

Appendix 6 (response to headteacher re: children of staff)

The admission authority for each school is responsible for deciding, and publishing, their admission arrangements every year. Where a change is proposed, relevant parties must be consulted and given the opportunity to comment, as the Aquinas Trust is doing in respect of Rye College. The School Admissions Code 2014 allows admission authorities to prioritise children of staff 'a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage'.

Priority can also be given to pupil premium , early years premium and forces premium children.

What I advised you, and other headteachers who have raised this in the past, was that we would not be able to introduce this priority for one school only as this would be impossible to justify to parents and other schools. However if it is something that large numbers of schools wish to pursue, with agreement from the Lead Member for EISEND, the County Council could consult on it in the next consultation round (it is too late now for 2022-23 admissions, this would need to be for 2023-24 now as consultation for 2022-23 is already in progress).

In order to make this alteration to the policy we would need a clear rationale for so doing and evidence that it would not disadvantage other families. We would also need to decide which staff members would be included and how this would be evidenced. This would need to be the same for every school using the County Council's admissions criteria (although it could be different for primary and secondary).

I hope this makes sense. You may wish to respond to [our current consultation](#), which closes on 15 January 2021.