

# Waterside Primary Academy

Blackhorse Avenue, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 1QU

Telephone: 01494 786608

Email: [office@watersideprimaryacademy.org](mailto:office@watersideprimaryacademy.org)

Website: [www.watersideprimaryacademy.org](http://www.watersideprimaryacademy.org)

Headteacher: Mr. Daniel Atherton



Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

## Re: Consultation on a proposal to change the school's admission policy from September 2024

I am writing to you to inform you of a proposal by the Local Advisory Committee of Waterside Primary Academy to change the oversubscription criteria in the school's admissions policy. The amended oversubscription policy is listed below.

Oversubscription Policy	
<b>Criteria 1</b>	<b>Looked after children</b> A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear [to the admission authority] to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
<b>Criteria 2</b>	<b>Families who have exceptional medical or social needs</b> These exceptional circumstances make it essential that their child attends Waterside Primary Academy rather than any other. These needs must be fully supported by written evidence from the appropriate professional person involved with the family.
<b>Criteria 3</b>	<b>Siblings (who attend our Waterside Cygnets Pre-School)</b> Pupils who are currently on roll at Waterside Primary Academy Pre-School (Waterside Cygnets) and are in attendance for a minimum of 15 hours at the time of application (January 2022) and have a sibling living at the same address who is on the school roll at the time of application and who is expected still to be registered at the school on the admission date.
<b>Criteria 4</b>	<b>Nursery Children</b> Pupils who are currently on roll at Waterside Primary Academy Pre-School (Waterside Cygnets) and are in attendance for a minimum of 15 hours at the time of application (January 2022).
<b>Criteria 5</b>	<b>Siblings (other)</b> Children who have a sibling living at the same address who is on the school roll at the time of application and who is expected still to be registered at the school on the admission date.
<b>Criteria 6</b>	<b>Children of Staff</b> The member of staff has been employed at the school for one year or more at the time at which the application for admission to the schools is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
<b>Criteria 7</b>	<b>All Other Children - Children with a normal home address in our catchment area</b>
<b>Criteria 8</b>	<b>All Other Children - Children with a normal home address outside our catchment area</b>
<b>Criteria 9</b>	<b>Any Other Child</b> Proximity of the child's home, as measured by the straight line distance between the home and the school with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority.



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**Headteacher:** Mr. Daniel Atherton

The proposed date for this to be effective is September 2024. This letter is 6 school weeks' formal notice of the consultation period for this proposal. The consultation will run from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 until Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Other areas of the admissions to the school remain unchanged and will not be affected by the proposal. Parents will still apply for a Reception place through Bucks Council website. Please see Buckinghamshire Council's website for the specific criteria for school admission.

## **What will this mean and what would be the benefit of the proposal?**

We hope that this proposal will provide continuity for the school and the children who attend our nursery. We believe that they will gain the best possible start to their education in a setting that they can stay until the age of eleven. Furthermore, with the school being oversubscribed in reception, it will allow current families at the school to gain priority in admissions into the school, thus avoiding families having to attend two or more different schools.

## **Do staff, Governors and the academy trust support this proposal?**

Yes, The Kings Education Trust, the Local Advisory Committee and staff at Waterside Primary Academy positively support the proposal as they believe that it would benefit current and future pupils and the local community. They are passionate to provide the best possible education for children in our local area and want children and families to have more security in the offer of their places.

## **Will the proposal disrupt the education of the pupils currently at the school?**

No, the make-up of the pupil population and staffing will not change.

## **Why are we consulting now?**

We are keen to understand the views of our local community on this proposal and so, as per best practice recommended by the Department for Education we have incorporated a period of consultation into the decision-making process. The consultation will run from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 until Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

## **Will there be extra traffic?**

We hope that this will reduce traffic at Waterside Primary Academy and in the local area as currently some families are having to do multiple school runs. The school will continue to promote walking, cycling and scooting to school through participation in the Modeshift Stars initiative.

## **What are the next stages in the process?**

Responses will be received throughout the consultation process which ends at 12pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022. These will be analysed and the school will publish the outcomes on its website. If the Local Advisory Committee decide to proceed with the proposal, the school will publish a statutory notice followed by a 4 week representation period for people to comment on, support or object to the proposal. If the proposal goes ahead, we would look to implement the administrative changes for admission from September 2024.



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## How can I respond to this consultation?

Please complete the attached consultation response form and return it to the school for the attention of Mr Daniel Atherton, Headteacher. Alternatively email the school at: [office@watersideprimaryacademy.org](mailto:office@watersideprimaryacademy.org)

We would really welcome your views on our proposal and look forward to receiving your completed response form. Should you have any additional queries please contact us at the address above.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely,

*Daniel Atherton*

**Headteacher**

*Jo Pearce*

**Chair of the Local Advisory Committee**



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To the Local Advisory Committee of Waterside Primary Academy

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

I am – please tick all that apply

- A parent or guardian of a child at Waterside Primary Academy
- A parent of guardian of a child who has or may attend the school
- A close neighbour to the school
- Staff member or a Waterside Primary Academy Local Advisory Committee Member
- Other – please specify

I am in favour of Waterside Primary Academy changing its admissions policy oversubscription criteria from September 2024.

Yes

No

Please can you give your comments on your decision.

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If you would like further information, please provide your email address to enable us to contact you.

Thank you for responding

