

ISLAND OF SARK

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the CHIEF PLEAS to be held on
WEDNESDAY 19th JUNE 2019 at 7.00 PM
in the ASSEMBLY ROOM

AGENDA

1. MATTERS ARISING from the Extraordinary (Emergency) Meeting of Chief Pleas held on Wednesday, 27th March 2019.
2. To CONSIDER a Report with six Propositions from the EDUCATION COMMITTEE entitled "**Secondary Education**" (copy to follow).
3. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS: To ELECT Conseillers to Committees, as required.
4. COMMITTEE and PANEL ELECTIONS: To ELECT Non-Chief Pleas Members to Committees and Panels, as required.

29th May 2019

Arthur Rolfe
Speaker of Chief Pleas

NOTES:

This meeting has been called under The Reform (Sark) Law, 2008, Section 32 (2) (c) "with the consent of the Speaker, whenever requested in writing so to do by at least nine Conseillers."

Under the Provisions of Rule 12(11) of the Rules of Procedure of the Chief Pleas of Sark the Speaker of Chief Pleas has waived the notice required and allowed this meeting to be called.

Anyone wishing to see any of the Reports and Supporting Papers may do so at the Committee Offices, Monday to Friday, 10.30 - 12.30 and 2 - 4.30 and at other times when the offices are open; copies may be obtained from the Committee Office. The Agenda, Reports and Supporting Papers may also be seen on the Sark Government Website at www.gov.sark.gg

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Report with propositions to Extraordinary Chief Pleas, 19th June 2019

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Following the withdrawal of the item on Secondary Education from Midsummer Chief Pleas 2018, (Item 6), meetings have taken place between the Education Committee and Conseillers and also Conseillers and Parents for further discussion of the options for Secondary Education.

As a result of these discussions there have been some changes to the propositions and the two Government supported options for Sark children from 13 to 16 are detailed below:

Secondary Education in Guernsey

In order to give Sark children access to specialist teaching of a wider choice of GCSE subjects, involvement with a larger peer group, a greater range of extra-curricular activities and more specialist SEN provision, the recommendation is that children whose parents/carers wish it should attend schools in Guernsey from age 13 for years 9, 10 and 11 of their education. The recommended school provided by the Guernsey Government is Les Beaucamps High School and for children who go there Chief Pleas will fund all the tuition and exam fees for the three years.

Children are also free to attend an independent school of their parents/carers choice in Guernsey (Blanchelande College, Elizabeth College or Ladies College) subject to those schools' normal registration and admissions procedures. In that case Chief Pleas will contribute £7000 a year towards the fees at these schools.

The recommendation to limit the choice of schools to those in Guernsey is because we believe it is important for parents/carers to be able to attend events and parents evenings at their childrens' school and for children to be able to return to Sark for the weekend on a regular basis (although we accept that some weekends in Winter it will not be possible). We also wish to work closely with the schools Sark children are going to attend to ensure a smooth transition and this is harder the more different schools the children are attending.

Accommodation in Guernsey will be organised by the island, initially with host families but when the number of children in Guernsey increases in a 'Sark house' (this can probably only be justified financially when we have more children in Guernsey).

Parents and carers of Sark resident children will be expected to contribute to the accommodation costs in Guernsey and boat fares depending on how long their child has been in Sark school. The contributions for the academic year starting September 2019 are proposed to be:

Years in Sark school since the age of 5	contribution per year
2 or less	£4,800
3 or 4	£4,200
5 or 6	£3,600
7 or more	£3,000

The Committee has considered the concerns that have been raised about the cost of accommodation for some families. We are therefore proposing that, in any year in which a family has two or more children with host families, the contribution for accommodation will be reduced to 30% of the normal contribution for the second and subsequent child.

We have also held discussions with existing charities on the island and they have indicated that it should be possible for families who genuinely would struggle with accommodation costs to approach a charity for an interest free loan to enable them to spread those costs over a longer period of time for, example, up to 10 years instead of 3 years. Over 10 years the contribution to accommodation costs for a Sark child for 3 years in Guernsey would work out at less than £20 a week.

A parent or carer of a Sark resident child may also choose to send their child to our partner school in Guernsey but organise their own accommodation. In this case tuition will be paid for by the Government but the parents and carers will be responsible for the full costs of accommodation.

Home Education

If parents and carers choose not to send their child away to school in Guernsey for years 9, 10 and 11 they will be responsible for 'home educating' their child. They will be responsible for agreeing an annual home education plan with a representative of the Board of Education, providing a suitable level of supervision and tutoring for their children and be subject to regular inspections (not less than three times per year) organised by the Board of Education to check that their child is receiving a suitable education.

Chief Pleas will pay for up to 7 GCSE's per child from an on-line GCSE provider chosen by the Board of Education (currently Cloudlearn). Chief Pleas will also pay for exam fees associated with these GCSE's but parents/carers will be responsible for travel and accommodation costs for taking these GCSE's.

To assist these parents and carers and enable them to continue working Chief Pleas will provide a 'Learning Centre' from 8.30 am to 2.30 pm during school term time.

This will consist of an environment provided with computers, printing facilities and supervision for students in Years 9, 10 and 11 studying online GCSE's. Parents can choose for their child to use this facility and agree with the facilitator what days/hours their child is expected to attend. If the child does not attend these hours the parent will be informed.

It has been agreed with the Island Hall Trustees that we will use the Comme Nous room, (initially on a shared basis but the room will not be open to visitors while the children are using it) and have a table with computers and printers. The facilitator will also, if parents/carers wish, assist with arranging suitable work placements for children in the afternoons.

Parents/carers who choose to use the Learning Centre full time will be asked to contribute to the cost on a scale the same as the accommodation cost for children in Guernsey i.e. for the year beginning September 2019:

Years in Sark school since the age of 5	contribution per year
2 or less	£4,800
3 or 4	£4,200
5 or 6	£3,600
7 or more	£3,000

If parents/carers wish to use the facility on a part-time basis the appropriate contribution will be agreed with the Board of Education.

Children using the Learning Centre will join with the school for lunchtime supervision and all home educated children will be allowed to join enrichment activities if they and their parents/carers wish.

Costings

The forecast costs of Guernsey Education and Home Education based on assumptions regarding children currently in Sark School and included in the budget submission are:

	2019 forecast	2020 budget	2021 budget	2022 budget
Guernsey Accommodation	£2,000	£8,000	£14,000	£20,000
Guernsey Based Tuition	£2,400	£9,400	£16,400	£18,800
Guernsey based education costs	£4,400	£17,400	£30,400	£38,800
Learning Hub Costs	£3,500	£10,500	£10,500	£10,500
Cloudlearn fees (£2000 per child in first year plus extra £600 for third year)	£4,000	£2,000	£2,600	£4,600
exam fees (in 2nd/3rd year)		0	£1,800	£1,800
Home Education Costs	£7,500	£12,500	£14,900	£16,900
Parental Contributions	(£2,600)	(£10,000)	(£13,000)	(£16,000)
NET COST OF SECONDARY EDUCATION	£9,300	£19,900	£32,300	£39,700

Proposition 1 -

That Chief Pleas agrees that Sark children should, if their parents /carers wish it, from September 2020 attend schools in Guernsey from age 13 for Years 9, 10 and 11 of their education and directs the Education Committee to work with the parents/carers to arrange suitable school places and accommodation for these children.

Proposition 2 –

That Chief Pleas agrees that from 1st September 2019 Sark School should no longer educate children beyond the age of 13 (Year 8) and instructs the Education Committee to work with the Law Officers to bring any necessary changes to the Education Law and the Education Committee mandate to Michaelmas Chief Pleas.

Proposition 3 –

That Chief Pleas agrees that the funding arrangements and parental contribution for Guernsey education and accommodation should be as set out above.

Proposition 4 –

That Chief Pleas instructs the Education Committee to establish a Learning Centre facility as described above if any parents/carers of Home Educated children notify the Board of Education that they wish to use it.

Proposition 5 –

That Chief Pleas instructs the Education Committee to charge parents for this facility according to the scale of charges set out above.

Proposition 6 –

That Chief Pleas instructs the Education Committee to fund agreed on-line GCSE's from an approved provider and associated exam fees for up to 7 GCSE's per home educated child as agreed with the Board of Education in line with the home education plan for that child.

**Conseiller Pauline Mallinson
Chairman, Education Committee**