



# Malmesbury C of E Primary School

Tetbury Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9JR

*Growing together in wisdom and love; discovering life in all its fullness*

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5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

In line with the requirements set out in the School Admission Code, Malmesbury C of E Primary School, wishes to consult with you regarding the school's proposal to amend its admissions policy from September 2022.

In recent years, the geography and size of Malmesbury has changed resulting in the school being regularly oversubscribed. As such, our oversubscription criteria have become increasingly important.

The criteria outline the categories in which children are admitted to the school, starting with vulnerable and looked after children, siblings and other children within the designated area and then children outside the designated area. Where there is oversubscription in any of these categories, the child who lives closest in straight line distance to the school is admitted.

The governors are reviewing the admissions policy to ensure it is still appropriate, given the current regular oversubscription and the likelihood of proposed new housing.

The governors are therefore consulting with parents and the local community on the attached draft admissions policy.

The proposed policy tries to achieve three key objectives:

1. Children with siblings already at the school would not be negatively affected by the changes
2. Children without a sibling at the school (non-siblings), would have equal access within the designated area to Malmesbury Primary School
3. Children who live near enough to the school that they are likely to be able to get to the school without using a vehicle are given priority by the school

To achieve this the proposed policy has two linked changes:

1. For non-siblings, the designated area for admission is the Malmesbury Town Boundary and the Foxley Road/Common Road area. In the proposal, this is the inner designated area
2. For non-siblings living within this inner designated area, admission is based on random allocation instead of straight-line distance to the school

Within the admissions policy, there is an explanation of how the random allocation would work. There is also an explanation within the policy of how a tie break would function in each category.

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Given the above changes, to ensure that all children are admitted in the correct priority order, two new categories have been created: one to ensure that children of staff are admitted as a priority group and another to ensure that non-siblings within the outer designated area are a higher priority than siblings outside of the outer designated area.

Admission other than these categories is based on the existing school catchment area, which is now the outer designated area. In these other categories, where there is oversubscription, the child who lives closest in straight line distance to the school is admitted.

It is the governors' belief that these changes would have the effect of expanding the proportion of the town that the school serves and better enable the school to represent a wider proportion of the community. Without these changes, admissions to the school would become ever more concentrated in the area around the school, leaving certain areas of town without any likely access to their local primary school.

We hope this information will enable you to understand the reason for this change. This consultation will run for six weeks from 05/10/2020 to 15/11/2020. We invite you to view the proposed changes on our school website by going to 'Information' and then 'Admissions'.

Please send any comments regarding this consultation to Clerk to Governors Nicki Warne ([clerk@malmesbury-pri.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@malmesbury-pri.wilts.sch.uk)), or via the school on the address above. All comments will be considered by the Governing Body. Final arrangements will be determined by 28/02/2021.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Nicki Warne

Clerk to Governors  
Malmesbury C of E Primary School