



BOURNMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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19th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Durham County Council's consultation on proposed change to secondary school admission arrangements 2022/2023

I am writing to inform you of the consultation process that Durham County Council are running with a view to changing the admissions arrangements for secondary school admissions from 2022-23. These proposals, if adopted, amend the admission criteria from September 2023 and more information can be found at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/24238/Have-your-say-on-secondary-school-admission-arrangements>

The issue Durham County Council are trying to address

In recent years both Park View and The Hermitage have been oversubscribed as there are more children in Chester-le-Street and the surrounding villages than both schools can accommodate. This has resulted in a high number of appeals and many parents not being offered their first choice school.

The current arrangements

In the event of your first choice school being over subscribed there is a tie breaker that states:

"For those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address, priority will be given to those who would otherwise have to travel the furthest distance to the next nearest school/academy."

This tie breaker has favoured Bournmoor children who want a place at Park View, over similar children from schools in central Chester-le-Street. This is because children from our catchment area would have to travel further to get to Hermitage than children living in central Chester-le-Street.

Proposed change

The proposed change would see the tie breaker criteria change to:

"For those children who have applied for a place at the nearest school to their home address, priority will be given to those living closest to the nearest school measured by the shortest walking route"

What can Bournmoor parents do?

If you would like to find out more about these proposed changes then you have until **Friday 18th December** to engage with the consultation process. You can do this by:

- Filling in the form attached to this letter and return to:
School Places and Admissions Team,
Children and Young People's Services,
Business Reply Service,
License No DU63 (Freepost),
Durham County Council, County Hall,
Durham,
DH1 5BR
- Complete the same form online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9LZJ8TG>
- Email your response to schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

L A Snowdon

Mrs L Snowdon (Headteacher)