



4th November 2019

CONSULTATION ON ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO RIDDLEDOWN COLLEGIATE IN YEAR 7 AND YEAR 12 IN SEPTEMBER 2021

- i. *The Collegiate Trust* is the admissions authority for Riddlesdown Collegiate and in carrying out this function complies with all the relevant provisions of the statutory codes of practice as they apply at any given time. The Local Governing Body (LGB) of Riddlesdown Collegiate operates the agreed procedures of the Trust and participates in the co-ordinated admission arrangements operated by Croydon Council. In addition, Riddlesdown Collegiate, in common with all other schools in Croydon, will admit students referred under the Hard to Place protocol via the Fair Access Panel, even if this means exceeding the admission number.
- ii. Riddlesdown Collegiate has been heavily oversubscribed for many years. Since its outstanding OFSTED judgment in 2016, the school has become even more popular with more than 1000 applications being received each year for the 328 available places in Year 7. During this time, the admissions criteria have remained largely the same with only two minor amendments for entry in 2018: the removal of a two mile limit for the sibling criterion and the addition of a children of staff criterion. The consultation to add two further primary schools at the same time did not result in any changes.
- iii. The increasing number of applications to the Collegiate now leads to a growing concern, both within the community and amongst the leadership and governance of the Collegiate, that many local children who live very close to the Collegiate are now unable to access their nearest secondary school.
- iv. The pattern of entrants is such that fewer and fewer children who live very close to the Collegiate are being admitted unless they qualify under a criterion before proximity. This raises the question of whether the Collegiate should predominantly be “a local school for local children” or whether the current admissions criteria, which give preference to children who attend specified feeder schools or have been the top performers in an ability test, better serve the Collegiate and the wider community.
- v. *The Collegiate Trust* now wishes to consult on the attached admissions arrangements. To let us know your views, please complete the online questionnaire at <http://tctorg.uk/admission-criteria> which includes space for you to make any comments by **16th December 2019**.

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The proposed admissions arrangements include the following substantive changes:

1. Feeder Primary School Attended:

We propose the removal of this criterion so that no primary school is given preference.

2. Ability

We propose the removal of this criterion so that no applicant is advantaged on the basis of their ability.

Directors of The Collegiate Trust will consider all responses to this consultation before making a decision on whether to implement any changes. Please do make sure you respond to this consultation if you have views at <http://tctorg.uk/admission-criteria>. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Mr Gordon Smith
Chief Executive