

REPORT TO: Education Committee

MEETING DATE: 8 March 2016

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: Roll Capping in East Lothian Secondary Schools – Session 2016/17

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to approve the S1-S4 intake levels for our secondary schools for Session 2016/17.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to agree a maximum intake level in S1-S4 for session 2016/17 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	180	160	160
Knox Academy	140	140	140	140
Musselburgh Grammar School	200	220	200	220
North Berwick High School	160	160	140	180
Preston Lodge High School	200	180	200	200
Ross High School	220	220	180	180

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 and 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 partly 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 and those classrooms are furnished to accommodate a maximum of 30 pupils. Where a limit has been set for S1 roll, this has been calculated in multiples of 20, as per practical class maximum.

3.5 S1 August 2016– Projected School Roll

The pupil numbers projected for session 2016/17 are:

School	<u>S1</u>	<u>S2</u>	<u>S3</u>	<u>S4</u>	<u>S5</u>	<u>S6</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Dunbar Grammar	147	165	145	154	122	127	860
Knox Academy	115	136	135	136	134	96	752
Musselburgh Grammar	193	213	186	208	181	130	1111
North Berwick High School	147	154	131	166	143	144	885
Preston Lodge High School	196	164	186	195	160	113	1014
Ross High School	215	209	176	170	134	107	1011

- 3.6 The projected total roll includes pupils who are expected to transfer to S1 in August 2016 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 choosing private schools. We consult with Head Teachers regularly 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

AUTHOR'S NAME	Fiona Brown
DESIGNATION	Principal Officer, School Planning and Admissions, Education Business Unit
CONTACT INFO	Tel: 01620 827415 Email: fbrown@eastlothian.gov.uk
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