

REPORT TO: Education Committee

MEETING DATE: 21 March 2023

BY: Executive Director, Education & Children’s Services

SUBJECT: Roll Capping in East Lothian Secondary Schools – Session 2023/24

1 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to approve the S1-S4 intake levels for East Lothian secondary schools for Session 2023/24.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to agree a maximum intake level in S1-S4 for session 2023/24 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	220	220	220	220
Knox Academy	180	180	180	160
Musselburgh Grammar School	160	160	160	260
North Berwick High School	180	180	200	180
Preston Lodge High School	240	240	210	210
Ross High School	220	260	240	240
Rosehill High School	160	100	120	N/A

- 2.2 We request that the Committee delegate any changes to the maximum intake level in S1 – S4 to the Head of Education in consultation with the Education Convener, should the number of pupils requiring a place at the school significantly increase or decrease.

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 and 30, as per practical and non-practical class maximum.

3.5 S1 August 2023 – School Roll

Based on the number of pupils expected in S1 and the current S1-S5 pupils progressing into S2-S6, the pupil numbers for next session 2023/24 are expected to be:

School	<u>S1</u>	<u>S2</u>	<u>S3</u>	<u>S4</u>	<u>S5</u>	<u>S6</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Dunbar Grammar	202	202	197	211	190	142	1144
Knox Academy	172	162	162	145	135	80	856
Musselburgh Grammar	133	149	146	244	207	126	1005
North Berwick High School	170	172	189	173	190	143	1037
Preston Lodge High School	225	223	199	205	147	87	1086
Ross High School	215	255	223	235	173	117	1218
Rosehill High School	134	67	96	N/A	N/A	N/A	297

- 3.6 The total roll includes pupils who are expected to transfer to S1 in August 2023 and the number of pupils expected to move up into S2 and so on, to S6. Rosehill High School will not have senior phase pupils in session 2023/24, only S1, S2 and S3.
- 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 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

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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