

Board of Trustees Decision on the Billingshurst Primary Academy Admission Consultation

Consultation Process

The consultation opened on 24th October and closed on 5th December 2025, running for the required 6 week period.

The Admission Authority proposed this change to the policy:

- A change in the oversubscription criteria to include a 'children of staff' category and for all siblings to be considered within a single category (instead of separated depending on if they live in the catchment area).

The consultation was shared with the required parties as set out in the Admissions Code. Trustees are grateful to those who engaged with this consultation.

Consultation Responses

There were 21 responses to the consultation, all from existing parents/carers. Of these, 17 supported the proposal and 4 disagreed with it.

Reason for Disagreement:

1. **Children of Staff**
School places should be based on where the family lives. Giving staff priority over local residents was seen as unfair.

Reasons for Agreement:

1. **Siblings**
Sibling entitlement should not only be within catchment.
2. **Children of Staff**
This makes sense from a work/life balance perspective.

Board of Trustees Decision

The Board of Trustees noted that the number of objections was low and only related to the children of staff criteria. Trustees and Governors are keen to attract and retain the best possible staff to teach and support the academy's children. Given that the number of places likely to be allocated to children of staff is not significant, the Board determined that the proposed changes to the admissions arrangements will be implemented with effect from the September 2027 intake.