

**EDUCATION AND RECREATION COMMITTEE - 23 MARCH 2006****ADMISSION LIMITS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN 2006-07****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report asks members of the Education & Recreation Committee to approve variations from the capacity related Admission Limits for Aberdeenshire secondary schools for session 2006-07 where these are necessary to meet the demand for places from within schools' delineated zones.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 24 March 2005, the Education & Recreation Committee agreed to set Admission Limits for all Aberdeenshire Secondary Schools.
- 2.2 It was established Committee Policy that school capacities were assessed on the basis of permanent accommodation together with linked modular units, but that other temporary accommodation was excluded from the assessment. The Committee agreed that Admission Limits should be set on the same basis.
- 2.3 Where admission limits required to be varied to cope with demand for places from within the school's zone, the Committee would be asked to approve the variation. It was envisaged that a single annual report to Committee would cover all such variations.
- 2.4 Any variation to the normal admission limit would apply to a particular cohort of pupils and would follow that cohort as it moved through the school.
- 2.5 Where Admission Limits were first applied to schools in session 2005-06, they were to apply to S1 only. In 2006-07, they will apply to S1 and S2. Admission Limits apply in session 2006-07 to the S1 to S4 cohorts in those schools which had them prior to the March 2005 Committee decision.

3 Variations Requested**3.1 Aboyne Academy**

The capacity based Admission Limit is 100. The latest figure available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in August is 137.

An Admission Limit of 140 for the new S1 year group is therefore proposed.

3.2 Banchory Academy

The capacity based Admission Limit is 150. The latest figure available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in August is 155.

An Admission Limit of 160 for the new S1 year group is therefore proposed.

3.3 Ellon Academy

The capacity based Admission Limit is 220. The latest figure available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in August is 219. In view of the housing development in the area, the number is expected to rise.

An Admission Limit of 240 for the new S1 year group is therefore proposed.

3.4 Kemnay Academy

The capacity based Admission Limit is 120. The latest figure available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in August is 127.

An Admission Limit of 140 for the new S1 year group is therefore proposed.

3.5 Mackie Academy

The capacity based Admission Limit is 220. The latest figure available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in August is 221.

An Admission Limit of 240 for the new S1 year group is therefore proposed.

3.6 Meldrum Academy

The capacity based Admission Limit is 180. The latest figure available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in August is 187.

An Admission Limit of 200 for the new S1 year group is therefore proposed.

3.7 Turriff Academy

The capacity based Admission Limit is 140. The latest figure available for the number of in-zone P7 pupils who will require S1 places in August is 141.

An Admission Limit of 160 for the new S1 year group is therefore proposed.

4 Changes to Permanent Capacities of Schools

4.1 Portlethen Academy

The new school is due to be available for use in time for session 2006-07.

Members will recall that as construction was already under way at the time the Committee set Admission Limits for all secondary schools in March 2005, the Admission Limit for Portlethen Academy was based on the capacity of the new school. No amendment to the agreed capacity is required.

4.2 Mearns Academy

The published capacity of 445 was not altered at the time Laurencekirk Primary School moved off the campus to its new buildings. Applying the Aberdeenshire Standard for assessing capacities to the academy including the teaching accommodation vacated by the primary school leads to an assessed capacity of 540. In accordance with the Committee's policy on Admission Limits, the capacity based Admission Limit would then become 100.

4.2 Other Schools

There are no changes to the permanent capacity of other secondary schools so the capacity based Admission Limits remain unchanged.

4.3 National Policy on Class Sizes

A maximum class size of 20 for English and Mathematics in S1 and S2 is to take effect in session 2007-08. Officers are in discussion with schools to quantify the effect of this change on the use of teaching accommodation. Any requirement to revise school capacities as a result of this will be included in this report to the Committee next year.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Although there are no financial implications arising directly from this report, maintaining control over admissions may be expected to reduce the number of occasions on which the Council requires to provide temporary accommodation or build extensions.

6. Area Implications

6.1 There are no implications of this report which have specific implications for particular Areas within Aberdeenshire.

7. Consultation

7.1 Education Network Managers have proposed the variations to Admission Limits set out in section 3 above after consultation with the headteachers of the schools concerned.

8. Policy Implications

8.1 A policy on Admission Limits provides a degree of increased control over admissions which will enable the Council to operate its Asset Management Plan more effectively.

9. Environmental Implications

9.1 There are no implications for the Council's Environmental Charter arising from this report.

10. Staffing Implications

10.1 There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

11. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

11.1 Approve the following variations to Secondary School Admission Limits for 2006-07;

School	Year Group	Revised Admission Limit
Aboyne Academy	S1	140
Banchory Academy	S1	160
Ellon Academy	S1	240
Kemnay Academy	S1	140
Mackie Academy	S1	240
Meldrum Academy	S1	200
Turriff Academy	S1	160

11.2 Confirm the change in the published capacity of Mearns Academy from 445 to 540, and the consequential change in its capacity based Admission Limit to 100.

Author of Report
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Date of Report
8 March 2006

Minute Details

2. ADMISSION LIMITS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS 2006/07

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of 24 March, 2005 (Item 2, Page 1962), there had been circulated a report dated 8 March, 2006, by the Director of Education and Recreation requesting the Committee to approve variations from the capacity related admission limits for Aberdeenshire secondary schools for session 2006/07 where these are necessary to meet the demand for places from within schools' delineated zones.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve variations to secondary school admission limits for 2006/07 as set out in Appendix A to this Minute, and
- (2) to confirm the change in the published capacity of Mearns Academy from 445 to 540, and the consequential change in its capacity based admission limit to 100.