

Consultation Responses and Comments by Date Order of Receipt

	Respondent's Issue/concern	Respondent's details	LA response to Comment
1	Definition of period of attendance at congregations to meet denominational oversubscription criteria.	Oxford Diocese	Oversubscription criterion D amended to refer to a period of at least one year.
2	<p>Regarding proposal to amend catchment areas for Spurcroft and Francis Baily schools:</p> <p>Concern over siblings of current Spurcroft children from the area; request for a transitional period to enable siblings to attend.</p>	Thatcham Town Council	To meet the concerns over the availability of places for siblings of parents previously resident in a schools catchment area when changes are proposed, oversubscription criterion B relating to catchment areas to be amended to retain a priority for previous area residents with siblings still attending. It is considered inappropriate to prioritise out of catchment siblings above catchment area children.
3	<p>Regarding proposal to amend catchment area for Falkland school:</p> <p>Concern over numbers of children from new catchment area and future housing creating oversubscription from catchment children in the future; suggesting a review of pupil projections or a staged change of area over a three year period, etc.</p> <p>Concern over the impact on children travelling to school with new catchment areas being further from the school and risk of increased car transport.</p> <p>Concern over the impact on siblings of current children from out of catchment; request for careful consideration. Suggestion for transitional</p>	Falkland Primary School	The proposed catchment area reviews have taken account of the demand for school places in local schools in the area concerned, and although it is not possible to be certain over the future demand from any area, it is not considered likely that such changes would create oversubscription from the new catchment areas. Any potential effect from new housing would have to be considered as and when they are being proposed and appropriate funding funding requested based on the situation that exists at that time; the overall impact on school place requirements would have to be considered similarly. The changes are proposed due to the continued pressure for places at neighbouring schools and it is not

	<p>arrangements to be considered.</p>		<p>acceptable to take a further 3 years to take steps to alleviate the situation.</p> <p>The new catchment area would still be within the statutory walking distances to enable encouragement to walk to school rather than to increase car use. The effect of the changes will undoubtedly reduce the potential for admission of pupils from some distance away and therefore reduce the numbers of children requiring car transport.</p> <p>See LA response to 2 (above) regarding the sibling issue</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Regarding proposal to amend catchment area for Falkland school:</p> <p>Concern over the impact on siblings of current children from out of catchment; request for out of catchment siblings to be prioritised over catchment children without siblings for a transitional period.</p>	<p>Parents resident in catchment area for Enborne CE School</p>	<p>It is recognised that, to date, out of catchment siblings have secured places at the school in the normal admissions round and that an increase of catchment may affect the extent of out of catchment children being admitted. However, it is estimated that there will still be available places for non-catchment children and those with siblings are prioritised above all others. It should be recognised that the demand from the proposed new catchment area has always been accommodated with availability for children further away; the making of this area as a catchment area is unlikely to affect the level of demand that already exists from it.</p> <p>See LA response to 2 (above) regarding the sibling issue. It is considered inappropriate to prioritise out of catchment siblings above catchment area children.</p>

5	<p>Regarding proposal to amend catchment areas for Spurcroft and Francis Baily schools:</p> <p>Concern over siblings of current Spurcroft children from the area; request for a transitional period to enable siblings to attend.</p>	<p>Parent resident in Spurcroft area subject to proposed change</p>	<p>See LA response to 2 (above) regarding the sibling issue</p>
6	<p>Regarding proposal to amend catchment area for Falkland school:</p> <p>Concern over the impact on siblings of current children from out of catchment; request for out of catchment siblings to be prioritised over catchment children without siblings for a transitional period</p>	<p>Parents resident in catchment area for John Rankin Infant & Junior schools</p>	<p>See LA response to 4 (above).</p>
7	<p>Regarding the Nursery Admissions Policy:</p> <p>Concern over the administration difficulties in meeting the allocation dates as some fall outside term time and in relation to the Autumn Term the allocation date is prior to the new allocation dates for school places; request for dates to move to later and still provide adequate notice to parents.</p> <p>Concern over the prioritisation of children aged 2 considered to be vulnerable and eligible for funding.</p> <p>Concern over the application of the tie-breaker arrangements using the West Berkshire GIS system.</p> <p>NOTE: A meeting was arranged with nursery headteachers to provide an opportunity for further discussion on the Nursery Admissions Policy with the maintained schools offering nursery provision. That meeting raised a number of issues and</p>	<p>Headteacher Victoria Park Nursery School</p> <p>Nursery headteachers meeting</p>	<p>These difficulties could be addressed with later proposed dates to provide sufficient time for the administration of applications on a termly basis whilst still providing advance allocation knowledge to parents. See further discussion with group of nursery headteachers below *.</p> <p>See below.</p> <p>Steps are being taken to provide enhanced ability to use the GIS system to identify distances to the Nursery schools. The proposed change in oversubscription tie-breaker to priority of date of birth within each criterion means that there would be few case requiring distance measuring.</p>

	<p>requests for change to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That opening times replace detailed session times due to the diversity available and the flexibility of provision in different terms; information will be available from setting or centrally in time for applications to be made. • Highlight that the maximum entitlement of 15 hours will be available to all • <p>That there be no set application and allocation timetable due to the wide variation in existing practice and the practicalities for providers given the wide variation in provision and the need to respond to parental need flexibly.</p>		<p>It is understood that the schools provide different sessions and that these may even vary term by term. This information is not required in detail in this policy document. Considered appropriate for parents to investigate individually before applying for a place. Links to the relevant information would be provided on WBC website.</p> <p>Policy amended.</p> <p>* The later deadlines for application and allocation (referred to above) would meet administrative concerns of some providers, but would not fit with the existing practices for others. The meeting discussed whether there were any set of dates which could work across the board, and those present agreed that there is not a coherent pattern which would suit all providers.</p> <p>However, there is a concern that the lack of any agreed dates would leave parents to seek information from the settings individually and could result in confusion and difficulties for parents if they wished to apply to a number of settings.</p> <p>This also provides a risk of those being offered a place at one school refusing it a short time after due to an offer from a school with a later allocation date. Published arrangements should ideally provide parents with the knowledge of when and how the</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversubscription Criteria be amended to add 'medical' grounds to the social grounds criteria at B and F • Criterion F to include 2 year-olds from vulnerable families receiving funding 		<p>admission process will take place; leaving each setting to decide on individual application and allocation dates at some point after the determination of these arrangements would be inappropriate.</p> <p>Policy amended. However, concerns over children with medical issues should be related to social grounds to identify a setting being more appropriate than another.</p> <p>Policy amended. However, maintained schools must ensure that statutory requirements are met to change the registered age-range of the school to enable admission.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Regarding proposal to amend catchment area for John Rankin Infant & Junior Schools:</p> <p>Concern over the impact on siblings of current John Rankin schools and the effect on infant to junior transition.</p> <p>Concern over availability of places at Falkland School for catchment children.</p>	<p>Parents resident in catchment area for John Rankin Infant & Junior schools subject to proposed change</p>	<p>See LA response to 2 (above) regarding the sibling issue. It should be noted that the existing sibling criteria allows for siblings attending partner infant/junior schools.</p> <p>It should be recognised that the demand from the proposed new catchment area for Falkland school has always been accommodated with availability for children further away. therefore it is unlikely to be full with catchment children</p>