section 1: Summary

For information

To note the information sent to schools advising them of the timetable for the evaluation of the single intake pilot

Reason for report

A three-year pilot scheme to admit children in one intake in September started in September 2005. As part of the pilot it was agreed that a review of the scheme be undertaken after a full academic year.

Benefits

A review after one year will enable the impact of single intake to be assessed and to consider any adjustments that may need to be made to the scheme.

Cost of Proposals

None

Risks

Not undertaking a review after one year of the pilot scheme will mean there is no evaluation of the impact of single intake and no opportunity to amend the scheme if this is required.

Implications if recommendations rejected

Parents, schools and pre-school groups will not have an opportunity to comment on the advantages/disadvantages of a single intake to Reception.

Section 2: Report

Brief History

At its meeting on 6 March 2006, the Admissions Forum agreed a timetable (see Appendix 1) for the evaluation of the single intake pilot. The first activity agreed was to send a letter to schools and playgroups advising that evaluation of single intake will take place during the Autumn term and asking them to consider how they will involve parents in the process.

A copy of the letter sent to schools and pre-school groups is attached (see Appendix 2) for information.

Options considered

N/A

Consultation

N/A

Financial Implications

The single intake to reception has no financial implications for schools or the LA, as schools are currently funded for pupils for the whole year.

Legal Implications

Under s89 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1989 every admission Authority must determine the admission arrangements, which are to apply for a particular school year. Before determination the Authority must consult with the relevant bodies as prescribed by Statute.

Equalities Impact

A single entry point to reception means all children can benefit from a full year in Reception class. It also assists schools in beginning to address the under achievement of spring and summer born children highlighted in NFER studies undertaken the late 1990s. It assures equality of opportunity for all children and parents, with summer born children enjoying the same rights as those born earlier.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

N/A

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 : Timetable for evaluation of single intake to reception

Appendix 2 : Letter to schools and pre-school groups

Background papers

Report to Harrow Admissions Forum 6 March 2006 – Single Intake Evaluation
Cabinet Report 14 April 2006 – Determination of Admission Arrangements for
the 2006/7 academic year

APPENDIX 1

TIMETABLE FOR EVALUATION OF SINGLE INTAKE TO RECEPTION

DATE	ACTION
June 2006	Letter to schools and playgroups advising that evaluation of single intake will take place during the Autumn term and asking them to consider how they will involve parents in the process.
4th September 2006	Evaluation forms and covering letter to schools / playgroups Information and evaluation form on Harrow website
September edition	Article and evaluation form printed in Harrow People Magazine
27 October 2006	Closing date for receipt of evaluation forms
October/November 2006	Analysis of evaluation forms
Early November 2006	Meeting of HAF to assess outcome of evaluation and make recommendations for consultation on single intake in relation to Admission Arrangements for September 2008.
November 2006 to February 2007	Consultation on Admission Arrangements for September 2008.
March 2007	Meeting of HAF to review outcomes of consultation and agree recommendations to Cabinet
April 2007	Report to Cabinet to agree Admission Arrangements for the 2008 academic year to meet statutory deadline (ie 15 April 2007).

APPENDIX 2

26 June 2006

To Headteachers of community
First and First & Middle Schools
and Nursery and Pre-School Playgroup Leaders

Dear Colleague

SINGLE INTAKE TO RECEPTION

You will recall that Harrow is currently in Year 1 of a three-year pilot to admit children in a single intake into Reception. As part of the pilot it was agreed to undertake an evaluation of the impact of single intake after a full academic year.

I am just writing to advise you that evaluation forms will be sent to you in September. There will be two forms, one for you to give your views and another for you to give to parents in order to get their views. The Harrow Admissions Forum has asked me to contact you at this stage in order to give you time to consider how best to engage parents in this evaluation to ensure as many as possible are able to give their views.

The evaluation forms will be sent to you early in September. An article informing parents about the evaluation will also appear in the Harrow People Magazine and details will be on Harrow's website. Consultation will close on 27 October 2006 and, following analysis of the evaluation forms, a report will be presented to the Harrow Admissions Forum at its meeting in November. The Harrow Admissions Forum will then decide whether to recommend to adopt a single intake for admission to Harrow community schools and their recommendation will form part of the annual consultation on admission arrangements in the Autumn.

If there is any further information you require, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Madeleine Hitchens
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