

1st December 2022

To whom it may concern,

**CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS TO THE ORCHARD INFANT SCHOOL
FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025**

The Local Governing Body of The ORCHARD INFANT SCHOOL is currently determining proposed admission arrangements for admissions to the school in September 2024. As determined by the School Admissions Code, we are required to consult on these arrangements for 6 weeks, and are inviting comments on the proposed changes.

A copy of the proposed admissions policy is available on our website at for your information. Alternatively, if you require a hard copy of the policy please contact the school directly.

The Local Governing Body is proposing an amendment to the admissions arrangements to remove the priority of children for whom the school is the nearest to their home address. The criteria based on distance between home and school still remains. Surrey has recommended a change to our admissions policy following a determination of the School Adjudicator in October 2019 which identified some concerns with the use of 'nearest school and the objectivity and clarity regarding this this (ADA3589 - www.gov.uk/government/publications/stamford-green-primary-school). As a result of this determination, Surrey has removed priority according to 'nearest school' from almost all of its community and voluntary controlled school.

At the Orchard, the furthest distance that someone was ranked under 'nearest school' in each of the last three years is as follows:

2020	1.113km
2021	1.024km
2022	943m

As these are less than the furthest distance offered under the 'distance criterion' in each of those years (see priority 5 of the new draft policy), we can conclude that removing 'nearest school' as a criterion would not have had an impact on the intake at the Orchard because children who had the school as their nearest would have got in under distance.

We therefore recommend removing 'nearest school' in this instance to stay in line with Surrey, therefore not having two contradicting systems in the local area.

In brief, our admissions criteria would be:

1. Looked After Children and previously looked after children
2. Exceptional social/medical need
3. Children who will have a sibling on roll at The Orchard School or St. Lawrence C of E Junior School, East Molesey
4. Priority for children of staff
5. Any other applicant – based on nearness to / distance from the school

If you wish to comment on the proposed admissions arrangements, please send your response in writing for the attention of Mrs Sally Cary either by post or email to admin@orchard.surrey.sch.uk. Comments should be received by no later than 12 noon on Monday 16th January allowing for the required 6 weeks of consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sally Cary
Headteacher