



Consultation on proposed Admission Arrangements at The Bulmershe School for entry into Year 7 from September 2027

Introduction

The Bulmershe School is an academy school, within the Corvus Learning Trust, and we are our own admissions authority. As such, we wish to make a change to our admission arrangements, and we must consult to ensure all relevant views are heard. The Bulmershe School is consulting on the following proposed changes to the admission arrangements:

Proposed changes:

The change to oversubscribed criteria is as follows:

Amend Criteria D

Current wording:

“Children who live in the designated area of the school and who have a sibling who will still be attending the school at the time of the child’s admission”

Amend to:

“Children with siblings already attending the school at the time of admission.”

Further clarification is also proposed with regard to the definition of sibling.

“Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, foster brother or sister, stepbrother or sister, or the child of the parent’s partner. In every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address, Monday to Friday, at the time of the application. Cousins or children of friends living with their parents in the same household are not included”.

Amend Criteria E

Current wording:

“Children who live in designated area of the school”

Amend to:

“All other children, ranked by a straight-line distance from the school's main entrance to the child's home address”.





Why are we proposing this change?

The Bulmershe School wishes to change the admission criteria to align more in keeping with our ethos of inclusivity, diversity and community. We believe that all students should have equal access to a school of choice regardless of their geographical location. The school is committed to ensuring that admissions arrangements are fair, transparent, and easy for families to understand. Historically, designated catchment areas have been used to prioritise applicants, but these boundaries can create confusion and may not reflect the needs of our wider community. By removing designated areas and adopting a straight-line distance measurement, we aim to:

- Promote fairness and inclusivity by ensuring that all applicants are considered equally, regardless of historical geographic boundaries.
- Simplify the admissions process for parents and carers by using clear, objective criteria.
- Align with the School Admissions Code by ensuring our arrangements are lawful, objective, and do not disadvantage any group.
- Reflect our Academy Trust's ethos of openness and accessibility to families across the region.

This change supports our vision of providing high-quality education to all children who wish to attend, while maintaining compliance with statutory requirements.

Current oversubscription criteria for admission 2026-2027

- (A) Looked After Children and all previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order) immediately following having been looked after. This also includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- (B) Children who have either medical or social grounds for admission to The Bulmershe School. This evidence must set out the particular reason why the school is the only suitable school and the difficulties caused if the child had to attend another school. The decision in these matters is final. An additional form will need to be completed.
- (C) Children of staff at the school. Where a member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable



skill shortage. The skills shortage area will be determined by The Governor's Admissions Committee.

- (D) Children who live in the designated area of the school and who have a sibling who will still be attending the school at the time of the child's admission.
- (E) Children who live in the designated area of the school.
- (F) Children who do not live in the designated area of the school but who have a sibling at the school, and who will still be attending school at the time of the child's admission.
- (G) All other children.

Proposed revised oversubscription criteria in 2027-2028

(A) Looked After Children and all previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order) immediately following having been looked after. This also includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

(B) Children who have either medical or social grounds for admission to The Bulmershe School. This evidence must set out the particular reason why the school is the only suitable school and the difficulties caused if the child had to attend another school. The decision in these matters is final. A supplementary social and medical form will need to be completed. This form is located on the school's website, on the Admissions page.

(C) Children of staff at the school. Where a member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. The skills shortage area will be determined by The Governor's Admissions Committee.

(D) Children with siblings already attending the school at the time of admission. Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, foster brother or sister, stepbrother or sister, or the child of the parent's partner. In every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address, Monday to Friday, at the time of the application. Cousins or children of friends living with their parents in the same household are not included.



(E) All other children, ranked by a straight-line distance from the school's main entrance to the child's home address. Distances will be measured in a straight-line distance using the Local Authority's GIS mapping system. Tie breaker: where two or more applicants live the same distance, places will be allocated by random ballot supervised by a member from the Corvus Learning Trust Central Team who is independent of the school's admissions process.

Tie breaker details:

If two or more applicants have equal priority for a place under the oversubscription criteria, the following tie breaker will apply:

1. Distance measurement: - The child living the closest to the school will be given priority. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the school's main entrance to the child's home address using the Local Authority's GIS mapping system.

2. Equal Distance: - If two or more applicants live exactly the same distance from the school (including those living in the same building or block), places will be allocated by random allocation (lottery).

- The random allocation (lottery) will be conducted in the presence of a member from the Corvus Learning Trust Central Team who is independent of the school's admissions process.
- A record of the process will be kept for audit purposes.

A copy of the proposed arrangement can be seen on The Bulmershe School website:

<https://www.thebulmersheschool.com/>

How can you respond?

We would appreciate your views on this proposal. Please send any comments regarding the proposed change, by email to: admissions@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk

Please mark your e-mail THE BULMERSHE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION

The consultation takes place between 1st December 2026 and 12th January 2027.

What happens next?





The
Bulmershe
School

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After the consultation closing date, the responses will be collated and presented to the Corvus Learning Trust and The Bulmershe School's Governing Board who will reach a decision on whether or not to proceed with the proposed change and determine the admission arrangements. The outcome will be published on The Bulmershe School website by 31st March 2025.

Kind regards

Amanda Woodfin
Headteacher

