

REPORT TO: Education Committee

MEETING DATE: 21 March 2017

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: Roll Capping in East Lothian Secondary Schools – Session 2017/18

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 2017/18.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to agree a maximum intake level in S1-S4 for session 2017/18 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	200	160	180	160
Knox Academy	160	140	150	140
Musselburgh Grammar School	220	200	240	200
North Berwick High School	200	160	180	140
Preston Lodge High School	180	200	180	200
Ross High School	240	220	220	180

- 2.2 Taking account of migration in and out of the above schools prior to and throughout school session 2016/2017, the only increases/decreases that have been requested from June 2017 is for Knox Academy to increase the current S2 from 140 to 150 for S3, Musselburgh Grammar to increase the current S2 from 220 to 240 for S3, North Berwick to increase the current S2 from 160 to 180 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 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 2017– Projected School Roll

The pupil numbers projected for session 2017/18 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	191	150	164	153	145	96	899
Knox Academy	150	121	140	131	129	111	783
Musselburgh Grammar	211	192	218	186	179	134	1120
North Berwick High School	174	149	156	127	158	123	887
Preston Lodge High School	178	189	165	188	167	113	1000
Ross High School	236	216	210	174	140	90	1066

- 3.6 The projected total roll includes pupils who are expected to transfer to S1 in August 2017 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 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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