



All Saints CE Primary School & Nursery

Nurturing, Resilience and Achievement for all!

Headteacher: Mr Philip Asher, BMus(Hons), PGCE, ARCO, NPQSL

Monday, 16 October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Consultation on the Proposed Admissions Policy 2025/26 for All Saints CE Primary School & Nursery

The Governing Body would like to simplify the Admissions Criteria for our school. This will affect the way places are offered from September 2025 onwards. It will not affect children already attending our school (on the school roll), and not those applying this year for a place from September 2024 (when the current criteria will apply). It only affects those applying for a place from September 2025 onwards.

Updates and Changes to the Policy

The main changes relate to the oversubscription criteria. The current Admissions Policy has seven oversubscription criteria, including three criteria linked to church attendance. However, very few children are admitted to the school under these church criteria, with almost all children allocated a place based on either having siblings in the school or their home's distance from school.

The Governors propose to reduce the number of church attendance based criteria to one, and the overall number of criteria to five. The current church criteria do not provide enough priority to those children and families living near to the school or even within the town.

The proposed criteria seek to use just one church criteria with attendance at any Christian church that is also a member of the Churches Together in Bishops Stortford group. This ensures priority will be given to those children whose families attend a local church and who also live locally.

Additionally, the Governors have taken the opportunity to update a small number of other elements of the Admissions Policy:

- How places are offered to twins or multiple-birth siblings – previously this was based on the 'last place offered', but has been clarified to ensure if either sibling is offered a place, and the other has also applied, all siblings will be offered a place
- Notes and definitions for the following aspects, to bring them into line with current guidance:
 - Children looked after and Previously Looked After – updated to reflect clarity received from the Local Authority and Diocese about the legal definitions used for this criteria
 - Siblings – clarified to support parents understanding of the definition of siblings
 - Children of staff – clarifying the definition to explicitly include children of partners of staff (this was implied previously, but not explicit)
 - Distance from school tiebreak – updated to reflect a fairer random process (using a random number rather than names out of a hat).
- Home address definition used and process for determining the home address has been updated to bring it into line with Hertfordshire County Council's admission rules
- The Supplementary Information Form (SIF) has been updated to reflect the changes, and will only be required for Criteria 3 and 4 (whereas currently it is required for all applicants).

Parsonage Lane, Bishops Stortford, CM23 5BE

T: 01279 836006 E: admin@allsaints.herts.sch.uk

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Consultation Arrangements

The Governors are required to consult on the changes to the criteria. They are participating in the co-ordinated consultation process held each year by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). This means HCC will consult on the Governors' behalf with all schools (primaries, secondaries and special schools) and maintained nursery settings.

However, parents, carers, local pre-school/nursery settings, playgroups, and local residents are also invited to share any comments they may have about the proposed policy changes. We have written to as many of these groups as we can.

The consultation will run from **30 October 2023 to 11 December 2023**.

The proposed admission arrangements for 2025/26 can be found on the school website on www.allsaints.herts.sch.uk - [Our School - Admissions Consultation 2023](#).

A print-out of the proposed Policy can be requested through the school office for collection or it can be posted to you. An electronic copy has also been attached to this email.

If you would like to submit any comments for the Governing Body to consider, please email the school's Admissions Officer, Mrs Wendy Hatch, at consultation@allsaints.herts.sch.uk, or by post to:

Mrs W Hatch, Admissions Officer
All Saints CE Primary School
Parsonage Lane
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 5BE

The Governing Body will then consider all responses received by 11 December 2023 before determining the final admission arrangements by 28 February 2024.

Thank you for your time and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Philip Asher
Headteacher

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