

Admissions consultation for 2016 by Coventry schools

Only 2 schools have consulted on changes to their admissions policies for 2016.

President Kennedy School

The school consulted on changes from 10 November 2014 until 2 January 2015, and has asked for a response from the Admissions Forum. They have proposed a reduction in their admission number from 273 to 270 which will bring the size of the school into line with the proposed new school buildings in line with Education Funding Agency requirements. Also they have specified a change in the dates within their Post 16 admission arrangements. Internal applicants will now meet to discuss a suitable study programme by 28 February (rather than 31 January).

Eden Girls School

The school published their changed admissions arrangements for 2016 on 8 January 2015. The local authority has highlighted that this will be a consultation period of 7 weeks and 2 days and this does not meet the requirements of the Admissions Code to consult for 8 weeks between 1st November 2014 and 1st March 2015. This may leave the school open to an objection being lodged with the Schools Adjudicator.

The changes that have been highlighted are summarised as follows:

The policy was split into 2 priority groups with 50% of places allocated to members of the Muslim faith and 50% to community applicants. These groups have now been amalgamated with no reference to any faith criteria.

The oversubscription criteria have also been altered as summarised in the box below

2015 policy	2016 proposed policy
Looked after and previously looked after children	Looked after and previously looked after children
Siblings	Siblings
Medical or social circumstances	Children of staff
Children of staff	Medical or social circumstances
Children by distance from the school	Up to 10% of remaining places to girls resident in Nuneaton
	Up to 50% of remaining places to girls residing within a 2 miles radius of the school
	Up to 40% of remaining places to girls residing outside a 2 miles radius of the school

New mandatory changes required

An updated School Admissions Code was published on 17 December 2014. This contains some new requirements which are mandatory and so all admissions authorities are being advised to vary their admission arrangements straightaway to comply with the Code. Any such changes do not require any consultation.

The specific changes are that all previously looked after children must include those who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 as well as under the Adoption and Children Act 2002. As we already follow this guidance in co-ordinating admissions within Coventry, and no individual school has wording in their current policies which do not meet the Code then no changes will be required.

The main area of change is to make clear the process for requesting admission out of the normal age group. To assist with this we have put in place the changes highlighted in the co-ordinated admissions schemes and primary community/voluntary controlled school policies (see items 5 and 6 on the agenda). We will circulate advice on this basis to all schools and are aware that advice has been made available on a similar basis from diocesan colleagues.

All schools will be required to publish updated details of their policies on their websites and the local authority will need to monitor this as well as publishing details on the council website.

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