



Headteacher

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Friday 24th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Busbridge CE Junior School is writing to notify you of a proposed in-year variation to our admissions policy for the year 2021-22. This will affect admissions to Year 3 in September 2021 and beyond. The closure of churches as a result of Covid-19, has raised the difficult issue of clergy verifying an applicant's level of church attendance in order to meet governors' over-subscription criteria. Clearly it will not be possible for clergy to do so in line with schools' admissions policies during the next admissions application round for the academic year 2021/22. As a result, we are seeking an in-year variation to our over-subscription criteria, in order to remedy this and clarify the position for prospective parents. This proposal is based on advice received from the DfE, the Church of England Education Office and the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA). Please note that this is not a formal consultation, which is not required under these circumstances.

The proposed wording for the variation, as agreed with the OSA, is as follows:

"In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship, the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance, will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship".

All other aspects of our admissions policy remain unchanged.

Yours faithfully

pp Ron Downhill, Chair of Governors
Busbridge CE Junior School

