

**Education Standing Committee March 15th 2010
'Lincolnshire Drift'**

The term 'Lincolnshire Drift' is generally understood to refer to the group of Nottinghamshire pupils who, as a consequence of parental preference, attend a Lincolnshire rather than their local Nottinghamshire secondary school. Although generally regarded as a Newark issue it should be recognised that a number of Nottinghamshire pupils attending Lincolnshire secondary schools are resident in the Bassetlaw and Rushcliffe areas. Over the past ten years the number of Newark town pupils attending Lincolnshire secondary schools has increased to around 20% of the transition cohort. Although some of the Lincolnshire schools attended by Nottinghamshire pupils are 'selective' grammar schools, others are single sex and mixed comprehensive schools; the Sir William Robertson High School in Welbourn, Lincolnshire is an 11 – 16 secondary school and has in recent times admitted around 50 Newark town pupils per year. Parents expressing a preference for the school have cited 'discipline, behaviour, academic standards, uniform and rural isolation' as reasons for their preference. The school now arranges transport, at minimal cost to parents, for most of the Newark town pupils attending the school.

**Destination Lincolnshire schools for Y6 pupils attending Grove, Magnus,
and the then Newark High School Linked/Catchment Primary Phase
Schools 2001 - 2009**

Lincs Secondary Schools	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Grantham Walton's Girls				-	6	1	7	5	3
Kesteven and Grantham				12	12	8	8	11	19
North Hykeham				-	0	4	2	0	2
Robert Pattinsson				2	2	5	8	6	2
Sleaford Carre's Gram.				5	10	8	11	10	12
Kesteven and Sleaford H				-	2	14	2	4	10
The Kings School				-	6	7	6	9	10
The Priory LSST				-	0	1	2	0	1
Sir William Robertson				53	66	62	46	46	52
Total 'drift' to Lincs:	57	49	77	93	104	111	92	91	111

Appendix 2

The comparison of year on year 'drift' is not straightforward and is influenced by several factors including: size of cohorts, variation in Planned Admission Numbers PANs/Net Capacity of schools, 11 plus pass rate, Ofsted judgements, Transport Policy, etc. The variable with the most significant impact is probably 'size of cohort' – a small cohort in Lincolnshire means that more places are available in Lincolnshire schools for Nottinghamshire pupils to access. Similarly the number of Lincolnshire pupils achieving the required academic level to pass the 11 Plus exam directly affects the places available to successful candidates living in Nottinghamshire.

The main outcome of 'Lincolnshire Drift' is that many of the academically most able pupils and pupils from families who are best placed to exercise parental preference are 'lost' to Nottinghamshire secondary schools - over 20% of the Newark town cohort in 2009. A consequence of the 'drift' to Lincolnshire is the impact upon both the social and academic profile of pupils attending the affected Nottinghamshire schools, resulting in an intake which is 'skewed'.

Concern over 'Lincolnshire Drift' from Newark stimulated a series of meetings originally dating back to 2005 attended by senior officers of the County Council, head teachers and chairs of governors from Newark town schools. These meetings sought to explore the reasons behind 'Lincolnshire Drift' and how best the problem could be addressed, and have over time encouraged and enabled a raft of supportive strategies designed to strengthen achievement and attainment and raise aspiration. Feedback from parental surveys indicated that 'academic standards, behaviour and uniform' were the main reasons for parents not wanting their child(ren) to attend one of the Newark town secondary schools. Parents also expressed concerns regarding the very different outcomes of Ofsted inspections between primary and secondary phases. The majority of Newark primary schools have been judged to be good or outstanding. Schools, parents and the County Council have the same high aspirations regarding the quality of secondary school provision. Although not generally stated as a reason by parents it was clear that the very different socio-economic profiles of primary schools across the area influenced some parents' decisions as to the preferred secondary school. Levels of socio-economic deprivation of some wards in Newark has an impact upon the pupil intake profile of the Magnus CE and Grove schools, and the County Council in partnership with schools continues to take steps to narrow the achievement gap for these children and young people, eg:

- Nottinghamshire's School to School Support Partnerships Strategy
- Gaining Ground Partnerships
- Local Leaders of Education
- NCC led Networks ie:
 - Raising Achievement Networks
 - GO Good to Outstanding
 - Closing the Gap pilot
 - Data network

Appendix 2

- Cross phase Family Programmes
- Subject Programmes
- 14 – 19 District Networks
- Secondary National Strategy Networks
- Achievement For All
- G&T Pilot (National Challenge schools)
- One to One Tuition
- Behaviour Challenge

The number of children expressing a preference to attend the Grove School in 2010 has increased to the point where the school is oversubscribed.

Despite the efforts of secondary schools to address parents concerns and primary schools to promote the secondary schools in the town there has not been a significant change to the number of parental preferences expressed for Lincolnshire secondary schools.

'Lincolnshire Drift' from Nottinghamshire 2010

The following tables show the anticipated situation for September 2010 following the allocation of places on the 'national offer date' of 01.03.10. It should be noted that the number of pupils transferring to secondary education in September 2010 is lower than in most recent years.

Nottinghamshire Y6 Pupils Allocated a Place at a Lincolnshire School, September 2010

Lincolnshire school	totals	
Carre's Grammar School (Sleaford)	9	
De Aston School Market Rasen	1	
Grantham The Walton Girls' High School	7	
Kesteven & Grantham Girls School	29	
Kesteven & Sleaford High School	4	
Unknown Lincolnshire School	1	
North Hykeham North Kesteven School	7	
Robert Pattinson School	7	
Sir William Robertson High School	28	
St Hughs CofE Mathematics and Computing College	1	
St Peter & St Paul Lincoln's Catholic High School	2	
The Kings School, Grantham	26	
The Priory LSST	2	
The Queen Elizabeth's High School	55	
TOTAL TO LINCOLNSHIRE	179	

Appendix 2

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This can be broken down by area, those pupils attending primary schools in:

Bassetlaw – 48 (Misterton – 11)

Newark – 65 (Coddington CE – 13, John Blow – 17)

Rushcliffe 36 – (Archbishop Cranmer CE – 10, Flintham – 9)

Other Nottinghamshire pupils offered a place attend schools in other areas, Lincolnshire, other local authorities, or the independent sector.

Places Allocated at Bassetlaw and Newark Secondary Schools, September 2010

The allocation of places to Bassetlaw and Newark secondary schools for September 2010 is as follows:

Newark	Total allocated
Dukeries	178
Joseph Whitaker	120
Grove	210
Magnus	164
The Minster	230

Bassetlaw	Total allocated
Elizabethan	192
Portland	220
Retford Oaks	118
Serlby Park	33
Tuxford	240
Valley	290

Minster CE, Tuxford and Grove Schools are oversubscribed for September 2010.