



## Discovery Trust Admissions Consultation Public Consultation

Discovery Trust is its own admissions authority as prescribed in the National Admission Code 2021, and it is our responsibility to consult on any proposed changes to our admissions criteria. We seek to change our admission policy for those families applying for a school place in our primary and junior schools in the academic year 2024/2025.

I would like to invite our local communities to comment on the proposal to bring into line the priority order for placing applications as part of our consultation process to make changes to the school admission policy for all primary & junior schools within the Trust.

The public consultation period will run for six school weeks, **between Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023**.

### The Proposal

The proposed changes would impact those **applying to join the school in the 2024/2025 academic year** and arrangements will continue in subsequent years, subject to any review.

- a. To implement a uniform admissions policy and oversubscription criteria list for all primary phased age school's existing admission arrangements.
- b. In line with (a), under guidance of the School Admissions Code 2021 (1.6) when oversubscription occurs for First Time Admissions\* for all Trust schools, criteria will change to give applications for children who have an older sibling already attending the school a higher preference than those children who live in the catchment for the following schools:
  - Kibworth C of E Primary School
  - Enderby Danemill Primary School
  - Greystoke Primary School
  - Braunstone Community Primary School
  - Parkland Primary School
  - Mowmacre Hill Primary School
  - Woolden Hill Primary School
  - Asfordby Captain's Close Primary School
  - Farndon Fields Primary School
  - Leighfield Primary School
  - Merrydale Junior School
- c. In line with (a), under guidance of the Schools Admissions Code 2021 (1.6) when oversubscription occurs for First Time Admissions for all Trust Schools, criteria will remain unchanged for Fossebrook and Sileby Redlands Primary Schools, giving applications for children who have an older sibling already attending the school a higher preference than those children who live in catchment.
- d. In line with (b) and point 1.11 of the School Admissions Code 2021, the definition of 'sibling' will be clearly outlined as, and inclusive of, brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, stepbrothers, or sisters, adopted children, fostered children, children of partners living together or any other child who permanently resides at the parental home and for whom the parent has parental responsibility). To have a sibling at the school at the time of allocation means that both siblings will be on school roll concurrently.
- e. In line with (a), to define the admissions arrangements for part time admissions for First Time Admissions pupils, with the definition of 'summer born' as prescribed in the School Admissions Code 2021.
- f. In line with (a), to define the admissions arrangements for mid-year transfers and refugee applications as prescribed in the School Admissions Code 2021.

*\*Where the Trust school is a Junior school, First Time Admissions is defined as admission into Year 3.*

*Continued...*

We have put a great deal of thought into our proposal, taking into consideration requests from our local communities, to support us in ensuring that changes will positively impact our school communities.

The rationale behind the proposed changes lies within the core values of the Discovery Trust. As we aspire to make all schools sustainable, inclusive, and equitable to the communities that that we serve, our proposition is supported by the following points:

- Catchment above sibling priority arrangements have been detrimental to many of our families in schools, where families were forced to move older siblings to another school after their first-time admission child did not receive a place. The disruption caused to the existing pupils, and the impact on local families does not support continuity of education and is unethical.
- The current admissions criteria differ across schools within the Trust providing a lack of continuity for our parents and a lack of equity across the schools. This does not support or match the Trust's values and culture.

I would be grateful if our local community members, both inside and outside of our schools would share their views and opinions via our online feedback form using link below:

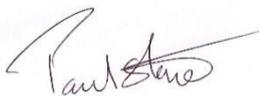
<https://forms.office.com/r/u1q3yYEPye>

**Catchment maps for all schools can be found on the individual school website under the heading of Admissions.**

Alternatively, any comments can be emailed to [admissionsconsultation@discoverytrust.org.uk](mailto:admissionsconsultation@discoverytrust.org.uk)

Please could all responses be returned by **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

Thank you & best wishes



Paul Stone, CEO Discovery Schools Academy Trust

