



Friday 12th February 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on the proposed changes to the admissions criteria for our school, now that the consultation period has ended. Firstly I would like to thank everyone who replied as it is extremely important to us to know what our community thinks about the proposals.

The consultation period began in November 2015 and closed on 15th January 2016. By the end of the consultation, the Governors had received 6 written responses to the proposed changes and had also spoken directly with a number of parents who attended the meeting on 12th January.

I have already said that the inclusivity of the school is of the utmost importance to the Governors and that the proposed criteria have been designed to protect that. However I acknowledge that we did not succeed in communicating the rationale for the changes or their impact on our future admissions as well as we could have which has resulted in a degree of uncertainty and confusion, and for this the Governors would like to express their regret.

As a result, we agreed in our recent Governors' meeting to delay the implementation of the proposed changes. We will now be working towards finalising the new admissions criteria for 2018/19.

I want to emphasise again the reasons for making this change. As Governors of a Church of England school, we have a duty to ensure that our admissions criteria meet the needs of the school, our local area and the needs of the community, consistent with our Christian principles and values. The Governors believe that changes to the admissions criteria are appropriate and necessary for us to properly fulfil these duties.

As an example, we believe it is important to our school community that families who no longer live within the "Local Area", as defined in the current criteria, should be able to apply for sibling places because we want to allow families who feel part of our community (because they already have children at the school) to stay together despite having moved. This is one illustration of how we feel the current criteria are no longer meeting our needs, because of the "Local Area" boundary which is in place, and the lack of sibling places available to these families. We do not feel that retaining the "Local Area" boundary is necessary or appropriate. It is not a statutory requirement, and it is not observed by other local primary schools.



There are other examples which we intend to share with you more fully in advance of the new consultation phase which will begin in November 2016. Between now and then, the Governors undertake to revisit the proposed criteria in light of the responses received, and to do further analysis of our admissions so that we can demonstrate more clearly the impact of the proposals on the make-up of our school.

If you have any questions or there is anything you wish to discuss, the Governors can be contacted via the school office.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Ward', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Ward
Chair of Governors

