

February 2010

Sue Lantair,
Children's Services Department,
Hampshire County Council,
The Castle,
Elizabeth II Court East,
Winchester,
Hampshire,
SO23 8UG.

Dear Sue Lantair

Response to “Consultation on Admission Arrangements” - School admission arrangements from September 2010 and for the school year 2011/12

As a parent, I feel that the delay in informing families of their child’s school place as late as 6 May will be detrimental to children, schools and families in Hampshire for the following reasons:

- It will not allow receiving schools enough time to plan class structure and the appropriate allocation of children to classes.
- It will not allow parents who wish to appeal against their given school enough time to go through the appeals process before the start of the new school year in September.
- Parents will not be able to plan purchases of school uniform, equipment etc. especially as that many stores start uniform sales early in the summer term!
- All children have insecurities relating to transition, so the reduced time for transfer arrangements will put children under increased pressure to adjust thereby leading to an unsettled start to the new academic year for both the children and staff.
- I find it hard to understand why the Notification Date has had to be some three months later than in previous years.

In summary, I believe that if the County Council really have the interests of families and schools at heart then they should be looking at ways to speed up the process of admissions.

Transferring between schools is stressful for children and parents/carers as well as for schools taking a new intake. By reducing the time that all parties have to make arrangements for the new school year, unnecessary pressure is being placed on everyone concerned. This can only result in unsettled children, unsettled classroom and ultimately poor performance by children.

I believe the points made above are very important and should be addressed by Children Services so that admissions are dealt in a way that is more timely and considerate of the needs of schools and families.

Yours sincerely