



**Gildredge  
House**

# **Report on Admissions Consultation**

**5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 - 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018**



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## INTRODUCTION

The Governors of Gildredge House wished to consult with stakeholders and the wider community on proposed changes to their admissions arrangements.

Proposed changes to the Admissions Policy would take effect from the beginning of the academic year 2020.

The proposed changes are as follows:

- Reducing PAN (Published Admissions Number) for Year 7 admissions from 120 to 84
- Clarification of Sixth Form admissions criteria

The aim of these changes is to maintain the Gildredge House ethos which is to ensure the school remains accessible to all children irrespective of where they reside. Furthermore, Gildredge House aims to ensure that the arrangements continue to uphold the vision and ethos of the school and that they comply with all relevant admissions law.

## METHODOLOGY

The formal consultation was undertaken in a six week period from 5<sup>th</sup> November until 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Multiple methods of consultation were deployed and a wide range of stakeholders were consulted.

Gildredge House consulted with the following groups:

- Parents of children who attend Gildredge House
- Staff
- Parents in the area
- Primary, secondary and special schools and Sixth Form and FE colleges in the area
- East Sussex County Council
- Our neighbours and local community

The admission consultation documents were published on our Website and interested parties were requested to respond using the Questionnaire form in Google Forms. Letters and emails were invited to be sent to [admissions@gildredgehouse.org.uk](mailto:admissions@gildredgehouse.org.uk) and our Facebook page was available for comments.

Consultation Meeting flyers were designed and produced detailing the consultation meeting with a link to the Website

The Consultation included one public meeting which was held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018.

## INFORMATION PROVIDED WITH THE CONSULTATION

Gildredge House Admissions Authority was keen to ensure that all respondents were able to make a fully informed decision prior to responding to the Consultation. In keeping with this, a comprehensive consultation document outlining the proposed changes to the Admissions Policy was made available to all respondents both electronically and in hard copy. A draft of the proposed changes to be effected in the 2020/21 Policy was also available to respondents via the School's Website and copies made available in the School Reception.

## QUERIES and CONCERNS RAISED AT THE CONSULTATION MEETING

The following is an extract of a relative query/concern raised at the Consultation Meeting:

- My child currently attends at Gildredge House but we live out of the immediate area and in a different town. With a reduction in places available what is the likelihood of my other children obtaining a place under the sibling criteria?

The vast majority of the queries and concerns raised by parents did not relate to the matters referred to in the Consultation and have therefore not been included in this Report.

## RESULTS OF THE FORMAL CONSULTATION - Breakdown of Formal Consultation Survey Feedback

32 online responses to the consultation survey were received in total. 1 letter was received but no emails and 4 parents attended the Consultation Meeting held on 5th November. There were no comments received on Facebook but 684 facebook users were exposed to the post, 305 of those read it and 3 'liked' it.

Only responses offered during the formal period of consultation have been analysed.

The following key issues were raised by respondents:

### 1. Reduction in PAN from 120 to 84

#### Agree:

- a) The automatic transfer of students from Yr 6 to 7 was always part of the original USPs of the school. Limiting the number of transitions is a good idea.
- b) It was clear from the outset that changes would need to be made to PAN come 20/21.
- c) I have read the proposal and agree that as the school are going to be receiving pupils via lower school, they won't have the same number of places to pupils coming from other schools

#### Disagree:

- a) Maximum student capacity in year 7 should not exceed 120 in total, so PAN should be lower than 84
- b) You are not reducing your pan but increasing it. Your pan is currently 120. By going down to 84 you will have in effect 144 pupils in year 7.
- c) There continues to be over capacity in secondary in the Eastbourne school. Taking 144 into Year 7 rather than the planned 120 will have a detrimental effect on other local schools. This would lead to further job loss and negative impacts on pupils in other schools.

## 2. Clarification of Sixth Form Admissions criteria

### Agree:

- a) Agree with these proposals
- b) I have read admission information for sixth form and feel that it had clarified what is on offer with spaces available to those from yr11 at Gildredge House first and then to the wider community
- c) I agree that the process needs to be clarified

### Disagree:

- a) The school's A Level results are not good enough. The progress score of -0.18 for 2016/17 isn't good enough.
- b) In truth, the admissions policy is neither here nor there. Can you guarantee your 6th form is financially viable going forward as you suffer reputational damage based on the number of courses you can offer?

## CONCLUSION

### Decrease to Y7 PAN

The Governing Board considered all responses concerning the decrease to PAN. It was agreed to reduce the PAN to 84 for Year 7 for the academic year commencing 2020/21. The Governing Board agreed that it was very unlikely that they would admit above 144 in Year 7.

The School is currently working with external agencies to establish the net capacity of the School with a view to requesting an increase from the Secretary of State to its stated capacity of 1232 referred to in its Funding Agreement.

### Clarification to Sixth Form Admissions

The Governing Board considered all responses concerning the clarification of Sixth Form Admissions. It was agreed that the 2020/21 Admissions Policy stand as drafted.

## FURTHER FEEDBACK

Can be requested from the Office & Admissions Manager at [admissions@gildredgehouse.org.uk](mailto:admissions@gildredgehouse.org.uk)

REPORT COMPILED BY	DATE
Gildredge House Admissions Authority	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2019