

Date: 1 October 2020
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Parent/Carer

Dear Parent/Carer,

Consultation: Admissions to Schools in Suffolk 2022/2023

Suffolk County Council is currently asking people to comment on their proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in 2022/2023.

We are proposing to make the following minor changes to the admission arrangements to schools in Suffolk for the 2022/2023 school year:

1. Suffolk County Council's admissions oversubscription criteria for all Suffolk community and voluntary controlled schools for the 2022/2023 school year

- a) To include a qualifying measure to the oversubscription criteria 3a) and 4a) which gives priority to families and/or children who attend a Church of England church (or other church in the Worldwide Anglican Communion) regularly, that is to say once a month. In order to be considered under this oversubscription criterion, a family must have been attending the church for a minimum period of one year before the relevant closing date.
- b) To make it clear that we can only take into account the information provided by the parent as part of the application process.
- c) Where a sibling of a twin, triplet or other multiple birth has a school named on their Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, Suffolk County Council will from the date of issue of the EHC plan treat their twin, triplets or other multiple births under the sibling oversubscription criterion for the named school. This does not apply to siblings of children in a specialist unit or a specialist resource base for Hearing Impaired provision or a nursery, because they do not meet the sibling definition in the oversubscription criteria.

2. Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Schools in Suffolk 2022/2023

- a) To include a clarification that schools must not use admissions data for any reason other than to rank applications or for any other reason stated by Suffolk County Council, to comply with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- b) To amend the wording to ensure that we follow the updated post-Brexit guidance from the Department for Education on making an application from outside of England.

- c) The key dates for the 2022/2023 normal admissions round have been up-dated in the proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for the relevant year.

3. Published Admission Number for Hardwick Primary School, Bury St Edmunds

- a) Suffolk County Council is responsible for setting the Published Admission Number (PAN) for community and voluntary controlled schools.
- b) We sought and received approval from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to reduce Hardwick Primary School's PAN, as determined by Suffolk County Council's Cabinet, from 45 to 30 places for the 2021/2022 school year. This was because pupil forecasts indicated a reduction in pupil numbers and to sustain the school's viability, particularly given the Infant Class Size Regulations. We are required to consult to decrease Hardwick Primary School's PAN from 45 to 30 places for the 2022/2023 school year.

Further information on the proposed changes can be found on the county council's website at www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations.

The governing bodies of voluntary aided schools, free schools and academies are responsible for admissions to their schools. If you want to view the arrangements for these schools, you should contact the school directly. Some of these schools have asked us to include their proposed admission arrangements for 2022/2023 within our consultation. These can also be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations.

The consultation closes on **Thursday 12 November 2020**. You can have your say by completing the online survey to make any comments about the proposed policies.

Yours faithfully



JAN SCOTT

**Senior Education Officer (Admissions and School Travel)
Children and Young People's Services**