

16 September 2020

Dear Interested Party

Consultation on Houlton School Admissions Policy 2021-22

We recently launched a consultation regarding the proposed admissions policy for Houlton School, Warwickshire in 2021-22.

The consultation document was sent to a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that feedback would be representative of the community our trust serves and operates within. The consultation period has now come to an end. This document summarises the feedback we have received from consulted parties, outlines the Transforming Lives Educational Trust (TLET)'s response to this feedback, and sets out the actions that will be taken as a result of the consultation period.

Respondent Comment	Response from Trust
Please consider coordination with Warwickshire Admissions Service for school applications so that parents are not confused and the process is straightforward.	We have worked closely with Warwickshire School Admissions and as a result are able to confirm that we will now coordinate with Warwickshire Admissions Service for applications. Warwickshire families can now apply via the Warwickshire Admissions portal at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions . Families in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire should apply through their home LA.
Please clarify the precise borders of the priority areas.	The final priorities areas have been refined using GIS software to avoid properties falling on the boundary lines. This means that the priority areas are now compatible with Warwickshire Admissions Service's existing admissions software and interactive priority area maps.
How will my address' distance from the school be determined when allocating places?	The final admissions arrangements confirm that home/school distance will be calculated by a straight line measurement from the address point location coordinate of the applicant's home address (as set by Ordnance Survey) to the centre point ('centroid') of the school in question. The centroid is a pre-determined point set by Warwickshire County Council and all distances are subject to changes which may occur with updates of mapping data.
Please consider including Barby and Onley, Kilsby and Crick in your priority areas as geographical neighbours.	Houlton is a Warwickshire school and sufficiency planning has identified a need for more school places in Rugby Borough. As Barby and Onley, Kilsby, and Crick are not within Warwickshire, they have not been included in our priority areas as sufficiency planning for these areas comes under the jurisdiction of Northamptonshire. However, we have removed the criteria which gave priority to the wider borough of Rugby after Priority Area 2. Therefore, outside of Priority Area One and Two, the same oversubscription criteria will now apply regardless of home local authority.
Please consider including Coton Park in Priority Area Two.	Coton Park is in the priority area for Avon Valley School. Therefore, we will not be extending our second priority area to include this area, as areas where school places are needed have been prioritised. However, families from Coton Park are welcome to apply, and will be considered under the relevant oversubscription criteria.

Please consider extending Priority Area Two to include the existing priority area of Clifton Upon Dunsmore C of E Primary School to avoid the boundary cutting through the village.	In the final admissions arrangements, Priority Area 2 has been extended to a wider area in response to this request (see http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mapsecondaryschools).
Most schools have only one priority area. Why does Houlton School have two?	Houlton School will ultimately serve its immediate community of the new development at Houlton. However, until all planned phases of the housing development are complete, there will be additional capacity to take children from the wider Rugby area. Therefore, Houlton School's additional Priority Area 2 has been drawn to include an area north of Rugby Borough to support Warwickshire County Council's sufficiency strategy and planning for school places in the wider borough.
Will you be naming any particular feeder schools?	The final admissions arrangements contain no nominated feeder schools. This includes the removal of Henry Hinde Junior School as a feeder school from the draft proposal in response to comments from a number of interested parties that requested the immediate area of the school be prioritised for school places, reducing journey times to school and reducing the environmental impact of families travelling across the borough to school. Priority has been given to those families who reside closest to the school so that Houlton School can be at the heart of its immediate community.
Will you consider removing the criteria for the wider borough of Rugby so that families who are geographically closest to the school are able to apply to their most local school?	The final admissions arrangements identify two priority areas, one of which prioritises the immediate area of the school, and the other to support Warwickshire County Council's school place sufficiency strategy. The reference to the wider borough of Rugby has been removed, so that those who live closest to the school have the priority.
Will priority be given to siblings?	The final admissions arrangements include priority for siblings.

As a result of the above responses, the admissions policy has now been finalised for 2021-22 and is available to view on our website at houltonschool.org.uk/admissions.

Yours faithfully



Michael McCulley
Principal Designate
Houlton School



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Chair of Trustees
TLET



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