

Headteacher: Mr S Woods

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14th March 2016

Dear Prospective Parents and members of our Community

I am writing, on behalf of the governing body of Upper Shirley High School (USH), in response to comments received in relation to the proposed USH admission policy for 2017/18.

The consultation period has now closed and the governors have met to discuss the results of the consultation and formally determine the policy. After careful consideration of all the comments the governors felt that the proposed policy should be published without any further amendments based on the following rationale:

1. The current admissions policy (2016) gives a very high priority to children attending the linked feeder schools of Shirley Junior and Hollybrook Junior. Prior to its conversion, driven by an increased need for primary places in the City, Wordsworth Primary was an infant school whose children fed into Shirley Junior and then naturally into USH. The children at Wordsworth Primary need to be taken into account in future admissions policies as they will feed into USH from 2017.
2. The School Adjudicator (the government department that oversees compliance with admissions policies) passed a ruling in 2013 which USH has to take account of. Where a secondary school's Published Admissions Number (PAN) (the number of children a school takes each year) is less than the total of the PANs of its feeder schools the Adjudicator ruled that the main priority could not be given to children in the feeder schools if this meant that there were no places left available for any child not attending a feeder school. (e.g. If a family moved into the same road as a secondary school but could not get their child into a feeder school because the feeder schools were full, the child should still have a reasonable expectation of getting into the secondary school at the beginning of Year 7). USH is now affected by this ruling, even without the addition of Wordsworth as a feeder. Shirley Junior and Hollybrook Junior have a combined PAN of 180 and USH, with a PAN of 150, has taken fewer and fewer pupils from non-feeder schools over the last few years. The potential addition of 60 children from Wordsworth using an admissions policy giving main priority to children at feeder schools would, therefore, be unlawful.
3. Predicted future pupil numbers, provided by the Local Authority, show that in future years the c. 150 pupils from the Shirley, Redbridge and Lordswood/Lordshill areas of the City who apply to and are accepted at Romsey and Mountbatten Schools in Romsey will no longer be able to be accommodated. This is due to predicted increases in pupil numbers in their own catchments meaning the City based pupils will need to seek admission to more local schools, including USH.

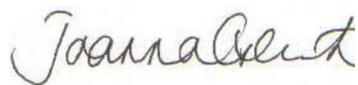
Based on the rationale above, the governors were left with no option but to change the admissions policy for 2017/18.

The consultation was completed in line with the requirements of the School Admissions Code and the deadline for comments was extended when requested. The policy has now been determined and published. If you wish to object to the determined policy, you have the right to lodge an objection with the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. Further information on this process can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/organisation/office-of-the-schools-adjudicator.

The governors considered all the options in order to arrive at a policy which best serves the local community, a core part of the Jefferys Education Trust (JET) ethos. Adopting a catchment based policy, setting the catchment to reflect that of Hollybrook, Shirley and Wordsworth, is the best way to achieve this.

If you have any further queries regarding this letter, please contact me on 07826 916625.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Joanna Glenton'.

Mrs Joanna Glenton
Admissions Consultant