

**REPORT TO:** Education Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 25 March 2014

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

**SUBJECT:** Roll Capping at Dunbar Grammar School, Knox Academy, Musselburgh Grammar School and North Berwick High School

## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to approve the S1-S4 intake level at the above secondary schools for Session 2014/15.

## 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to agree a maximum intake level in S1-S4 for session 2014/15 in the schools listed below. The reasons for this are set out in section 3.

School	Maximum S1 intake level	Maximum S2 intake level	Maximum S3 intake level	Maximum S4 intake level
Dunbar Grammar School	160	160	140	180
Knox Academy	140	140	150	140
Musselburgh Grammar	220	240	240	240
North Berwick High	140	180	160	180

- 2.2 Taking account of migration in and out of the above schools prior to and throughout school session 2013/2014, the following increases/decreases have been requested from June 2014:

- North Berwick High School increases current S1 from 160 to 180 for S2

- Knox Academy increases current S2 from 140 to 150 for S3
- Dunbar Grammar decreases current S1 from 180 to 160 for S2
- Dunbar Grammar decreases current S2 from 160 to 140 for S3

### 3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The main principles for managing secondary school rolls in East Lothian are to:

- provide high quality education at local schools for local pupils
- ensure equality of resources throughout East Lothian
- commit to a real choice of education inside our schools not between our schools

3.2 As an education authority, East Lothian Council has to manage public funds and ensure a balanced education service across the authority in terms of expenditure and resources. This is largely managed by agreeing to limit the overall school roll for a school or to limit the number of pupils in one specific year. This is commonly referred to as “capping”.

3.3 When considering how to cap school rolls, East Lothian Council as an education authority must look at all its schools and available resources. We also consider the total population of children who require places in our secondary schools and how many of those are within each catchment area. We consider how each school will manage its resources and we then balance that with other schools’ situations to ensure that resources are shared evenly throughout East Lothian, thereby avoiding unreasonable public expenditure.

3.4 Limiting the number of pupils that the school can admit each academic year allows schools to timetable and employ a suitable number and category of teachers. In general, capping will support appropriate and early organisation for schools to meet their pupils’ needs for a high level of education. Capping prevents detrimental impacts on pupils’ education, and ensures effective and efficient management of resources by the authority.

**Note:** Practical classes, such as science subjects, are set in multiples of 20 pupils in secondary schools. Non-practical classes are set in multiples of 30 pupils. School classrooms are furnished to accommodate a maximum of 30 pupils. Where a limit has been set for S1 roll, this has been calculated on the basis of 20 pupils.

### 3.5 S1 August 2014– Projected School Roll

The pupil numbers projected for session 2014/15 are:

<b>School</b>	<b><u>S1</u></b>	<b><u>S2</u></b>	<b><u>S3</u></b>	<b><u>S4</u></b>	<b><u>S5</u></b>	<b><u>S6</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
<b>Dunbar Grammar</b>	144	153	133	165	121	84	800
<b>Knox Academy</b>	131	138	140	125	122	124	780
<b>Musselburgh Grammar</b>	193	211	222	219	170	128	1153
<b>North Berwick High School</b>	127	159	151	171	161	137	906

3.6 The S1 figure in the table above shows the number of P7 pupils living within the school catchment area as at 26 February 2014. The expected total roll includes pupils who are expected to transfer to S1 in August 2014 and the number of pupils expected to move up into S2 and so on, to S6.

3.7 The process is complex owing to pupils moving to and leaving East Lothian; late applications, and pupils being placed in private schools. We consult with Head Teachers all year round and consider the statistics and information that we collate to decide on appropriate recommendations for the S1 intake. This has informed our capping recommendation, set out in 2.1 above.

3.8 Reserved places must also be considered as part of the roll for secondary schools and a separate report has been completed for this.

## 4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications in this report.

## 5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

## 6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial - None

6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other - None

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

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