



Responses received to Consultation on Admissions Criteria & the Trust's Responses

(Consultation closed Friday 29th January 2021)

Date Received	Respondent	Response
07/12/2020	Respondent 1	<p>I read with interest the letter regarding the Greensand Multi-Academy Trust Consultation on Proposed Admission Arrangements for Greensand Schools for September 2022.</p> <p>I support the removal of the 'nearest school' criteria for the proposed schools and believe this would make a fairer allocation system and enable greater choice of school for parents in the area.</p> <p>Although it is not under the current proposals, I am interested in future changes to the Reigate School admissions criteria and would like to comment on this. My concern is currently that the criteria regarding the child's nearest school means that schools with criteria based on religious attendance are also used to determine the child's nearest school, even when application to such schools are unlikely to be successful due to the very small number of places offered to children of parents without church attendance.</p> <p>I would like to see schools with criteria based on church attendance removed from nearest school criteria. In our current location, our nearest secondary school is St Bedes, and second nearest is Reigate School. We would currently not be offered a place at Reigate School on the basis of nearest school criteria, but we would potentially be offered a place if the school established criteria based on distance to school, or if St Bedes was removed from the list of schools counting in the nearest school criteria. It seems that the solution of removing religious schools from those counted as a 'nearest school' would be simpler than removing the nearest school criteria altogether and I wonder if this has been considered?</p>

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		<p><u>Trust Response:</u></p> <p>These are very helpful comments. It is important to the Trust that our schools serve their local community and do not select on any other criteria.</p> <p>We would need to see whether it was permissible in the Admissions Code to omit voluntary aided schools in this way when reviewing the oversubscription criteria for Reigate School in the future.</p>
	<p>Respondent 2</p>	<p>I just wanted to raise a concern I have regarding the proposed changes to admissions for Holmesdale school in September 2022, when my youngest son is due to start Infant school. I would be most grateful for some reassurance to put my mind at ease.</p> <p>We are in the process of moving house, currently Holmesdale is the ‘nearest school’ to the new house by quite some distance and we would be almost guaranteed a place (based on many years of previous admissions history).</p> <p>I’m concerned that if this changes to ‘straight line distance’, this puts us at a disadvantage and reduces our chance of getting a place, as we will be further away from the school than where we currently live. At the moment we are only 0.89km away from the school, this will change to 1.33km when we move house.</p> <p>Also, there could now be a possibility of people living closer to the school than we do, who previously did not have Holmesdale as their ‘nearest school’ now gaining priority. My eldest son is currently at Holmesdale in Year one, however he will move to Junior school in 2022, so we won’t be eligible for a sibling place at Holmesdale. I know you mention that the changes wouldn't have impacted on how places were allocated in previous years, however I’d be very grateful for some reassurance regarding these concerns to put my mind at ease, as it’s very important to us that he receives a place at Holmesdale school.</p>

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		<p><u>Trust Response:</u></p> <p>We can never guarantee places to anyone. There is always historic data to provide information about places allocated in previous years, but this will only give an indication of likelihood, not a guarantee.</p> <p>The information provided suggests that the changes proposed to the oversubscription criteria for Holmesdale School are unlikely to be detrimental to this family.</p>
26/01/2021	Respondent 3	<p>I would be grateful if Governors could consider the following comments before determining the arrangements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In a determination against a Surrey school last year, the Schools Adjudicator ruled that the statement ‘Where it is not logistically possible to offer each child a place’ within the section on multiple births was not objective as it did not define how the admission authority might determine whether or not it would be logistically possible to offer each child a place. As a result of this determination, the school in question removed this wording from their admission arrangements and has agreed to offer a place to any child from a multiple birth where one child has already been offered a place. You are advised to consider what you publish about the admission of children from multiple births and to amend your admission arrangements in one of the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out that the child(ren) to be offered the remaining place(s) will be determined by their rank position; or • make clear that any child from a multiple birth will be offered a place if one child has already been offered a place and the subsequent child(ren) are ranked consecutively (relevant where children might be ranked in different categories); or • if this might not logistically be possible due to the size of the class rooms, define how you will consider whether or not it would be logistically possible to offer each child a place i.e. what would the considerations be.

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		<p>2. In a determination against a Sutton school last year, the Schools Adjudicator ruled that the admission arrangements could not rule out a relative's address being used as a home address. This was because there may be cases where a child did ordinarily live at a relative's address and to preclude this address from being used would be unfair and unreasonable and thus non-complaint with the Code. As a result of this determination our wording on home address to provide for the circumstances whereby a relative's address might be used, as follows (with the amended text struck through and new text highlighted in red for clarity):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">‘The child's home address excludes any business or childminder's address and must be the child's normal place of residence. It also excludes any relative's address unless the child lives at that address as their normal place of residence’.</p> <p>3. In the third paragraph of the section on ‘Home address’ you need to refer to Reception as well as Year 7.</p> <p>4. I note that on the supplementary form you have indicated that the return address is the Surrey/West Sussex admissions team. However, for the Surrey schools the return address should be the school or the Trust as we will not process these on your behalf. It is the school's responsibility to receive and validate these forms and, if the LA is ranking applicants, to let the Admissions team know of any applicants that qualify.</p> <p>Many thanks and we look forward to receiving a copy of the determined arrangements by 15 March 2021.</p> <p><u>Trust Response:</u></p> <p>All of the comments submitted are very helpful and should be considered by the Trust Board.</p> <p>In regards to point 4, this is a change to current procedure, this can be easily amended.</p>
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