

CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

The law states that all schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will apply if there are more applications received than there are places available at the school (oversubscription criteria).

Admission authorities are required to consult when they intend to make changes to their admission arrangements. The law states that consultations to make changes must take place for a minimum of six weeks between 1 October and 31 January.

When considering oversubscription criteria, state funded schools (Community, Faith, Academy and Free Schools) must give highest priority to looked after children and previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).

The Minister of State for School Standards has recently confirmed that the law relating to looked after children will soon be changing and there will be an additional requirement for all state funded schools to prioritise looked after children previously in state care outside of England.

In light of this, most schools in Warrington have decided to make changes to their arrangements for admissions to their school starting from September 2020.

In order to accommodate the change and prioritise looked after children previously in state care outside of England, schools will be amending their first criterion to read as follows:

Looked after children and previously looked after children including those previously in state care outside of England*

*A child in care is a child who is (a) in the care of a Local Authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their Social Services functions under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making the application to the school.

The term previously looked after children is defined as children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

We are not proposing to make any other changes to our admission arrangements.

Our school's full arrangements are available to view or download via the link below. For a paper copy, please speak to the school office.

<http://bca.warrington.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/033-Admissions-Policy-2019-2020-BFP-29.01.18-TRUST-14.02.18.pdf>

The consultation period runs from 6 December 2018 until 31 January 2019.

To comment on any of the proposed changes, please email admissionconsultation@warrington.gov.uk or you can post your comments to the following address:

Admission Consultation
School Admissions Team
2nd Floor New Town House
Buttermarket Street
Warrington
WA1 2NH

You will receive an acknowledgement to let you know we have received your comments. All responses to the consultation will be considered by the relevant schools before admission arrangements are finalised on or before 28 February 2019.