



Northamptonshire County Council

Fair Access Protocol 2016/17 Consultation – Consultation Document #3 Protocol Comparison and Potential Impact Assessment

1. Overview of the Fair Access Protocol (summary)

In Northamptonshire County Council's Fair Access Protocol ('the Protocol'), core data is used to determine how all mainstream secondary schools (Academies, Free Schools, local authority maintained schools, UTCs and all-through provision) are 'ranked' by the local authority.

A school's rank in the Protocol will determine the order in which children and young people are protocolled to them. In simple terms, the schools with the lowest point scores in each geographical area would be the first schools that students would be protocolled to.¹ The variables, and formulae, used to inform the construction of the points-based Fair Access Protocol used by the county council is shown below (**Table 1**).

#	Variable	What the data shows	Formula used to determine each school's score
1	Number on roll (NOR)	The number of pupils on roll in each mainstream secondary provision (at 01/2016)	Used as baseline data in most of the formulae below.
2	EAL/ESOL	Number of pupils with English as additional language, or English as secondary or other language	$(\text{No. of EAL students} \div \text{no. pupils on roll}) \times 100$
3	SEN (1) – Category 'K'	The number of pupils counted as SEN Category 'K' (formerly School Action Plus)	$(\text{No. of SEN 'K' students} + \text{No. of students with EHCP} - \text{No. of students in DSP provision [if relevant]}) \times 1000$
4	SEN (2) – EHCP	The number of pupils on Education, Health and Care Plans	
5	DSP Offset	Schools with DSP provision/units receive an 'offset' based on the number of students registered in on-site provision.	
6	FSM	The number of pupils eligible for FSM.	$(\text{No. of FSM pupils} / \text{No. pupils on roll}) \times 100$
7	KS2 APS	The Key Stage 2 Average Point Score for each school.	$(33 - \text{KS2 APS}) \times 10$
8	Mobility Factor	The numbers of starters and leavers at each school	$(\text{No. of starters} + \text{no. of leavers} \div \text{no. of pupils on roll}) \times 100$

Table 1: Data used to construct NCC's Fair Access Protocol ranking/scoring system. **Note:** Variables 1 to 6 are extracted from January 2016 School Census data, whilst KS2 APS and Mobility data are taken from separate datasets generated at the end of the 2015/16 academic year. **Source:** NCC Group, BIPI Team.

Each school's final score in the Protocol is the sum of variables 2 to 8 (above) added together, and from this sum, a rank is determined: schools with the lowest scores will be ranked highest (e.g. the first to receive students under the Fair Access Protocol), whilst schools with the highest scores would be the last to be protocolled to.

¹ This is an over-simplified explanation of the protocol. A variety of other factors (for instance, which district/borough schools are located in; how many protocolled children and young people the school may previously have taken; the specific needs of protocolled children and young people; parental preference; negotiation with schools) will also have an influence on where students are protocolled to. A full explanation of the Fair Access Protocol, its statutory basis, and how both Protocol and points system work in practice are contained in the revised **Fair Access Protocol Policy (2016)** document, which supports this consultation.

2. Changing the Fair Access Protocol: proposed removal of Category 'K' SEN students from the FAP

In constructing, and using, the points-based system underpinning the Fair Access Protocol, the local authority has always sought to construct a way of ranking schools which is objective and impartial, and has full and due regard for the unique characteristics, and challenges, of each school's intake. This is why a variety of data sets are used to construct the protocol.

All aspects of the Fair Access Protocol are reviewed annually within the Protocol Steering Group, to ensure that it continues to be fit-for-purpose and fully supported by all schools. If significant changes are proposed to the Protocol, before their introduction, the local authority undertakes consultation to ensure that all schools in the county are aware of these changes, and have the opportunity to express their views.

As a result of feedback received by, and from, the Fair Access Protocol Steering Group², the local authority feels that there is a need to consider revising the way that schools are scored/ranked. As such, from 2016/17, the local authority is proposing to remove SEN Category 'K' learners from the Protocol.

Both the local authority and representatives of the Protocol Steering Group feel that this category lacks the objectivity and consistency of all other variables used to rank schools in the points-based protocol. This category is the only variable which could be applied 'subjectively'³: schools have some leeway in determining who is a Category 'K' student, and not all schools would necessarily categorise students in the same way. It is felt that removing this category from the Protocol scoring system would create more objective, reliable and consistent scores for schools.

3. What will the potential impact of removing this category be?

Changing the data used by the local authority to score, and rank, schools within the Protocol will have an impact on the ranking of some (not all) schools in the county. To show exactly what this impact will be, two different versions of Northamptonshire County Council's Fair Access Protocol have been developed:

- **Version 1** – following previous years' Protocols, this retains Category 'K' SEN students in schools' final scores and rankings.
- **Version 2** – this version removes Category 'K' SEN students from schools' final scores, affecting the ranking of some schools (please see below for an overview).

Both of these spreadsheets can be downloaded from the NCC Consultation Register:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/consultations/Pages/register.aspx>

Additionally, this document provides a direct comparison of how school rankings may change according to which version of the protocol is used (**Table 2**, following page). This table shows how schools are currently ranked (according to the sum of their scores) and how their rank would change, if SEN 'K' students were *not* counted towards each school's final score. The final column ('Ranking change') shows whether or not a school would go up, down or remain unchanged in Protocol ranking as a result of the removal of SEN 'K' from the Protocol - schools with a '+' number in this column would move up the rankings, and '-' numbers indicate that schools would move down the rankings. A number of schools' positions in the ranking remain unchanged, whether or not SEN 'K' is used as a variable

² The Protocol Steering Group (PSG) consists of senior officers from the School Admissions Team, NCC's Education and Inclusion Service and senior education professionals (head teachers, deputy heads or other senior school staff) from each district and borough in Northamptonshire, who represent all area schools, to discuss the practical and technical operation of the Fair Access Protocol and related issues.

³ SEN Category K refers to pupils with SEN support but with no specialist assessment of the type(s) of need.

4. Comparison of Fair Access Protocols (impact on schools' ranking)

DfE	School	Area	Version 1: SEN 'K' counted		Version 2: SEN 'K' <u>not</u> counted		Ranking change
			Score	Index (rank)	Score	Index (rank)	+ / -
4007	Abbeyfield School	N	186.2	25	99.8	25	No change
4601	Bishop Stopford School	K	121.4	9	63.4	6	+3
6907	Brooke Weston Academy	C	94.1	3	62.5	5	-2
4051	Campion School	SN	158.5	16	65.4	7	+9
4005	Caroline Chisholm School	SN	112.3	7	70.6	11	-4
4089	Chenderit School	SN	136.0	11	73.9	12	-1
6906	Corby Business Academy	C	174.1	21	115.2	32	-11
4003	Corby Technical School	C	199.1	28	94.4	22	+6
4010	Daventry UTC	D	236.3	36	107.1	29	+7
2022	DSL - an E-ACT Academy	D	244.9	38	105.8	28	+10
4066	Duston School, The	N	156.4	15	96.0	23	-8
4041	Elizabeth Woodville School	SN	194.1	27	69.3	9	+18
4094	Ferrers School, The	EN	142.7	14	76.3	13	+1
4042	Guilsborough School	D	98.5	4	56.0	3	+1
4017	Huxlow Science College	EN	172.7	20	92.1	20	No change
6908	Kettering Buccleuch Academy	K	135.3	10	113.4	30	-20
6909	Kettering Science Academy	K	174.6	22	97.6	24	-2
4071	Kingsthorpe College	N	238.1	37	120.5	36	+1
4013	Kingswood Secondary Academy	C	230.5	35	118.9	35	No change
4055	Latimer Arts College, The	K	166.2	19	81.3	18	+1
4009	Lodge Park Academy	C	192.0	26	122.1	37	-11
4550	Magdalen College School	SN	109.5	6	54.3	2	+4
6910	Malcolm Arnold Academy	N	220.9	32	142.7	41	-9
5406	Manor School	EN	183.5	24	70.2	10	+14
4015	Montsaye Academy	K	159.7	17	78.5	16	+1
4022	Moulton School & SC	D	161.9	18	68.2	8	+10
6905	Northampton Academy	N	202.6	29	128.8	39	-10
5404	Northampton School For Boys	N	142.2	13	84.2	19	-6
4076	Northampton School for Girls	N	138.4	12	102.0	26	-14
4001	Parker E-ACT Academy, The	D	246.9	39	92.7	21	+18
4016	Prince William School	EN	226.3	33	78.8	17	+16
4011	Silverstone UTC	SN	108.0	5	76.9	15	-10
5409	Sir Christopher Hatton Academy	W	182.4	23	114.2	31	-8
5400	Southfield School for Girls	K	118.9	8	61.1	4	-4
4004	Sponne School	SN	80.4	1	53.1	1	No change
4008	The Rushden Academy	EN	220.5	31	104.5	27	+3
4703	Thomas Becket Catholic School	N	248.9	40	129.9	40	No change
4012	Weavers Academy	W	298.8	41	118.1	34	+7
4000	Weston Favell Academy	N	219.8	30	118.0	33	-3
4038	Wollaston School	W	87.0	2	76.4	14	-12
4014	Wrenn School	W	226.9	34	122.7	38	-4

Table 2: Comparison of the two Fair Access Protocols, and the impact on school scores/rankings on all secondary provision in Northamptonshire. **Note:** The final scores from both versions of the Protocol are rounded to one decimal place. **Key:** Schools with '+' scores would be placed higher in the rankings if SEN 'K' is not used; schools with '-' scores would be placed lower.

As a result of the proposed change to the Fair Access Protocol:

- Five schools' rankings would not change (schools highlighted pale blue in Table 2)
- Six schools' rankings would only change by one place (+1 or -1) (schools highlighted pale green)
- 17 schools would move down the rankings
- 13 schools would move up the rankings

Ultimately, of the 41 schools in the protocol, 11 would experience no, or minor change (+1 or -1) in their rankings.