

Consultation on Proposed Primary School Admission Arrangements for entry 2020 - survey results.

The Local Authority in Coventry are proposing to make some changes to the admissions arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled primary, infant and junior schools for entry in 2020. A new admissions policy has also been created for St Andrew's Infant School in Coventry which will follow the same kinds of priorities within the oversubscription criteria as all primary schools, but will make clear the specific links to Eastern Green Junior School.

Purpose of the consultation

The School Admissions code states that when admission authorities propose changes to their current admission arrangements, they must consult on those changes for a minimum of six weeks. This consultation period allows parents, other schools, religious authorities and the local community to raise any concerns about their proposed admission arrangements.

The consultation period was held between the 23 November 2018 to 11 January 2019. At the close of the consultation survey there were 121 total responses to the survey, 93 responses were from parents of children between the ages of 0-18 years old and 28 responses were from individuals not responding as a parent. Out of the 28 responses from non-parents; 17 responses were from 'other person with an interest in school admissions', 3 from 'representatives from a local Coventry school', 1 response was from a representative from the Church of England Diocese and 1 was from a representative of a community and voluntary controlled school. There were 5 responses for 'other' and these included a trade union representative, 2 grandparents, 1 teacher and 1 citizen. Number 28 did not complete the survey further.

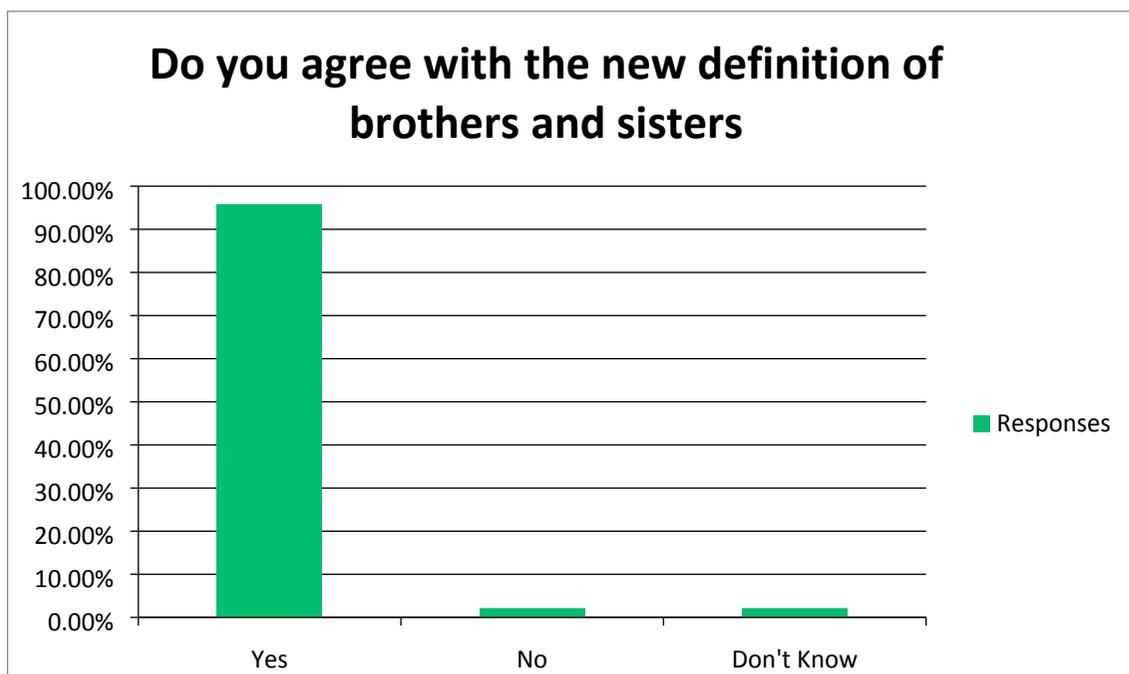
Further details in regards to the responses received within the consultation follow in the rest of this document below. Where we have been able to address questions or issues raised in comments we have included a response from the local authority.

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Question 1

Do you agree with the new definition of brothers and sisters

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	95.83%	92
No	2.08%	2
Don't Know	2.08%	2
If no, please explain why?		0
	Answered	96
	Skipped	25



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Comments on the sibling definition

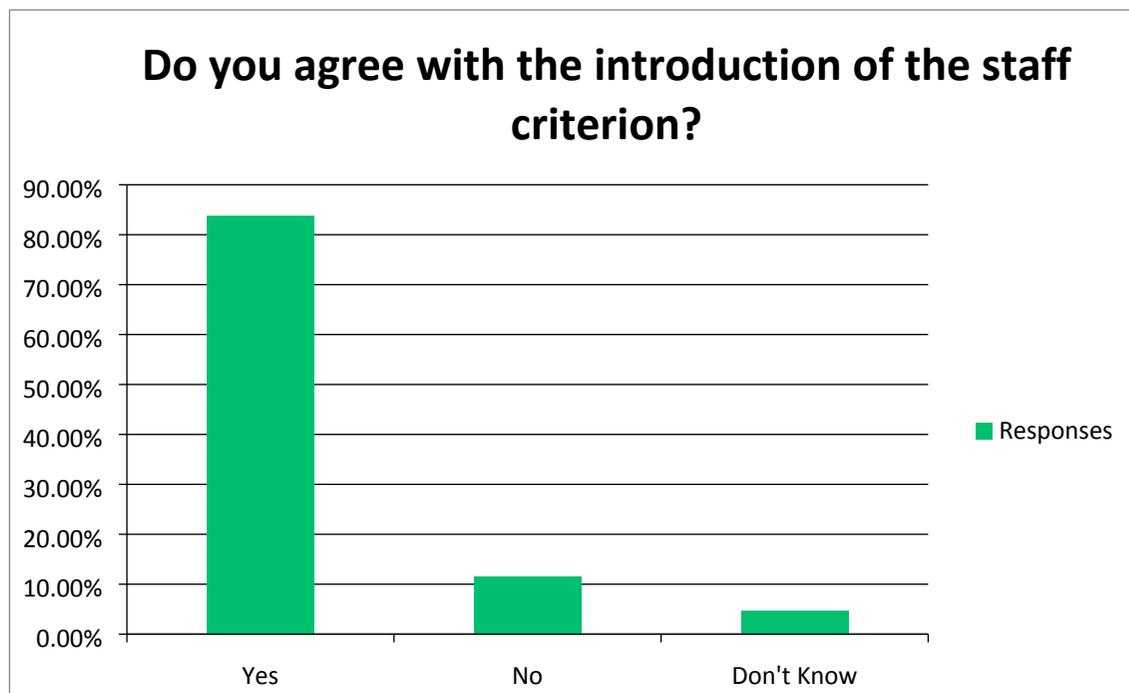
	Responses	Response from the Local Authority
1	I think this is a very good idea and I hope this proposed plan falls into place.	
2	We're so happy for this change. Thank you very much for your effective response.	
3	With society being so diverse this should have been implemented years ago	
4	While this does not directly affect me, I think this change is probably long overdue.	
5	I think this is good change as it reflects more households today.	
6	I believe siblings should be allocated the same school	
7	It makes sense to adopt the change and, I imagine, would help couples place all of their children/step-children/household children within one school.	
8	very sensible	
1	I think cousins who perhaps live in same household could be considered as well as if they have working parents it may benefit them to share responsibilities of dropping off and picking the kids up.	The address is used to determine where the majority of applications are placed within the over-subscription criteria and so cousins living at the same address would be likely to be considered under the same over-subscription criteria in most cases.
2	What if a parent has a 6/7 year age gap between children and the oldest child is leaving school as the new child starts. Surely you would allow this child to be part of the school if you have built trust and knowledge from it over the 7 years you have been there.	Families can still apply for any school but they will be considered under the other priorities such as catchment area if the sibling no longer attends the school.
3	This might lead to people saying children are living with them to get into popular schools. How do you intend to make sure this doesn't happen?	Robust fraud detection processes are in place.

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Question 2

Do you agree with the introduction of the staff criterion?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	83.72%	72
No	11.63%	10
Don't Know	4.65%	4
If no, please explain why?		9
Answered		86
Skipped		35



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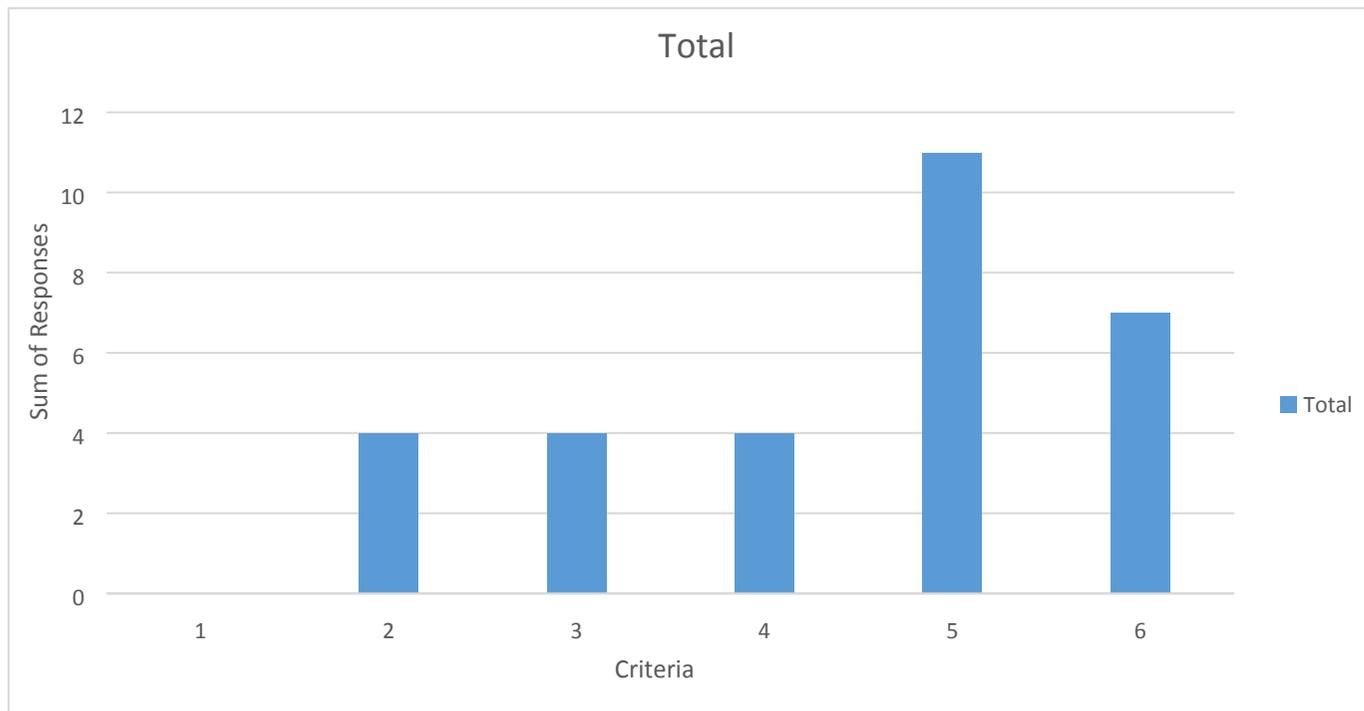
Comments on the introduction of the staff criterion

	Responses	Response from the Local Authority
1	Teachers shouldn't be teaching their own children. It's the easiest way for biased discipline to take place. I do not believe that they should get any priority. If they apply and their child gets into a school based on the current policy, catchment, siblings and religion etc, it is fair and acceptable on those who do fit those categories but don't teach.	By placing the priority low down (criterion 5) in the policy this would mean that children living in the catchment area and those with siblings at the school would still have a higher priority than children of staff.
2	Great idea... Teachers can enjoy watching school events that their children are involved in...saves paying for child care unnecessarily	
3	This could have a negative impact on the student	
4	In an already difficult situation with over subscribed schools. Even priority of one or two places means children loose out.	Any change will have an impact in that some will gain and others will lose. Reducing birth rates in the city do mean that the numbers of schools that are oversubscribed will reduce.
5	I believe it is already hard enough to get children into a school of choice, even with siblings in the school. I do not think lessening the chances for even one of the teachers kids is fair.	By placing the priority low down (criterion 5) in the policy this would mean that children living in the catchment area and those with siblings at the school would still have a higher priority than children of staff.
6	It means that children who are only slightly out of the catchment area, with no siblings are further down the list of criteria.	
7	If this takes up the spaces of people living in the local catchment area then No. Everybody works elsewhere in the city to where there child attends school and these children may have to attend school clubs etc... why should special preferences be made for teachers when other working people dont get to choose a school near their place of work for convenience.	The advice provided as part of the consultation was that it would only have a marginal impact of perhaps one or two places in any school, but it may help schools to secure the services of staff that will benefit a large number of children over time.
8	I don't think it's good for children to attend schools where their parents work	
9	Don't think it should have priority. To be looked at under distance.	By placing the priority low down (criterion 5) in the policy this would mean that children living in the catchment area and those with siblings at the school would still have a higher priority than children of staff.
10	It should be based on catchment area and be fair to everyone.	

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Question 3:

If you think the 'staff criterion' (currently at No.5) should have a higher or lower priority please say where it should be placed from 2 - 6? It cannot be placed above looked after children (No.1) - as this criterion has the highest priority.



Criteria	Sum of Responses
1	0
2	4
3	4
4	4
5	11
6	7
Total	30

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Comments relating to the placement of the staff criterion

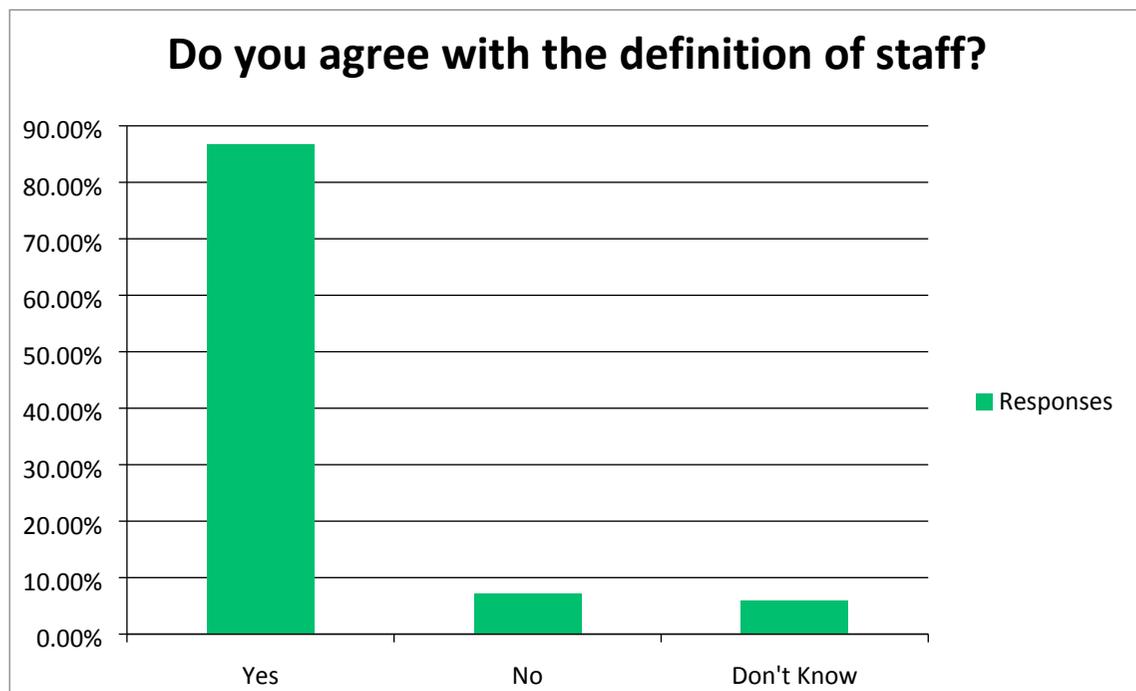
	Survey response	Response from the Local Authority
1	I really like the 2 year timescale for the teachers criteria, its neither too low nor too high. I also like the placing at 5 as it doesn't disadvantage looked after children and will not impact on the local community's children attending the school. It's a good change.	
2	I think its fine at 5, this criteria should not take over children outside the catchment with a sibling already at that school I speak from previous experience - my Son was denied a place at Caludon Castle School despite this being our closest school in distance, his Sister being at Caludon and him having medical evidence reported he has a problem with walking distances We appealed but the appeal was unsuccessful I questioned how panel members can over ride medical evidence regarding the distance my Son can safety travel to and from school but was never given an answer	
3	Would expect the number of children admitted under this criteria to oversubscribed schools to be published (as it is now). And if the figure is greater than expected the criteria ranking to be reviewed.	Publication of the numbers of children admitted under all criteria will continue to be published. We review our policy annually and this will include the impact of policy changes.

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Question 4

Do you agree with the definition of staff?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	86.75%	72
No	7.23%	6
Don't Know	6.02%	5
If no, please explain why?		5
Answered		83
Skipped		38



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Comments on the definition of staff

1	The new criteria should relate only to hard to fill posts regardless of time served, working pattern or contract type.	The School Admissions Code states that the staff that can be included within the criteria have to have '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' By using both definitions we aim to assist schools in both recruiting and retaining staff.
2	The consultation document states that this criteria is to support schools recruit staff and the definitions above do not support that (unless a post has been defined as hard to fill). It should only apply to hard to fill posts and can be used a recruitment or retention tool (regardless of length of service).	
3	I would only include teaching staff not support staff	These comments represent differing views of the definition of staff used but the vast majority of respondents have agreed with the definition proposed.
4	I think the staff element should be limited to full time staff only including teaching and support staff	
5	Its not okay to treat those who work less hours different to those who work more. They still work for the school and therefore are staff	
6	Whether you work small amount of hours or not. If you are directly employed to work at that school then you are a member of staff. Segregating them and saying that many of them arent staff even though they work very hard in their job isnt acceptable. Equality, even if its just in a word. Staff should stand for all those employed to work at the school for a minimum of 1year. I think it's shocking that you want to propose that members of the staff are no longer classed as staff. That is a horrible way to treat those who work less hours	

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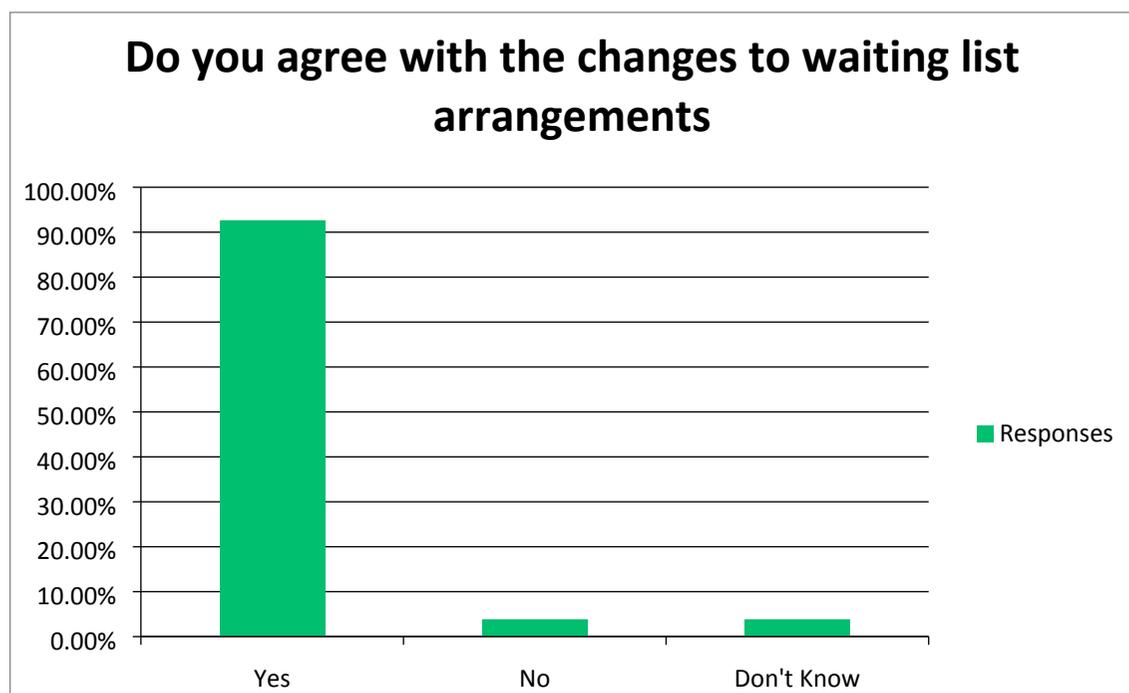
7	<p>Yes, I agree with it but I think the term 'demonstrable' should be defined (how is it demonstrable?). Also it is my view that the phrase 'may be waived if a post is hard to fill' is not clear. Again I think this needs defining something along the lines of, "teaching staff who have been employed to a post that has been vacant for 6 months or longer" would be more clear and measurable.</p>	<p>An amendment has been made to the wording following consultation to show that guidance will be provided by Human Resources regarding hard to fill posts</p>
8	<p>I think you should build in some staff retention rules relating to this - eg that you expect the staff to remain in post for a minimum of 2 years from the date their child starts. I'm not sure what you can do contractually here as I don't think you can withdraw a place once it is offered but worth considering...</p>	<p>It would not be possible to include staff retention and remain compliant with the School Admissions Code.</p>
9	<p>Why 2 years employed? Would 1 year be enough?</p>	<p>The School Admissions Code (at point 1.39) requires any wording to be for staff employed for 2 or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made'. Policy details have to follow the Code requirements.</p>
10	<p>Is the two year qualification as of the closing date for applications?</p> <p>Two year qualification time seems to long, a year would be more feasible, if you take into account if someone is off on maternity for a year and had an august baby, they would have to apply for jobs whilst on maternity to be eligible for this.</p>	
11	<p>it should be for staff of one or more years, or even at time of staff joining</p>	

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Question 5

Do you agree with the changes to waiting list arrangements

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	92.59%	75
No	3.70%	3
Don't Know	3.70%	3
If no, please explain why?		7
	Answered	81
	Skipped	40



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Comments on the changes to waiting list arrangements

1	Unaware of what the changes are	These changes were highlighted within the cover page of the consultation documents and on the web page.
2	It should be the choice of the parents how long they remain on the list, not at the decision of anyone else	School Admissions Code (2.14) states that 'Each admission authority must maintain a clear, fair and objective waiting list until at least 31 December of each academic year of admission'. In the new proposals to change waiting list arrangements, parents will be asked to notify the local authority if they want to stay on waiting lists for any community schools once during the course of an academic year rather than each term. Therefore this reduces the number of times parents need to take action, and it ensures that decisions about staying on waiting lists are made by parents.
3	You should be able to remain on a waiting list until a spot may open	
4	Once on the waiting list, parents should not need to contact School Organisation Team to remain on the list	
5	If parents are keen for their child to attend a particular school it isn't hard to say they still need the place	
6	Waiting list should be dealt with by the school rather than council its easier to communicate with them	
7	Appealing is a waste of time for the schools eating up a load of resources	The local authority co-ordinates waiting lists and allocations of places with schools so parents can communicate with both the school and the local authority.
8	As long as a process is implemented to make sure this is communicated to parents/carers.	The School Admissions Code along with the School Appeals Code provides information on every parents' right to go through the appeals process where they are refused a place, and the rights of schools to defend their decision to refuse a place. These legal rights cannot be overridden.
9	Please ensure you send reminders, maybe 2 or 3 months before the deadline. For those who don't have access to email, send a letter or text?	
10	Such a good idea! So many people get confused by this.	
11	I have friends who have to pay for additional childcare because there children go to different schools, this seems	All refusal letters for a school place which are sent to parents will have guidance on the waiting list procedures included with the letter.
		With waiting lists parents are informed that their position can move up or down a list as other children come onto or go off the

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	<p>unfair as it is the councils fault as they keep moving their children down the waiting list due to the priority 1 children!</p>	<p>waiting lists. Children are ranked in accordance with the individual schools oversubscription criteria and the council has no control over who applies and the impact this will have on all those on the waiting list.</p>
12	<p>The school my children go to as desired by me was not classed as our catchment school even though in terms of distance it was the closest school, when it came to my youngest child starting school he was declined a place even though I had 2 other children in the school, he had to go to an alternative school which meant that I had to try and be in 2 places at the same time which was impossible, my children were the last to be collected from school and my daughter who was only 5 herself at the time was so distraught every day thinking that I had abandoned her, luckily he was only at the alternative school for 2 weeks before he was offered a place at John Shelton.</p>	<p>All applications are ranked in accordance to the school's admission criteria and places are allocated to a school's published admission number. Where schools are popular with children living within their catchment area it can be difficult sometimes to gain places for those living outside the area including siblings. As described above children on waiting lists can move up or down, but will only be offered places where other children leave the school. In the case we are pleased that after 2 weeks you were offered a place from the waiting list.</p>

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Equality data

We asked those answering the consultation to provide equality data, we had 61 responses and details are shown below;

What is your sex?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	11.48%	7
Female	83.61%	51
Non-Binary	1.64%	1
Prefer not to say	3.28%	2
Answered		61
Skipped		60

Gender Reassignment - Does your identity match your sex as registered at birth?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	81.67%	49
No	13.33%	8
Prefer not to say	5.00%	3
Answered		60
Skipped		61

What is your sexual orientation?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Asexual	8.62%	5
Bi/bisexual	1.72%	1
Gay man	0.00%	0
Gay woman/lesbian	1.72%	1
Heterosexual/straight	75.86%	44
Queer	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	10.34%	6
Other (please specify)	1.72%	1
Answered		58
Skipped		63

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Ethnicity

Answer Choices	Responses	
Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi	0.00%	0
Asian or Asian British – Chinese	0.00%	0
Asian or Asian British – Indian	1.64%	1
Asian or Asian British – Other	1.64%	1
Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	3.28%	2
Black or Black British – African	3.28%	2
Black or Black British – Caribbean	1.64%	1
Black or Black British – Other	0.00%	0
Mixed / Dual Background – Other	0.00%	0
Mixed / Dual Background – White and Asian	0.00%	0
Mixed / Dual Background – White and Black African	0.00%	0
Mixed / Dual Background – White and Caribbean	1.64%	1
White – British (English, Welsh, Northern Irish, Scottish)	70.49%	43
White – Irish	0.00%	0
White traveller of Irish heritage	1.64%	1
White Gypsy/Roma	0.00%	0
White – Other	8.20%	5
Prefer not to say	6.56%	4
Other Ethnic Group	0.00%	0
	Answered	61
	Skipped	60

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Do you have a religion or belief?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Buddhism	0.00%	0
Christianity (All denomination)	43.33%	26
Hinduism	3.33%	2
Islam	5.00%	3
Judaism	0.00%	0
Sikhism	0.00%	0
No Religion	31.67%	19
Atheism	5.00%	3
Prefer not to say	11.67%	7
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
	Answered	60
	Skipped	61

Are your day to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted at least 12 months (include problems relating to old age and also mental health)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, limited a lot	0.00%	0
Yes, limited a little	6.67%	4
Not at all	93.33%	56
	Answered	60
	Skipped	61

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