

Consultation on proposed changes to the Admissions Policy from September 2023

All schools and academies set admission arrangements annually, and where they wish to make changes they must first publicly consult on those arrangements.

At Chelsea Academy we are considering changes to our arrangements for admissions from September 2023 onwards and we would like to hear your comments. Our aim with these changes is to ensure that the Chelsea Academy admissions policy continues to be clear, fair, and transparent, and to meet local needs.

We propose changes that will:

- give more priority to children who live near the Academy
- extend priority for siblings
- Make our policy simpler for those applying on the basis of church attendance

We will do this by making the following changes:

1. Remove music aptitude places from our admission policy. At the moment we allocate up to 18 places in Year 7 each year to applicants scoring highest in our music aptitude test. The reasoning behind this change is that increasingly we have found that music aptitude applicants are applying from addresses far distant from the Academy. If successful they often face long and difficult journeys by public transport. Removing this criterion would free up 18 places per year which would then be available for local applicants, particularly in category C2, the most over-subscribed each year. It would also mean that the funding we currently set aside to provide free instrumental tuition to music scholars would be available to improve the provision of music education across all students in Years 7-9. Applicants interested in a music aptitude place still have several alternative local choices including West London Free School, Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, Twyford Church of England School and St Cecilia's Church of England School.
2. Extend the priority which we currently give to siblings of students in Years 7-11 applying for places, to apply equally to the siblings of those who have joined us in the Sixth Form. We believe that parents welcome the opportunity to have younger children join their older siblings, and that such a change will help to strengthen family and community ties.
3. Simplify the allocation of Foundation places into 3 categories by combining the current F1 and F2 categories. This would have no impact on the number of applicants qualifying for Foundation places but would make this part of the policy simpler. We also propose to change the tie-breaker for Foundation places from the current arrangement of random allocation to priority on distance to the home address. This brings the policy on Foundation places into line with that for Community places, and also ensures that those living closer to the Academy get priority over those living further away.
4. Extend the definition of qualifying churches for Foundation places to include any Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches who are not members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. We believe this will enable us to better serve members of these

denominations who regularly attend local churches but do not currently qualify under Foundation categories F1-F3.

5. The policy has also been re-drafted to bring several definitions into line with the Admissions Code 2021 and to make it easier to understand, particularly for those for whom English is not their first language.

This consultation is for the attention of:

- a) local parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
- b) other persons in the area who have an interest in the proposed admissions arrangements;
- c) other admission authorities in the local area:
- c) the neighbouring local authorities of Brent, Westminster, Wandsworth and Hammersmith and Fulham
- d) The London Diocesan Board for Schools

You can read the proposed new admissions policy on the Academy website: www.chelsea-academy.org/admissions and on the Royal Borough website:
(insert link when available)

The consultation period is open from **Tuesday 5th October 2021 and ends at 5pm on Tuesday 23rd November 2021**

Please send your comments before 5pm on 23rd November 2021 either:

by email to:
admissions@chelsea-academy.org

or by post to:
Jackie Colton, Registrar, Chelsea Academy, Lots Road, London, SW10 0AB

All submitted comments will be considered at a meeting of the Academy's governors in December 2021 and the final determined arrangements will be published on the Academy's website by 15th March 2022

Lady Sarah Sassoon
Chair of Governors, Chelsea Academy