

Press Release

PR 1762

07 January 2008

For Immediate Release

Making the choice of primary school

Parents of pre-school children in East Sussex are being asked to select the school they would like their child to attend.

Admission booklets containing a range of information and advice for parents of children born between September 2003 and August 2004 are being distributed during January and they have until 8 February to express their school preferences.

Once again, as well as using the application form included within the booklet, parents can also apply on-line through the East Sussex County Council website.

The on-line system is quick, easy to use and available 24-hours a day. Parents applying on-line will get an automatic acknowledgement by email of their application and can print a copy of the form they submit.

Parents are being encouraged to find out as much as possible about their preferred schools before making decisions and applying. They can ask for a copy of the school's prospectus, contact schools for visits, and check the schools latest Ofsted inspection reports.

Three preferred schools can be listed on the form and while the County Council admissions team makes every effort to try to meet a parent's wishes for their child to attend one of the three schools, a place at a particular school cannot be guaranteed.

- 1 -

Cllr Rupert Simmons, the County Council's Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness said: "Clearly choosing a school is a very important decision for a parent to make and I would urge them to do as much research as possible before deciding on their preferences. We do always try to meet a parent's wishes and in the majority of cases this is possible."

The website address is www.eastsussex.gov.uk/admissions and the online service goes live on Friday (11 Jan).

Families who don't have internet access at home can use the electronic information points provided by the County Council or internet access in libraries free of charge.

Ends

**For further information please contact:
Iain Luxford, Communications Manager - Children's Services
Tel: 01273 481365
Out of hours emergency media calls: 07974427569
Email: iain.luxford@eastsussex.gov.uk**