



Tuesday 1st March 2022

Admissions Policy Consultation 2023/24

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be aware that at the beginning of November, we launched a consultation to amend Brooke Weston Trust's admissions policy, including the specific policy for Brooke Weston Academy. The proposal set out a plan to remove the preference to admit students from the Kettering area to Brooke Weston Academy from September 2023, focusing instead on a comprehensive intake of students from the Corby community in the years ahead. This was in response to the rising demand for school places in the Corby area and the concerns of local people who had not been able to gain a place at a local school.

We are writing to update you on the outcome of the consultation and the decision that has been taken by the Local Governing Body and Board of Directors regarding the Admissions Policy for 2023/24.

The consultation ran from Monday 8th November – Sunday 19th December 2021. The majority of responses were written by prospective parent/carers (50%) and existing parent/carers (30%). 9% were from existing students, 5% were from staff/governors and 2% were from members of the public. 75% of responses were in favour of the proposed changes to the policy. 21% were against the changes to the policy and 4% were neutral.

Having now reviewed all of the responses, the Local Governing Body and the Brooke Weston Trust Board of Directors have approved the proposed changes to the Brooke Weston Academy policy, as was presented as part of the consultation, and will be adopted for the 2023/2024 policy.

The feedback received was largely positive and the proposal was generally well received. There were a few concerns raised and these objections can be categorised under three broad questions. We have considered these carefully and in each case have prepared short clarifications of the Trust's position – please see below.

1. Concern over availability of schools in Kettering that are outstanding (new school is 2024/religious background/gender dependent)

Concerns have been raised over the availability of quality education in Kettering and that our proposal would reduce parental choice in the area. The new policy would not preclude students living in Kettering from applying to Brooke Weston Academy, however we appreciate there is strong demand from Corby. We can appreciate the concerns that have been raised around availability of outstanding schools, but would note that there is a growth in school places planned for Kettering and standards are improving. The driver for consulting on this change was to consider how we could improve access for Corby children to their local Corby school.

2. Concern over impact on future transport provision

The Academy will continue to consult periodically with parents over the bus routes and subsidised bus passes that it makes available. Naturally the Academy will seek to reduce provision to the Kettering area over time but will remain mindful of families currently relying on the service. It is however important to note there is no obligation on the Academy to provide school transport. Any services it does provide need to be affordable. At present the Academy subsidises the running cost of the transport service. In addition, students can access the public bus service that runs between the Kettering area and Corby.

3. Concern that priority should be given to children attending a BWT primary school

BWT is reviewing the option to prioritise children attending a BWT primary school within its admissions policy, in line with the provisions of the School Admissions Code (2021). Whilst this is not included in the 2023/2024 policy, it is something that BWT is considering for the future.

I would like to reiterate that these changes will not affect any parents or students who have already applied for a secondary school place for September 2022. It will also not affect any family who has a sibling link – meaning younger brothers and sisters of students who already attend the school will still be prioritised irrespective of where they live.

While we understand that some families will be disappointed by this decision, we hope you can understand that the growing demand for additional school places in the Corby area means this change is essential.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution to the consultation. If you have any further comments, questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact admissions@brookewestontrust.org.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive
Brooke Weston Trust