

Commentary on Proposed Changes to Bournemouth School for Girls' Admissions Policy for September 2019

The 3 key changes proposed are:

1. Plans to expand our PAN from 166 to 180.

Current forecasts show that for 2018 there will be 50 spare places across secondary schools in Bournemouth. There is a substantial leap in 2019 and to obtain 2% spare capacity an additional 7 forms of entry (FoE) are needed and for approximately 100 spare places it is around 8-9 FoE extra that are needed. The highest admission numbers are expected in 2022-2023 and to obtain 100 spare places an additional 14 FoE are required or 11-12 for 2% spare capacity. Some additional capacity will arise as the result of establishing a new free school, which is planned to accommodate 5 FoE by September 2020.

Secondary school places in Bournemouth will be limited in 2018 and extra places will definitely be required for 2019. The local authority has asked the governing body to consider increasing our PAN to 180 to help accommodate this increasing number of pupils.

A sustained increase in pupil numbers is predicated upon the school being able to attract funding to extend its current accommodation. Securing significant capital investment to accommodate increased pupil numbers would also enable the school to address some long-standing issues, such as disability access, improved community use of our facilities, poor energy efficiency and improved sporting facilities.

2. The "School's catchment area"

In redefining our 'catchment area' the governing body is mindful of:

- better reflecting the traditional area from which the school draws the majority of its pupils
- our funding agreement requirement that we provide "education for pupils who are wholly or mainly drawn from the area in which the school is situated"
- not being in breach of the 2014 Admissions Code which states that the School **must not** use the local authority boundary to define a catchment area.

The Governing Body decided to use postcodes to define such an area which we felt would give greater clarity for parents than using a circle of a given radius centred on the School. Using postcodes is also easy for the School to administer.

In some circumstances pupils living in Christchurch and Talbot Village are nearer to the school than pupils living in some areas of the Borough of Bournemouth (e.g. BH11).

3. With an increased PAN of 180 the number of girls eligible for a place based on highest test scores regardless of where they live has been realigned from 133 to 130. We do not believe this will significantly disadvantage any girls within this category of admission.

The consultation period runs from 1 November until 15 December 2017 at which point the Admission Authority will consider all responses to the consultation and determine its Admissions Policy for 2019 in light of these responses.

The school is also consulting on these changes via the Borough of Bournemouth combined consultation which can be found at www.bournemouth.gov.uk ⇒ Children & Education ⇒ Schools ⇒ Admission Policies.

This consultation document has been sent to:

- All Bournemouth primary schools – with a request to send to all parents
- All non-Bournemouth primary schools where the school has received admissions in the last three years – with a request to send to all parents
- All Bournemouth secondary schools – with a request to send to all parents
- All non-Bournemouth secondary schools that are close to the Bournemouth Borough boundary – with a request to send to all parents
- The local diocese.

In addition the consultation process will be advertised in the following media outlets:

- Bournemouth School for Girls website
- Bournemouth Echo
- Christchurch Times
- Lymington Times
- New Milton Advertiser
- Bournemouth School for Girls Twitter account

You can post your responses to:

Admissions Consultation
Bournemouth School for Girls
Castle Gate Close
Castle Lane West
Bournemouth
BH8 9UJ

or email your response to admissionsconsultation@bsg.bournemouth.sch.uk