

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

15 October 1996

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Report No 776/96

PLACING REQUESTS FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee approves the enclosed policy statement on the operation of school placing requests.

BACKGROUND

Reference is made to the meeting of the Education Committee of 4 June 1996 (Article 9 refers) when I was instructed to undertake a consultation exercise on proposals which would specify more clearly the Council's approach to dealing with placing requests for either of the two Roman Catholic schools which it manages.

RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION EXERCISE

I wrote, on 6 June 1996, to those bodies affected by the proposal, in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981, namely the Roman Catholic Church and School Boards of all primary schools serving the Arbroath, Brechin and Montrose areas. Responses were sought by 16 September 1996 and only four responses have been received.

- The Bishop of Dunkeld has written welcoming the proposals on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church.
- The School Board of St Margaret's Primary School has written supporting the proposals.
- The School Board of Timmergreens Primary School has written to say they are satisfied with the proposed arrangements.
- The School Board of Ferryden Primary School has written accepting the proposals recommended.

CONCLUSION

In all the circumstances it is recommended that the Committee now approve the proposals which have been incorporated into the enclosed policy statement.

CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted on the contents of this Report.

JIM ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

APPENDIX

JAA/RB

Angus Council
Education Committee

SCHOOL PLACING REQUESTS

The Director of Education is authorised:

- (i) to continue to encourage parents to send their children to the school designated by the Education Authority, but nonetheless to agree to parental placing requests whenever possible
- (ii) when it is necessary, due to the imposition of intake limits, to refuse any placing requests, to operate the following priorities:
 - Priority 1 Children normally resident within the delineated area of the specified school.
 - Priority 2 Children not normally resident within the delineated area of the specified school, but having a brother or sister (or relative permanently living at the same address as part of an extended family)* in attendance at that school.
 - Priority 3 Children not normally resident within the delineated area of the specified school and having no brothers or in attendance at that school.
- * provided that the member of the extended family for whom the placing request has been made has lived within that extended family for a period of at least 2 years.
- (iii) when it is necessary, due to the imposition of an intake limit, to refuse any placing requests for a Roman Catholic school, to operate the above three priority categories, but when it is necessary to refuse only **some** placing requests **within** any one of these three categories -
 - a) to determine priorities within any one category firstly by giving priority to those applicants who declare an affinity with the religious beliefs of the school

(NB In cases where priority does require to be given to applicants declaring an affinity with the religious beliefs of the school, it should be a requirement that the pupils concerned have been baptised in the Roman Catholic Church. Parents should be able to confirm this by the provision of a baptismal certificate)
 - b) otherwise to give priority **within** the Priority 1 Category to children in attendance at the specific school having a brother or sister (or relative living permanently at the same address as part of an extended family), and thereafter if necessary by giving priority to children whose normal place of residence is closest to the specified school - as in (iv) below.
- (iv) for all other schools, when it is necessary to refuse only some placing requests **within** any one of the above three priority categories, to determine priorities by the single criterion of distance from the specified school, with priority being given to children whose normal place of residence is closest to the specified school
- (v) to treat as an exceptional case for entry into secondary school any child who has been required by the Education Authority to attend a primary school not normally designated for the child's place of residence, and to assign such a child to Priority 1 within the secondary school whose delineated area includes the delineated area of the primary school which the child has been required to attend
- (vi) to intimate to all parents whose placing requests are refused due to the imposition of an intake limit for a specific school that their children's names will be held on a waiting list for that school, that any vacant places arising in the school will be allocated to children whose names are on the waiting list in accordance with the Council's system for deciding priorities, and that the waiting list will remain operational until the end of September in the year in which the placing request was made, after which it will cease to operate.

