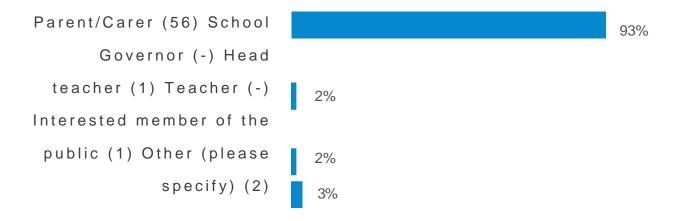
School Admissions Consultation 2020 Page:1

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This report was generated on 02/12/19. Overall 60 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

In what role are you responding to this consultation? Please select one option only.



Please specify 'other':

County Councillor

Lincolnshire County Council School Admissions

If you indicated that you represent a school/other educational establishment, please provide your details (Name:)

Terri Eynon

If you indicated that you represent a school/other educational establishment, please provide your details (Organisation:)

Leicestershire County Council

Are you providing your organisations official response to the consultation?

Yes (2) 67% No (1) 33%

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To what extent do you agree or disagree with the removal of the current criterion 7, which will no longer prioritise applications of grounds of belief? Please see appendix 1 of supporting document for this information.

Strongly agree (30) 50%

Tend to agree (13) 22%

Neither agree nor disagree (3) 5%

Tend to disagree (10) 17%

Strongly disagree (4) 7%

Don't know (-)

Why do you say this?

I don't think religious belief in a valid reason to prioritise applications. It's difficult to prove someone's religious belief and for many it is not a deciding factor in their child's education.

I do not believe that faith has anything to do with the education of a child. Decisions based on faith only lead to division and segregation and especially now, in the current political climate, people need to be brought together and integrated for a stronger future.

Religious belief should have no place in decisions about school places. It is tantamount to discrimination particularly against those who hold no religious belief (including humanists).

A school can have a belief system and can positively influence children but the children sharing that faith should not have a priority to attend a school of the same faith.

I understand this request has come from the Church of England, an organisation that runs most of the faith schools in Leicester.

It should not matter.

Most schools are Christian. I do not believe that faith has anything to do with the education of a child. I think that for those families with strong religious beliefs, being able to choose a faith based school is important. By not prioritising the application on grounds of belief there is a risk to eroding the school's faith character by not admitting those pupils who are active members of that faith group. Inclusion and diversity are key to harmonious communities but where people are active worshippers within a particular faith they should be prioritised when considering admissions.

I believe that the faith school will loose their ethos and identity with this change

Equal faiths in schools allow diversity

Religious belief should have no impact on access to education.

Due to the lack of primary school places in Ashby de la Zouch, all of the existing primaries need to be open to all children. Faith is personal, and should not take up a place at a non-denominational school above another child.

As a Faith based school it should be allowed to accept pupils based on their faith

The next step will be parents with different beliefs to the school forcing schools to be faith neutral all together. This means children not being brought up in a faith. Regardless of faith this can not be a good thing in my opinion.

I feel children that have been in care etc or live near the school/have siblings at the school should have priority

Why do you say this?

I thought I agreed with this, but on consideration I don't!. If a family has a strong faith that is appropriate to the school, and this is opposed to another child of no or little belief, then preference should be given to the child of faith. Their is a blurred line when parents 'profess' a religion to gain entry, and would removing this create a more honest approach of entry? However, if allowed to gain entry without the strength of belief being significant, then do parents then feel they have a right to challenge the belief teaching being given to their child? If they know it is part of the criterion, they they can have little reason to cause conflict over religious education can they? I am myself an atheist, so suggest I approach this trying to see from the position of the faith school and that if I choose to enter my child in to a faith school then I do so knowing that they will receive guidance inline with the beliefs of the school and that it is their prerogative to teach in this manner as they are clear on their position from the outset. Removing this criterion 7 would weaken the position of the school I feel

Whilst I do not believe faith should be the top priority, I think that it should be considered in admissions. If for example, there is one spot left and two wanting it, surely the one who practices inline with the schools faith should be given priority otherwise why have a faith school?

"belief" should have no part in decisions on education.

As I feel faith should be taken into consideration when wanting to go to a faith school if faith is a main reason for picking the school

I believe priority should be given to siblings in the same school. This should be above catchment. I believe all the other reasons are in suitable order but I also agree that belief should be taken off the list as all children should be given the same opportunities at the school of their choice regardless of belief, children should all mix together.

Religious belief or lack of belief should not be a discriminating factor in deciding priority for school places. Our state-funded schools should move towards a secular character in line with our society. Religion (or lack thereof) is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2010) and any decision made on this basis is vulnerable to challenge.

This is the same advice we send to our schools.

It should not make a difference what beliefs the pupil/family has or has not.

If a school is based on the principles of a religion, it makes sense that families with the same beliefs take priority.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the revised Leicestershire School Admissions Policy and associated co-ordinated schemes for entry 2021?

Strongly agree (13) Tend 22%

to agree (24) Neither 40%

agree nor disagree (16) 27%

Tend to disagree (1) 2%

Strongly disagree (5) 8%

Don't know (1) 2%

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Why do you say this?

If it needs to be revised to tidy it up then so be it.

Siblings should be above catchment. As a parent who already has a child in a school, that could be a logistical nightmare which causes issues in the environment and with traffic etc.

Difficult to say without context/examples

It appear more fair.

All the changes appear reasonable and keep the authority up to date with guidance

It's very hard to see the changes you have made as there is no previous document in the accompanying material to compare it to.

Policy update coordinated with admission is a move forward

For the Ashby area this seems to be the most sensible way forward.

Very small changes to the wording, so I can't see it having a huge impact.

The traffic chaos that will be created during school runs in the town of Ashby and parking on pavements and children being put in danger with the amount of cars around schools will be massive. Add to this pollution and environmental factors. I can not see this being a good thing in the long run.

I'll be honest, I couldn't cope with proofing this for you, and presume it embodies the same basic principles it did before, therefore is probably fine

While not an expert, I find LCC's arguemnts compelling.

Don't know what that question means

Distance from home to school should be a lot further up the list, along with siblings at the same school.

Not read it as told me to do this first

Similar to LCC. No dates in coordinated schemes conflict.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the amended catchment boundary changes for the following primary schools in Leicestershire, for entry 2021? (Badgerbrook Primary School)

Strongly agree (4) 8%

Tend to agree (8) 16%

Neither agree nor disagree (17) 35%

Tend to disagree (-)

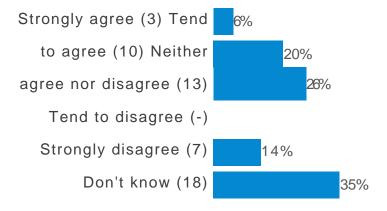
Strongly disagree (3) 6%

Don't know (17) 35%

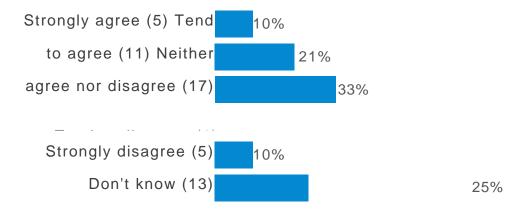
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To what extent do you agree or disagree with the amended catchment boundary changes for the following primary schools in Leicestershire, for entry 2021? (Greenfield Primary School and Thistley Meadow Primary School)



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the amended catchment boundary changes for the following primary schools in Leicestershire, for entry 2021? (Ashby Schools)



Why do you say this?

There will not be enough room in the school to hold all these pupils if houses are being build to that many then new schools need to be provided

Not relevant to me at all, so can not comment as I don't know the schools or the areas. Will the catchment boundaries be amended will all the development going on in Lutterworth?

The children who live within walking distance of Greenfield should be in the catchment. It is better for the environment and their health. If there needs to be a cut then children living in outlying areas such as Peatling should be moved. Potentially children who could simply walk up Gwendoline Drive would not get into Greenfield and be sent to Thistly requiring a car journey. Absolutely ridiculous.

Ashby and Badgerbrook have nothing to do with me and my family, so I have no views either way. I approve of the Greenfield/Thistly Meadow suggestion. My fear was that it would happen at the other end of the village where there is no public footpath to Thistly from the new Redrow estate. Interestingly, this estate is not even shown on the close-up of the catchment, which may sway views away from your proposal given its inaccuracies.

As a resident of the new linden estate, the new boundary for the catchment of Badgerbrook Primary means I could potentially have one child at one school and one at a different school. This would not be feasible.

Why do you say this?

I moved to the area and purchased this home (strata estate, Henson Close) as it was in the badgerbrook catchment area, my eldest son started at the school in September this year and is getting in wonderfully. I have another son due to start in September 2021 and with the proposed changes we are now in the catchment for st peters. Whilst I understand that I carry some priority based on sibling at the school, it's not a guarantee as we would no longer be in catchment. I cannot take my children to 2 separate schools, this would really have a detrimental effect on our family. The amount of money that Strata homes has contributed to Whetstone, I find it outrageous that you now want to move this development out of catchment.

I do not know the schools.

As a parent of a child who is already at Greenfield, and as we live in the affected area, I am concerned that with a shared catchment area this will mean that it is harder for us to get our daughter into Greenfield(her current catchment school) in the autumn of 2021. It would concern me that I could end up with two children are two different schools and as my son has special needs I would be unable to move him.

I do not represent the area but I do understand the rationale for the change.

Unfamiliar with the areas

I don't feel I know the areas well enough to comment

I believe that this blending of the catchment boundary changes will have far reaching effects for many existing families. It may also be that families are allocated not their closest school but one which is furthest away within a group. It will add additional pressures to families during the application process and potentially cause disruption to many. Blending all four would alleviate the burden on some popular ashby schools but would mean that if all four share a boundary then families may not be allocated their closest school. This has happened repeatedly in other blended areas.

I observe that within Ashby de la Zouch, the dissolution of previous catchment areas favours those who reside centrally as oppose to those who reside towards the outskirts of the catchment. Whilst the distance from school gate to residence appears fair, the removal of discrete catchment areas may lead to some unintended consequences. This is on the basis that those applicants that reside centrally could live closer to their furthest school, than those applicants from more rural properties. For example: the rural applicants "closest school" is School A, which may be 1 mile away. However, the central applicants "furthest school" may only be 0.5miles away, with their closest school <0.5miles (as the crow flies from house to school gate). This is a function of the close proximity of the schools, relative to the centre of the catchment, and the proposed relatively large catchment area. Noting that with all else being equal, the distance from school gate to property will likely be a discriminator for overly subscribed schools, please could the cabinet consider what provision could be made to stop a more rural applicant whose distance to their first choice "closest school" which may be larger than those close to both their first and second choice, being forced to a school even further away? This is in the context of a national principle of promoting the use of more sustainable and healthy transport (walking, cycling or scooting) to less sustainable transport (cars). One possible option would be to redefine the use of discrete catchment areas by population density and distance to closest school, such that these can be used to favour the most geographically logical school. Another option could be to consider applications on not only their distance to their first choice, but also their second choice schools and the relative distance of both primary and secondary options (such that rural applicants are not forced further from their preferred school).

Rather than changing these boundaries is it not prudent to review if an additional school is required to avoid overcrowding

Ashby schools?! Catchment should be broadened and revisions made sensibly

With the growth in the area this seems to be the fairest way forward.

Problems with siblings getting into greenfield where their old sibling goes.

Why do you say this?

Ashby de la Zouch is in a slightly unique situation, in that all four primary schools are at the same end of town. Scrapping catchment areas, which is criteria 2 in the priority list for allocating spaces, and only having distance from school, which is the very last criteria on the priory list, will only increase the amount of travelling around town the children will need to do. If they don't live in the surrounding area of a school, they will be driven. None of the schools have adequate parking nearby as it is, this will increase traffic on the roads at school time, and also increase parking near schools. Parking is already at dangerous levels. If the smaller catchment areas are scrapped, anyone living at the Tesco side of Ashby will be automatically disadvantaged from gaining a place at any of the Ashby primary schools because they are at the farthest end of the town. This will mean that anyone even living right next door to one of the schools will be offered a place at any one of the other schools, over and above someone living near Tesco, simply because of distance alone.

Concerns around increased traffic across town if pupils are allocated a school not based on proximity. With efforts to get kids more active in walking to school and the reduce environmental footprint catchments play a key role in ensuring location is considered as a criteria.

I live in Ashby so can only talk about Ashby Schools. Traffic around schools increasing with danger to children and pollution is not a good thing.

I am not living in these areas, so can not have an opinion

From what I understand if those in the joint catchment get priority to both schools then I think this is a common sense approach by the LCC' school admissions department to a poor planning situation created by Blaby Districts planning department, who were advised this would be a problem but never listen or took the required steps to ensure sufficient school places for the developments.

I am not an expert on local demography, so cannot comment.

The school is getting too full

Not known to me

Not relevant to me

Not in those areas so difficult to say

My own opinion is that more schools In Leicestershire require their catchment areas to be considered. In Groby our catchment school is the school furthest away. This is very difficult for parents, especially if you have no access to transport.

This does not impact on Lincolnshire County Council residents.

As a parent of two children who go to Hill Top I do not want to see amended catchment boundary changes for the following reasons: 1) Traffic - the traffic entering and exiting Woodside is already out of control. There is utter disregard and contempt for parents who walk their children to school and who live on the estate. We continue to run the daily gauntlet of selfish parents driving at excessive speed, mounting pavements at speed, not adhering to the voluntary one way system despite the school consistently reminding them of this, blocking drives and pavements and driving against/blocking the flow of traffic. I strongly believe that due to the general traffic issues that continue to be a major issue we should only accept children from our catchment area to avoid exacerbating the current issues around traffic management. 2) Encouraging children to be healthy by walking to school - we hear so much about child obesity and fitness levels and yet more children are driven to school than ever before. If they attended the school nearest to where they live then this might encourage more people to walk. The town is at a standstill as it is from 8:30-9:10 and being able to potentially come from near Tesco to Hill Top is quite frankly ridiculous. 3) People are more likely to want to send their child to an outstanding school rather than a good school so you will end up with oversubscribed schools and disgruntled parents when they don't secure the choice they were hoping for.

We were unable to get our son into Greenfields School when we moved here 4 years ago. He has been at his previous school in Aylestone since. We very much wanted him to attend the village school where we lived so he could make friends and build relationships within our community. We even went to appeal and failed. It was a pointless exercise. We were aware of children from Glen Parva attending this school, while we, who live 5 minutes walk from the school could not get a place.

Do you have any other comments?

Nο

N/A

I don't understand what the point in catchment is when new entries are living in Blaby and still getting in.

How will the result of the consultation be communicated to us, please can you publish this on your website.

How does the shared catchment area work? Does this mean that the greenfield catchment area ranks higher than the shared catch emend area? Some more clarification on this would be good.

It would appear that this policy will have no effect on Academy schools. This is a shame as there is definitely an issue in Mountsorrel Rothley and Quorn area where children are missing out on school spaces.

Schools have limited resource we know that - but with class sizes increasing and challenging behaviours increasing there seems to be a huge downward trend in the quality of education being received locally

Νo

Νo

None.

I think children in care or who have been in care/who live by the school/who have siblings at the school should always be given priority:)

More flexibility should be given for parents of summerborn children to decide to send their children to school at compulsory school age. Parents should then be able to decide if it's is in their child's best interests to start school in reception or year 1. Please see below copied from a letter by Nick Gibb We have, therefore, decided that it is necessary to amend the School Admissions Code further to ensure that summer born children can be admitted to the reception class at the age of five if it is in line with their parents' wishes, and to ensure that those children are able to remain with that cohort as they progress through school, including through to secondary school. We will conduct a full public consultation in due course; and subject to Parliamentary approval will introduce these further changes to ensure that no child is forced to start school before they are ready. Please follow the link to see a copy of the full letter https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/att-achment_data/file/458797/Nick-Gibb-open-letter-summer-born-children-admissions.pdf

Are you male or female?

Male (13) 23%

Female (44) 77%

Prefer to self-describe (e.g. pangender, non-binary etc.) (-)

What was your age on your last birthday? (Please enter your age in numbers not words)

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Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?



What is your ethnic group? Please tick one box only.



What is your religion? Please tick one box only.

