

Denbighshire School Admission Arrangements 2022/23

Well-being Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	915
Brief description:	This is the Authority's statutory requirement to make relevant school admission arrangements in line with the School Admissions Code in Wales.
Date Completed:	19/03/2021 12:22:15 Version: 2
Completed by:	Ian Land
Responsible Service:	Education & Children Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	The School Admission arrangements have implications for school aged children and their families in Denbighshire
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	No

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

★★★★ (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 25 / 36.

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term	The Admissions processes drive Education in Denbighshire. The above aspects of sustainability are therefore also linked to other areas of work; from the development of new schools, school transport, school management etc. The focus being to ensure pupils can attend their nearest suitable school, notwithstanding that legislation does permit parental choice.
Prevention	Admissions legislation in Wales does permit parental choice of school; however, the Authority works towards ensuring that places are available in the nearest suitable school.
Integration	Whereas the Admission Policy process does not have to directly consider the Local Development Plan, in a wider context for the development of Schools and Education throughout Denbighshire, this is very much part of the process through our Modernising Education Team. This ensures that schools are able to meet the demands that future developments may bring.
Collaboration	The Admissions Code processes are prescriptive, for which all Authorities in Wales must comply.
Involvement	The Admissions Code for Wales provides a list of statutory consultees for this process annually. This has been complied with for arrangements for Denbighshire from 2022/23.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire	Neutral
A resilient Denbighshire	Neutral
A healthier Denbighshire	Negative
A more equal Denbighshire	Neutral
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Neutral
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Positive
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Positive



Main conclusions

This process is controlled by the Welsh Government through their legislative framework. The Authority therefore has to comply with this strict framework and is not able to vary its approach. This Policy is for one academic year only - admissions from September 2022 - August 2023, and is updated annually.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- ☐ We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- ☐ We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may affected by the proposal
- ☒ We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Although the policy is written within the legislative framework provided by the Welsh Government, the Oversubscription Criteria used are set by Denbighshire to keep local schools for local children, thus lowering time and distance in travelling to school.
Further actions required	The negative above is actually a positive in terms of the well-being of children, permitting access to education with their friends from the feeder school

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Families applying for local schools receive priority for places, which lowers travelling distance to school.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Use infrastructure in measuring distance from home to school accessing up to date road/footpath information. Although not part of this policy Parents are to consider the implications of school transport when applying for certain schools. This is referenced in the Denbighshire's Learner Transport Policy.
Economic development	Although not part of the policy all primary schools have a Breakfast club, and many provide after school arrangements, thus supporting working parents. In Wales Breakfast clubs are obligatory from 830am.
Quality skills for the long term	
Quality jobs for the long term	
Childcare	Possibly, See above

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	The policy has to include an oversubscription criteria. "Feeder school" arrangements may also result in more pupils being admitted to a Secondary school where that school is not the necessarily the nearest from home. However, such an arrangement is also supports the welfare of child; in that they can attend the secondary school with their friends and it is not purely on distance from home.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	
Economic development	
Quality skills for the long term	
Quality jobs for the long term	
Childcare	

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	No change to existing arrangements from previous years.
Further actions required	Parent / carers have the right to select the school of choice, and the oversubscription criteria may also result in pupils not attending their nearest suitable school. However, the Admissions process works within a Welsh Government framework and this is an unintended consequence for which the Authority has no control.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	
Biodiversity in the built environment	
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Families applying for local schools receive priority for places, which lowers travelling distance to school
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	
Flood risk management	

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	
Biodiversity in the built environment	
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	There may be parents transporting their children to school - long or short distances; by their own choice in some instances
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	
Flood risk management	

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	The legislation framework with which school admissions operates could cause anxiety in regard to whether parents / carers get the requested school place. This unintended outcome is beyond the control of Local Government and is directly linked to capacity issue at school, which are finite. The process tries to ensure that available places are assigned in a fair and equitable way.

Further actions required	Publicising the benefits of attending the local school. Providing an open and transparent process which shows a clear explanation of the constraints which admissions operate within and the considerations given to the applications received. Denbighshire's Modernising Schools agenda takes a long-term view of the places available in schools and the future requirements dependant on demographics and planning development.
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Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	By admitting pupils to their nearest suitable school it could encourage walking / cycling to school where able. However, parents / carers can select a school of preference which may not be their nearest. For which they would then have to transport their children.
Access to good quality, healthy food	
People's emotional and mental well-being	People applying for their local school are more likely to be offered a place at the school, provided they apply on-time.
Access to healthcare	
Participation in leisure opportunities	

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	
Access to good quality, healthy food	
People's emotional and mental well-being	If a school is oversubscribed then children may not be offered a place at the parent's / carer's preferred school.
Access to healthcare	
Participation in leisure opportunities	

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	We think this is neutral. Any unintended negative aspect are recognised and countered within other policies as they cannot be specifically dealt with under admissions due to the nature of the legislative framework.
Further actions required	With supporting evidence, health conditions could be used in the oversubscriptions criteria, but there is a process by which parents / carers can raise such issues through appeal.

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	We are not aware of any negative consequences relating to those with protected characteristics
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	
People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes	
Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage	

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	
People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes	Pupils may have to travel further for a school place following assessment of oversubscription. However, this aspect is covered within other policies, specifically the Learner Transport Policy, which will provide free transport in such circumstances. For parents who express a preference for a school which is not the nearest suitable school, this would not apply.
Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage	The policy does consider any specific health issues of parents / carers as part of the admission process. However, these may be included in any declaration from parents / carers during the Appeals process. For which the independent appeals panel may consider these and other circumstances.

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Schools are considered to play a major role in communities, but - as long as there are available places - it is the parents' decision where their children should attend school.
Further actions required	No negatives highlighted

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Vulnerable children are considered within the policy, and, working with other Education Officers, are admitted as quickly as possible.
Community participation and resilience	
The attractiveness of the area	
Connected communities	
Rural resilience	

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	
Community participation and resilience	
The attractiveness of the area	
Connected communities	
Rural resilience	

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Actively promoting the Welsh language and raising awareness of the provision within the schools.
Further actions required	No negatives highlighted

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	The parents' language preference is considered when shortlisting for places.
Promoting the Welsh language	All information regarding school admissions is bilingual thus following the Welsh Language Standards. Publicised lists of schools include information on the language used in each school.
Culture and heritage	

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	
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Promoting the Welsh language	
Culture and heritage	

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The process positively addresses the right to education for all, which is then accommodated within Denbighshire's school places.
Further actions required	No negatives highlighted

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	
Human rights	Right to access education and the right to express a school preference.
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	
Reducing climate change	

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	
Human rights	
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	
Reducing climate change	