



Monday, 12th October 2020.

Proposed variation to admissions policies

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to make you aware of a proposed change to our September 2021 admissions policies for Brooke Weston Academy, Corby Business Academy, Corby Technical School, and Kettering Science Academy.

Usually these secondary schools use the Fair Banding assessment to decide their admissions and require children to complete a non-verbal reasoning test. This assessment is designed to make sure our schools are truly mixed ability and ensures that children have a good chance of gaining a place at our schools regardless of their academic ability or their circumstances.

The assessment is typically carried out on a single assessment day in December and involves more than 1400 primary school children and their families from Corby, Kettering and the surrounding areas who attend our school sites on the day. We hold the assessment day at this time to fit in with the local authority's admissions timeline. This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are unfortunately unable to hold this large assessment event and are proposing not to use Fair Banding as part of our admissions arrangements for the schools listed above.

While we are disappointed that we cannot run the assessments as we usually would this year, it is important a change is made to avoid creating an unnecessary risk to public safety. Despite all of the careful planning mitigations we would put in place, we have decided that bringing so many children from different schools and households together would be irresponsible. Sadly, we cannot operate a different assessment over a longer period of time because we must adhere to the local authority's co-ordinated admissions scheme which runs to a strict timeline.

We are therefore proposing that for September 2021, admissions policies for the above schools would run without the requirement for any child to undertake a test and, as a result, the potential intake for September 2021 in any of the listed schools would not be divided into score rankings. The local authority would coordinate our admissions process for us as usual, but the priority for admission would be determined solely by the oversubscription criteria.

We are not proposing any alterations to the oversubscription criteria for Brooke Weston Academy, Corby Technical School or Kettering Science Academy. Corby Business Academy's oversubscription criteria would be simplified to remove multiple references to ability banding, a copy of this can be found as an appendix to this letter. All four schools' oversubscription criteria and the Trust's complete current admissions policy can be found [here](https://www.brookewestontrust.org/_site/data/files/9EA9D51868F3101C7F8FD6E77E72289E.pdf) - https://www.brookewestontrust.org/_site/data/files/9EA9D51868F3101C7F8FD6E77E72289E.pdf

If you would like to comment on this change, please do so through this link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vKCZSi63gkqAxuiwMPI6wV749iKRDxBCvFxO4PFGQsRUNDBQWDdSWFIQVzNTTFdFNUVWRURHRzA1Si4u> before **5pm on 19th October 2020**. We hope you can understand our reasons for wanting to make this change and will support us in this decision.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Campbell
CEO of Brooke Weston Trust

Proposed variation to oversubscription criteria at Corby Business Academy for September 2021 Yr 7 intake.

- a) Looked After Children and all previously Looked After Children.
- b) Children of staff who have been employed at the named school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the named school is made, and/or staff recruited to fill vacant posts for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. (Demonstrable skill shortage will only normally apply to qualified teacher positions, where the school has continually been unable to recruit).
- c) Children with a sibling link (See paragraph 5.9.3 for definition of 'sibling').
- d) The allocation of places to children who live closer to Corby Business Academy than any other school.
- e) The allocation of places to children who live in the Academy's linked villages.
- f) Proximity to the Academy.

Should a 'tie-breaker' be required in criteria b, c, d, or e priority will be given to children whose home address is closest to the Academy as measured in a straight line (proximity to the Academy).

Definitions

'Any other school' does not include Brooke Weston Academy.

The Academy's linked villages are the parishes of Brigstock, Gretton, Harringworth, Little Oakley, Little Stanion, Lyveden, Stanion and Weldon.

Distances are measured from the nearest entrance to the home address to the nearest access point to the school grounds. It is measured on a straight-line basis, using a geographical information system.