



HOWARD OF EFFINGHAM SCHOOL

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24 November 2022

Re: Consultation on the proposed change(s) to criteria for Howard of Effingham School for entry in September 2024 (*September following the next Academic Year, e.g. consultation in December 2021 is for entry in September 2023*)

Dear Parents and Stakeholders

Following a review of the admissions criteria for Howard of Effingham School, the Local Governance Board and The Howard Partnership Trust (THPT), the Admissions Authority, wish to consult you on proposed changes to the admission criteria for entry in September 2024.

What we plan to change:

1. Removal of the word 'nearest' from the tie-breaker and clarification of associated Note 6

Reasons for proposed changes to the current admission arrangements

Proposal 1. We are proposing to make this change to our admission arrangements because of the outcome of an objection made in respect of another Surrey school to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA), which is the body responsible for such matters. The OSA identified some concerns with the use of 'nearest school' in that school's admission arrangements and the objectivity and clarity regarding this. Following this outcome, Surrey County Council carried out a consultation process to remove the use of the term 'nearest school' in the admission arrangements for all schools for which it is responsible. Most academies and Multi-Academy Trusts in Surrey, including The Howard Partnership Trust, have also taken the decision to do this.

The removal of use of 'nearest school' makes the admission arrangements for the school simpler and more transparent as it enables every family to understand how their application will be considered and prioritises a child based on their home's proximity to the school.

It is important to note that home to school distance is **not** being removed as a category for admission. After siblings, priority will be based on straight line distance from the child's home address to the school.

The proposal reflects the need to clarify the mechanisms used for determining distance when using a tie-breaker in the event of oversubscription. The explanatory Note 6 will be adjusted to explain how we will prioritise applicants and how we measure distance.

Summary of changes:

Proposal 1:	
Current Tiebreak	Proposed Tiebreak

Principal Mr James Baker, BMus (Hons), AKC, Dip ABRSM, Ma (Ed), NPQH



The Howard Partnership Trust
Bringing out the best

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<p><u>Tiebreak within catchment</u> If there is oversubscription within a catchment area criterion, priority will be given to children who live furthest from their nearest alternative school, regardless of whether or not a place could have been gained at that school (See Note 6)</p> <p><u>Tiebreak outside catchment</u> If there is oversubscription within a non-catchment area criterion, priority will be given to children who live nearest the school (See Note 6)</p>	<p>If there is oversubscription within any criterion, priority will be given to children who live closest to the school (See Note 6)</p>
<p><u>Note 6: Distance Measurements & Tiebreaker</u> <i>Adjusted text in highlight</i></p> <p>Where any category is oversubscribed, applicants will be ranked according to the straight line distance that they live from the school, with priority being given to children who live closest to the school. Home to school distances are measured in a straight line from the address point of the child's home, as set by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest school gate for students to use. The measurement does not take into account the mode of transport used. This distance will be calculated using Surrey County Council's Admissions Team's Geographical Information System.</p> <p>If, within the category above there are more children than places available, any remaining places will be offered to children who meet this criterion on the basis of proximity of the child's home address to the school. Where two or more children are deemed to be equidistant, random allocation will be used to determine priority.</p> <p>In the case of multiple births, where those children have equal priority for a place, if a place can be offered to at least one child then all children from that multiple birth will be offered a place, even if this is above PAN.</p>	

Statutory requirement to consult

The Admissions Authority for Howard of Effingham School is The Howard Partnership Trust, which is required by law to consult between 1 October and 31 January for a period of at least 6 weeks (not including school holidays) on any proposed changes to admissions arrangements. Any changes to admissions arrangements would be for entry September 2024.

The LGB and THPT wish to assure you that they consider consultation to be a very important process as it ensures that the opinions of the schools' stakeholders can be considered when key decisions are taken.

Consultation period

The consultation period begins on **Friday 25 November 2022** and will end on **Friday 13 January 2023**. An electronic questionnaire for you to complete has been uploaded onto the Howard of Effingham School website or you can click on the following link:

[Admissions Questionnaire for entry in September 2024](#)

Alternatively, you can send your comments directly by email to:
hoeadmissionsconsultation@thehoward.thpt.org.uk

or in writing to:

Chair of the Local Governance Board
Howard of Effingham School
Lower Road
Effingham
KT24 5JR

Who may participate in the consultation

The consultation is open to all interested parties, and the Local Governance Board is distributing this communication to all local schools, local stakeholder groups and other admissions authorities. The Local Governance Board will be holding meetings at the school for anyone who would like further information on the proposed change to our admissions criteria. Please contact Sonia Druce, Governance Co-ordinator, sonia.druce@thpt.org.uk or via the school office on 01372 453694 if you would like to attend one such session.

Outcomes

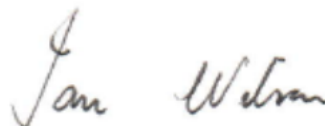
Once the consultation has closed, the LGB will meet to consider all the responses that have been received. Findings of the consultation will be published together with confirmation of the admissions criteria for entry September 2024 by 15 March 2023 on the School and THPT websites.

We value your thoughts and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully



Liz McDermid
Chair of LGB



Ian Wilson
Chair of THPT