



2nd December 2019

Dear Stakeholder,

Consultation on proposed changes to the Admission Arrangements for Lydiard Park Academy and Abbey Park Schools

The Park Academies Trust is consulting on revised School Admission Arrangements for both Lydiard Park Academy and Abbey Park School. Our intention is that these revised arrangements will be in place for entry for the academic year 2021-22.

Consultation Dates

Responses to this consultation process should be made by Friday 31st January 2020. Responses will be considered at a meeting on 10th February 2020 and a final decision on the Admission Arrangements at both academies will be made by 28th February 2020.

How to respond:

Responses can be sent in writing to:

Lydiard Park Academy: The Clerk to the Local Advisory Body, Lydiard Park Academy, Grange Park Way, Swindon SN5 6HN

Email responses can be sent to ask@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk

Please type 'Admissions Consultation' in the email subject line.

Abbey Park School: The Clerk to the Local Advisory Body, Abbey Park School, Redhouse Way, Swindon SN25 2ND

Email responses can be sent to admin@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Please type 'Admissions Consultation' in the email subject line.

Changes we are consulting on in the Admission Arrangements for Lydiard Park Academy

What are the proposed changes at Lydiard Park Academy?

There are two proposed changes of significance to the current Admission Arrangements for Lydiard Park Academy, both affecting the oversubscription criteria that are applied if the Academy receives more applications than spaces. These are:

1. For applications for both Year 7 and Year 12 entry, the proposed oversubscription criteria now includes an additional criterion regarding the children of staff employed at the school.
2. For applications for Year 12 entry only, the proposed oversubscription criteria now include an additional criterion naming Abbey Park School as a feeder school.

Why do we wish to make these changes at Lydiard Park Academy?

Staff recruitment is increasingly difficult, with national shortages in a number of subjects commonly studied at secondary school. The curriculum at Lydiard Park Academy is predicated on being delivered by subject specialist staff and, as such, we wish to incentivise applications for vacancies in shortage subjects and also retain staff in these areas. By adding an oversubscription criterion for staff who wish to apply for a place at the Academy for their child, we believe we will improve our ability to attract and retain such staff.

Since October 2017, Lydiard Park Academy has been working closely with Abbey Park School on all aspects of curriculum design and delivery. This has resulted in a common Key Stage 3 curriculum and a common choice of GCSE examination board in all subjects (chosen to be the 'best fit' to the Level 3



courses on offer at the Trust 6th form at Lydiard Park Academy). Pupils from Year 11 at Abbey Park School are, therefore, uniquely well placed to benefit from our 6th form curriculum (in comparison to the curriculum on offer at other post-16 providers). As such we wish to give them preference over other applications for the 50 external places on offer in the event of there being more external applications than places.

Changes we are consulting on in the Admission Arrangements for Abbey Park School

What are the proposed changes at Abbey Park School?

Changes we are consulting on in the Admission Arrangements for Abbey Park School

There are two proposed changes of significance to the current Admission Arrangements for Abbey Park School, both affecting the oversubscription criteria that are applied if the Academy receives more applications than spaces. These are:

1. For applications for Year 7 entry, the proposed oversubscription criteria now includes an additional criterion naming Red Oaks Primary School as a feeder school.
2. Also for applications for Year 7 entry, the proposed oversubscription criteria now includes an additional criterion regarding the children of staff employed at the school

Why do we wish to make these changes at Abbey Park School?

Staff recruitment is increasingly difficult with national shortages in a number of subjects commonly studied at secondary school. The curriculum at Abbey Park School is predicated on being delivered by subject specialist staff and, as such, we wish to incentivise applications for vacancies in shortage subjects and also retain staff in these areas. By adding an oversubscription criterion for staff who wish to apply for a place at the Academy for their child, we believe we will improve our ability to attract and retain such staff. Since September 2018, Abbey Park School has been working closely with Red Oaks Primary School on all aspects of the taught curriculum in Key Stages 2 and 3. This has involved building a continuous curriculum in each subject by timelining the content, skills and vocabulary to avoid repetition and build the potential for seamless progress. There has also been joint staff training on aspects such as teaching writing, which means that Abbey Park teachers can use and build on the techniques being taught at Red Oaks. In a number of subjects (MFL, science, PE, music) Year 5 and 6 classes at Red Oaks are taught by subject specialists from Abbey Park School, allowing staff to design and provide learning opportunities with accurate knowledge of pupils and their individual needs throughout the transition period. As such, Year 6 pupils from Red Oaks Primary School are uniquely well placed to benefit from the curriculum at Abbey Park School, which has been designed with the input of both Red Oaks and Abbey Park staff. As such we wish to give applicants from Red Oaks Primary School preference over other applications in the event of there being more external applications than places, and hence we are proposing to name Red Oaks Primary School as a designated feeder school for Abbey Park School.

For any further information about Admissions Arrangements at the above academies, please contact the relevant academy using the details above.

Yours faithfully,