



## **GEP Consultation on school admission arrangements: George Abbot School**

GEP Academies is the admissions authority for the following GEP schools:

- Boxgrove Primary School
- Fullbrook School
- George Abbot School
- Guildford Grove Primary School
- Kings College Guildford
- Loseley Fields Primary School<sup>1</sup>
- Sandfield Primary School.

Department for Education (DfE) guidance states that when changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities (GEP Academies) **must** consult on their admission arrangements that will apply for admission applications the following school year.

In accordance with these DfE Guidelines, consultation must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply.

In light of this, we are announcing a consultation on school admission arrangements for George Abbot School.

There are two proposed changes below:

- Nick Gibb (Minister of State for School Standards) has written to us regarding the admissions to school of children previously in care outside of England. He sets out his intention to make changes to the School Admissions Code to ensure that children who were previously in care outside England also receive the highest priority for admission to a school in England.

In light of this, we are proposing the wording in point 2 below.

- Some schools within GEP Academies, identify 'Children of staff' as one of the selection criteria to be applied if a school is over-subscribed. In order to ensure that we offer all our employees equal opportunities, we are consulting on making this an admission criteria for all GEP schools.

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<sup>1</sup> Loseley Fields Primary School: This consultation should be read alongside a consultation on a proposed reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Year 3 (KS2) entry from September 2021.

In light of this, we are proposing the wording in point 4 below.

This consultation proposes to make the following Admission Criteria applicable to George Abbot School in the event of a school being over-subscribed.

### **1. First priority: Looked After and previously Looked After Children**

Looked after and previously looked after children will receive the top priority for a place. Looked after and previously looked after children will be considered to be:

- children who are registered as being in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a), e.g. fostered or living in a children's home, at the time an application for a school is made; and
- children who have previously been in the care of a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a) and who have left that care through adoption, a child arrangement order (in accordance with Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) or special guardianship order (in accordance with Section 14A of the Children Act 1989).

Places will be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at a school and the local authority may also ask schools to admit over their published admission number at other times under this criterion.

### **2. Second priority: Exceptional Social/Medical Need**

- a) Occasionally there will be a very small number of children for whom exceptional social or medical circumstances will apply which will warrant a placement at a particular school. Supporting evidence from a professional is required such as a doctor and/or consultant for medical cases or a social worker, health visitor, housing officer, the police or probation officer for other social circumstances.

This evidence must confirm the circumstances of the case and must demonstrate why the child should attend George Abbot School and why no other school could meet the child's needs.

Providing evidence does not guarantee that a child will be given priority at George Abbot School and in each case a decision will be made based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at George Abbot School above any other. Common medical conditions and allergies can usually be supported in all mainstream schools, therefore priority under a school's exceptional medical criterion would not normally be given for these. In addition, routine child minding arrangements will not normally be considered to be an exceptional social reason for placement at a particular school.

Places may be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at George Abbot School and the Local Authority may also ask George Abbot School to admit over their Published Admission Number at other times under this criterion.

- b) Children who were previously in state care outside of England, and have ceased to be in

state care as a result of being adopted, may be considered under this criterion. A child will be regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Evidence will need to be provided to demonstrate that this child was in a state care abroad and left that care as a result of being adopted.

### **3. Third priority: brothers and sisters (siblings)**

A sibling will be considered to be a brother or sister (that is, another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), a half-brother or half-sister or a step-brother or step-sister or an adoptive or foster sibling, living as part of the same family unit, at the same address.

A child will be given sibling priority if they have a sibling at George Abbot School at the time of the child's admission. For the initial intake to the school a child will be given priority for admission only if their sibling will still be at George Abbot School in September 2019. This will apply both at the initial allocation of places and also when prioritising the waiting list. Giving sibling priority has the effect of maximizing the opportunity for children in the same family to be educated at George Abbot School.

Where a sibling is in Year 11 or Year 12 at George Abbot School at the time of application for a younger child to start Year 7 in September 2019, they will be deemed as being in the school at the time of admission, unless the parent/carer has specifically expressed that they will not be continuing in the following academic year.

### **4. Fourth priority: children of staff**

Children of staff on a permanent GEP contract.

### **5. Fifth priority: children for whom the school is the nearest to their home address**

The nearest school is defined as the school closest to the child's home address that admits students of the appropriate age range, as measured by a straight line from the address point of the student's home, as set by Ordnance Survey to the nearest school gate for students to use. This is calculated using the Admission & Transport Team's Geographical Information System.

### **6. Sixth priority: any other applicant**

Remaining places will be offered on the basis of nearness to the school measured in a straight line from the address point of the student's home, as set by Ordnance Survey to the nearest school gate for students to use. This is calculated using the Admission & Transport Team's Geographical Information System.

### **Who is consulted?**

This consultation is for the attention of:

- Parents of children in the surrounding area;

- Other persons in the area who have an interest in the proposed arrangements;
- All other admission authorities within the local area;
- The local authority; and
- Adjoining neighbouring local authorities

### **How to respond**

This consultation will run from **Monday 3 December 2018 to Friday 25 January 2019**.

You are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal above to the following email address: [consultation@gepacademies.com](mailto:consultation@gepacademies.com). Please make the subject 'GEP School Admissions Consultation'.

Please note that only responses including the respondents' name and address will be accepted.

Following the consultation period the Trust will consider all the comments received and determine admissions arrangements for 2020 by 28 February 2019.

### **When would changes come into effect?**

If a decision to change the admissions criteria for all GEP schools is agreed and approved, the arrangements would be introduced from September 2020 entry onwards.

Yours faithfully



Chris Tweedale  
CEO: GEP Academies