

Consultation on a proposed de-merger of Avonbourne Girls' Academy and Avonwood Primary School and the consequent changes to the admission policies of Avonbourne Girls' Academy, Avonwood Primary School and Avonbourne Boys' Academy.

Consultation period: 15th June – 30th July 2020

Background

Avonwood Primary School was a free school that opened as part of Avonbourne Girls' Academy (previously Avonbourne College) in September 2014. The primary school is a mixed school accepting 60 pupils a year into reception.

In September 2020, the school will have its first Year 6 cohort, who will transition into secondary school in September 2021. As the primary school is part of an all-through school with Avonbourne Girls', pupils would automatically move into the secondary. For families this would mean girls would automatically move to the secondary school (unless they opted to change schools) whilst boys had to apply to Avonbourne Boys' even though the two secondaries share a school site. This is a legal discrepancy we would like to correct.

In order to make the admissions arrangement equitable for girls and boys at Avonwood Primary we are proposing to split Avonwood Primary from Avonbourne Girls' so it will be its own standalone school. All pupils would then be able to apply for places at the Avonbourne Academies, as they would for any other secondary school. Pupils at Avonwood Primary would receive priority places at the Secondary Academies as it will be a feeder primary school.

Specific Proposal

United Learning Trust propose to make a significant change application to the Department for Education to de-merge Avonwood Primary and Avonbourne Girls' Academy. As part of this process, United Learning propose to amend the admissions arrangements of Avonbourne Girls' Academy, Avonbourne Boys' Academy and Avonwood Primary for their admissions from 2021/2022.

Previously Avonwood Primary admissions were part of the Avonbourne Girls' Academy admissions policy. They will now have their own policy. The new admissions policies for the secondary schools have an additional clause that gives priority to pupils at Avonwood Primary school.

The admission criteria for all three schools follows the Schools Admissions Code. There has been not any change to number of places available at each school.

Who is consulted?

This consultation is for the attention of:

- a) Parents of children between the ages of two and 11 years old in the surrounding area;
- b) Other persons in the area who have an interest in the proposed arrangements;
- c) All other admission authorities within the local area;

- d) The local authority; and
- e) Adjoining neighbouring local authorities.

How to respond

This consultation will run from 15th June 2020 to 30th July 2020. You are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal above to the Avonbourne Academies via email to consultation@avonbourneacademy.org.uk or using the online form [link here](#).

Please send any comments by 30th July 2020.

Following the consultation period United Learning and the Avonbourne Academies will consider any comments received and how to proceed. Admissions arrangements for September 2021 will be published by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Authority.