

2025/6 Admissions Policy Consultation

The Good Shepherd Trust is the Admissions Authority for St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Petworth Road, Chiddingfold, Godalming, GU8 4UF

The Trust is consulting on a proposed change to the 2025/6 admissions policy for St Mary's Church of England Primary School and would like to hear your views. The Trust has a statutory duty to consult on admissions arrangements if we intend to make a change.

The consultation period will run from the 14th December 2023 – 25th January 2024.

Information about the consultation will be provided on the Trust and school websites during the consultation period.

What is the proposed change?

The proposed change to the policy is:

Removal of the following criteria:

3. Siblings (see definitions) of existing pupils at the school who live WITHIN the Parish Boundary of Chiddingfold (see note 3) and who will still be on roll at the time of entry

5. Siblings of existing pupils at the school who live OUTSIDE the Parish boundary of Chiddingfold (see note 3) and who will still be on roll at time of entry

Addition of the following criteria:

3. Children of a member of staff. The school will admit a child of a member of staff of the school under this criterion provided that: (a) the member of staff has 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 (b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. (note 4)

4. Siblings (see definitions) of existing pupils at the school who will still be on roll at the time of entry

Comments are not being sought on any other area of the policy.

Rationale and potential impact

We seek to combine criteria 3 and 5 that both apply to siblings under a single criterion.

Year	2021	2022	2023
Number of pupils admitted on criterion 3	15	17	9
Number of pupils admitted on criterion 5	3	2	0
Total number of pupils admitted out of 90 max	30	30	29

As the total number of pupils admitted under both siblings criteria does not approach the total admissions number, the Trust feels a single criterion would not disadvantage any pupils in their application.

Children of staff criteria (please see paragraph 1.39 of the Schools Admission Code [School admissions code 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001050/School_admissions_code_2021.pdf))

Twenty-one other schools in the Waverley district have the equivalent criteria in their admissions policy. This change is to ensure that the school can recruit and retain the strongest staff, both teaching and support staff, who meet the criteria but may consider other schools who do have this criteria in their policy.

How can I respond to the consultation?

If you would like to submit a response to the consultation, please email Mr Paul Kennedy on: admissions@goodshepherdtrust.org.uk or write to: Mr Paul Kennedy, The Good Shepherd Trust, Academies Office, Larch Avenue, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1JY.

Please ensure that your response is entitled: 2025/6 Admissions Policy Consultation.

You are able to submit a free text response.

However, the Trust Board would find it helpful if you could include your name and the name of the school to which you are submitting a response. Also, if you are able to indicate whether you will be affected by the proposed change and if so, in what way.

Further details on the admissions consultation process can be found in the School Admissions Code: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001050/School_admissions_code_2021.pdf

What happens next?

Please note that you will not receive an individual response to your submission and no changes to the proposed policies will be made during the consultation period. After the consultation has closed, all responses will be collated and presented to the Trust Board during the first half term of the spring term 2024. The Board will then decide whether to proceed with the proposed change as well as determining the admission arrangements for all other Trust schools for which no changes are proposed. Once determined the final admission arrangements for all schools will be placed on the websites of the individual schools and sent to the Local Authority and Diocese.