



## UCKFIELD COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

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Principal: Hugh Hennebry BSc NPQH

hvh/tf

17<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Jo Miles  
Admissions & Transport Manager  
Admissions and Transport  
County Hall  
St Anne's Crescent  
Lewes  
East Sussex BN7 1UE

Dear Ms Miles

I am writing on behalf of the Governing Body of Uckfield Community Technology College to express our opposition to East Sussex's proposal to change the sibling priority order when calculating schools admissions.

By changing the sibling rule, this proposal will have a very negative effect on families who have a child at a school. Having two or more children at different schools will be highly inconvenient for transport to / from school. Furthermore, there will be no co-ordination between the two schools for school events that parents are expected to attend thus inconveniencing parents even more. If public transport is being used, then older siblings look after younger siblings which improves student welfare and safety.

Furthermore, the proposal's stated aim is to get children to go to their nearest school. This reduces parental choice and parents do not get much choice as it is. The whole schools' admission process should have at its core, the aim of giving parents and students as much choice as possible.

One of the reasons for this proposal is because County want places in rural schools available to local children. However, there does not appear to be a problem with local children accessing their nearest rural school if they so wish. Most of the rural schools have vacancies. In the case of Uckfield, which is over-subscribed, all the local children get their places with the sibling rule as it is. The only students who may not get a place are those who live a very long way away and do not have a sibling at the College.

Yours sincerely

Hugh Hennebry  
Principal

- c.c. Cllr Keith Glazier, Leader of East Sussex County Council  
Cllr David Elkin, Deputy Leader of East Sussex County Council  
Cllr Sylvia Tidy, Lead member for Children's Services  
Cllr Nick Bennet, Lead member for Learning and School Effectiveness

