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Head Teacher: Mrs Kareen O'Brien

Director of Primary Education:

Mr J Roddick MA (Ed), BEd (Hons), NPQH

15th March 2017

Dear Stakeholders,

Proposed change to admissions criteria for Eastwick Junior School for September 2018

POST CONSULTATION UPDATE

On the 7th of November 2016 we opened the consultation process for proposed changes to the admissions criteria for Eastwick Junior School. Over the consultation period, ending on the 21st December, we received over 130 responses to our website or by direct response. We thank all those who took the time and effort to engage. Your responses have truly added value to the overall process.

The overall response was overwhelmingly positive, with 78% of respondents in favour of the proposed alterations to the admission criteria giving 'children attending Eastwick Infant School' priority after 'siblings' and before 'children for whom the school is nearest to their home address'.

Alongside the indication of 'in favour' or 'against' the proposal, we received a wealth of written feedback. Comments that accompanied positive responses were useful to validate the benefits we sought to gain by the proposed changes. The points of concern, however, were particularly useful to help guide us on how to mitigate perceived negative consequences. The key themes raised are summarised below.

- **Impact on local schools:** respondents expressed concern for Polesden Lacey and the negative impact the proposal might have.
- **Fairness:** respondents expressed concern that families should continue to benefit from real choice in their decision on which school would suit their child best at reception age and that this proposal may, in effect, reduce the choice.
- **Catchment:** respondents expressed concern that children may be offered a place because they have a sibling at one of the Eastwick schools and a child who may live closer would miss out on their place.

As a consequence of this feedback we developed an addition to the proposal; to include Polesden Lacey as a stated priority, after children attending Eastwick Infants. We subsequently met with Polesden Lacey and The Dawnay to confirm the benefits of the revised proposal and ensure there are no unintended impacts. Both schools were supportive to the amendment.

We therefore believe we have addressed the first two themes of concern. In regard to the latter theme, with the changes proposed and with the continued procedure of allocating Reception places on a 'nearest to the school' basis, we remain convinced that we have reached the correct balance of priorities.

As a result of the consultation and post consultation activity, The Howard Partnership Trust, the admissions authority for Eastwick Schools, determined on 28th February 2017 that the **alternative proposed admissions criteria** detailed below will be used for admissions for the academic year starting September 2018.



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Eastwick Schools is a federation of Eastwick Infant School and Eastwick Junior School
The Howard Partnership Trust, Registered Office:
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Current Admissions Criteria	Alternative Proposed Admissions Criteria
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First priority: Looked After and previously Looked After Children 2. Second priority: Exceptional circumstances 3. Third priority: Siblings 4. Fourth priority: Children for whom the school is the nearest to their home address 5. Fifth priority: Any other applicant 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First priority: Looked After and previously Looked After Children 2. Second priority: Exceptional circumstances 3. Third priority: Siblings 4. Fourth priority: Children who are currently attending Eastwick Infant School 5. Fifth priority: Children who are currently attending Polesden Lacey Infant School 6. Sixth priority: Children for whom the school is the nearest to their home address 7. Seventh priority: Any other applicant

Finally, and in response to feedback we received during this process, we would like to explain that the increase in Pupil Admission Numbers from 75 to 82 at the Infant school will support the longer term financial planning and sustainability of our school.

We thank all those that have participated in the process, and are pleased to be able implement the changes proposed, so that we can continue to deliver a high standard of education at Eastwick Schools.

Yours faithfully,



E McDermid
**Chair of Eastwick Schools
 Local Governing Body**



C Williamson
Chair of THPT Trust Board



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