

EMAIL RESPONSES FOR ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2020/21

Responses received

5 email comments were received. These are set out below.

Response 1

I have responded to the consultation, however I would like to add a comment to my response.

on the first question about children of staff as an oversubscription criteria, I would like to note that I am in support of this proposal for qualified teaching staff, as a recruitment incentive and as I know there are national shortages and difficulties recruiting from overseas. However I do not support this as a criteria for admin and other support staff, as I feel they should follow the same criteria as other members of the community.

Response 2

Re: consultation on admission arrangements. Given the fact that the reason given for removing denominational criteria is to make schools fully inclusive to serve their community as stated in the consultation:

"All schools are intended to serve the community. In consultation with the Governors of the school we are consulting on removing the denominational criterion from the oversubscription criteria to make this school fully inclusive",

I want to ask why it is not proposed to make this change for all schools for which Bracknell Forest is the admissions authority.

Do we not want all our schools to be fully inclusive?

Response 3

I would like to register my support for the proposed changes to admission criterion for primary and secondary schools as per the email distributed on this matter. Please confirm my view has been registered.

Response 4

I wanted to raise my concerns regarding this. I sent my son here so that he could be brought up within a c of e school with their ethics and backing from the Church of England. To remove this I believe would have an impact on the religious support for the children but also they would then be in a position where children who do not believe in religion etc to sway this and have a negative impact. As such I feel that it is not within the childrens best interests to do this.

With regards to taking in teachers children and children from adopted outside of the uk - if u open this open to them then why don't you open it up for everyone depending on where everyone works?! Everywhere has difficulty retaining their staff - this is not an excuse to overcrowd already crowded classes and put children in catchment out of catchment - what about the parents who work and who are living in catchment that rely on their children going to the designated school but then can't because of this - this then affects childcare and return could potentially end up with a parent not working and living off benefits as they can't afford the childcare or can't work their career around their child being out of catchment. The logistics just don't work!

Response 5

As a parent of three children at Winkfield St Mary's CE Primary School, I have serious concerns regarding the removal of denominational criteria for entry to the school.

I understand the goal of providing inclusivity for the parish, and that, in the short-term, this may well be achieved. However, I cannot believe that as the school begins to take on more children from non-CofE, and presumably non-Christian, background, there will not be pressure on the school to reduce its focus on Christian beliefs and provide a more inclusive environment where other religions play a more mainstream role. In effect, over time, it will become inappropriate to maintain either the 'CE' aspect of the school's title, or indeed maintain its current strong ties to St Mary's church. Of course, my concerns can only be proven valid in the fullness of time, but I fear that it will be inevitable.

My question is therefore a matter of whether we are actually proposing a rebranding of the school to 'Winkfield Primary School' because I fear that that will be the ultimate outcome.

At a time when basic Christian values, which I remind you are the foundation of our Country, seem in very short supply in the community's day-to-day affairs, surely the emphasis should be in strengthening a school's ties to those values and instilling them in our children. How can any strategy that weakens a schools links to the Country's faith and values be beneficial?

I am very happy to be engaged further as required on this particular matter.

Response Summary

5 people submitted email responses or additional comments. These emails resulted in 10 responses to the individual proposals.

<u>Criteria</u>	Number of responses	In favour of change	Against the change	Comment but no opinion
Addition of Staff criterion	3	2	1	0
Changes to LAC criterion	1	1	0	0
Removal of denominational criterion from Ascot Heath CE Junior	2	1	0	1
Removal of denominational criterion from Winkfield St Mary's	4	1	2	1