

Monday 6th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re. Consultation on St Edward's Academy Oversubscription Criteria for September 2023

I wanted to write to let you know about an open consultation by the St Edward's Academy Local Governing Body. The Governing Body are hoping to garner opinions from parents/carers on their proposal to consider a change to the St Edward's Academy oversubscription criteria.

The Governing Body are consulting on a proposed adjustment to the oversubscription criteria at St Edward's Academy. The consultation is considering a change in the percentage of Foundation (Faith) and Community (Open) places offered. Where the number of applicants for admission is greater than the published admissions number, the consultation considers applications based on the proposed criteria set out below:

After the admission of children with Education, Health and Care Plans where St Edward's Academy is named on the Education, Health and Care Plan, places will be allocated to applicants in the following priority order:

- a. Looked after children¹ and all children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- b. Children whom the Governors and Headteacher accept have an exceptional medical or social need for a place at St Edward's Academy. Applications will only be considered under this category if they are supported by a written statement from a

¹ A 'looked after child' 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

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

Adoption includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders).

Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

medical consultant, senior social worker or other appropriate professional. In each case there must be clear connection between the child's needs and St Edward's Academy and an explanation of the difficulties which would be caused if the child were to attend another school.

Admission under a. to b. will be considered irrespective of any religious affiliation.

The Governing Body wish to consult on designating 50% of the remaining annual intake as Foundation Places (faith), with the remaining 50% classified as Community Places (Open). Vacant places in one category will be taken by oversubscription from the other.

This in no way impacts on the constitution of St Edward's Academy which remains firmly a Church of England school. Instead, the Governing Body consultation aims to move St Edward's Academy more in line with the Church of England philosophy for education. The Local Governing Body agrees with the philosophy that Church of England schools and academies have a dual purpose:

- to offer a Christian education to the children of Christian parents;
- to fulfil the Church of England's historic mission in the practical expression of our pastoral responsibility to all children in the local community, irrespective of faith.

To be clear, the Governing Body are consulting on proposed changes to admissions policies to take effect for school admissions for September 2023. If agreed, this proposed adjustment will only impact on new applications for Year 7 places and mid-term admissions from September 2023 onwards. Children in other Year groups who have already secured a place at St Edward's Academy will not experience any changes. This includes children who will be admitted to St Edward's Academy in academic year 2022/23.

Admissions criteria are applied when a school is oversubscribed. The oversubscription criteria must be objective, fair and compatible with admissions and equal opportunities legislation. There needs to be regard to any relevant advice, the School Admission and Appeals Codes and the LA co-ordinated admission scheme. The proposed Admissions criteria are subject to the consultation procedures as set out in the agreed timescale: the consultation period runs until 17th January 2022.

You have received a copy of this letter as a parent of a child attending St Edward's Academy. Attached to this letter you will find full details of the proposed oversubscription criteria, if you have any questions on this consultation, please email hope@steds.org.uk.

The consultation period closes on 17th January 2022. You are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal to:

St Edward's Governing Body
c/o St Edward's Academy,
London Road,
RM7 9NX

Alternatively, you may wish to email at:

governors@steds.org.uk

Comments will be forwarded to the Chair of Governing Body for consideration by the Local Governing Body.

On behalf of the Governing Body, many thanks for your consideration of this matter. The Governing Body will discuss feedback from parents/carers and other interested parties at their next scheduled meeting. The Governing Body will communicate their final decision in due course, having considered all available feedback.

With my best wishes



Jodie Hassan
Headteacher