

Coastal Learning Partnership  
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Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and other interested parties,

**Consultation for Coastal Learning Partnership's admissions policy, 2026/27**

The Trust Board of Coastal Learning Partnership (CLP) is the admissions authority for all twenty schools within the trust. Admissions authorities are required by the School Admissions Code to consult interested parties on their admissions policies whenever they are proposing a change. Consulting at this time means that any changes will not take effect until September 2026.

CLP is proposing some changes to its admissions policy for 2026/27. The proposed changes are summarised in the table on the second page of this letter. The table indicates the change that is being proposed along with the reason for the change as well as which schools within CLP would be affected.

The consultation is open from **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 until Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.

If you would like to comment on these proposed changes, or any other aspect of the admissions policy, please do so by email using the following address:

[CLPAdmissionsconsult@coastalpartnership.co.uk](mailto:CLPAdmissionsconsult@coastalpartnership.co.uk)

You can also respond in writing at the following address:

Heathlands Primary Academy (FAO Coastal Learning Partnership)  
Andrews Close  
Springwater Road  
Bournemouth  
Dorset  
BH11 8HB

If you wish to read the draft 2026/27 admissions policy in full, please see the admissions section of the CLP website [here](#); alternatively, you can request a paper copy from the above address or from your nearest CLP school.

After this consultation period, responses will be considered by the Trust Board who will then consider whether to proceed with the proposed changes. The final admissions policy will then be determined by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to take effect from September 2026.

**Please forward this letter to anyone else who you think may be interested in this consultation.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Howieson".

Mr Paul Howieson  
CEO, Coastal Learning Partnership

## Summary of changes proposed for the Coastal Learning Partnership admissions policy, 2026/27

Proposed change	Schools affected by this change	Reason for proposed change
<b>Four schools added to the admissions policy.</b>	Stoborough CE Primary Swanage Primary St. George's CE Primary Lulworth & Winfrith CE Primary	Four schools joined CLP on 1st January 2024 and these have now been added to the CLP admissions policy. This does not substantially alter the admissions arrangements of these schools. It makes the determination of admissions arrangements easier to manage across a large group of schools.
<b>All siblings given equal priority, whether in or out of catchment.</b>	All schools in CLP	Children with siblings on roll but who are out of catchment are currently further down the oversubscription criteria. This means it is more likely to have families who have one child at one school, and their sibling at another school. This is difficult for families. It is also inconsistent with our aim to be more sustainable by reducing travelling. It is proposed that siblings remains near the top of the oversubscription criteria, but regardless of whether in or out of catchment.
<b>Extra over-subscription criterion: pupils eligible for service premium.</b>	All schools in CLP	The inclusion of this criterion recognises the government's Armed Forces Covenant. It especially supports those CLP schools who serve communities with higher numbers of armed forces families. This criterion has been inserted after 'in-catchment pupils' and therefore will make little practical difference to CLP schools with few services families in their geographical areas.
<b>Reduce the regularity of church attendance required under the faith criteria in Salisbury Diocese church schools.</b>	Baden-Powell & St. Peter's CE Junior Corfe Castle CE Primary Lilliput CE Infant Longfleet CE Primary St. Mark's CE Primary Wareham St. Mary CE Primary Wool CE Primary	Families applying for a place under the faith criterion in some CLP Salisbury Diocese schools must demonstrate that they attend church at least <u>twice</u> a month over a period of one year prior to the date of application. It is proposed to reduce this requirement to 'at least <u>once</u> a month...' Our newly-joined Salisbury Diocese church schools are already 'at least once a month'. We think this should be the same for all Salisbury Diocese church schools in CLP. Salisbury Diocese does not provide a definition of 'regular attendance' in its model admissions policies but once a month is more typical.
<b>Lulworth &amp; Winfrith: PAN reduction from 20 to 15.</b>	Lulworth & Winfrith CE Primary	There is a decline in pupil numbers across the local authority area of Dorset Council. This means that, for the foreseeable future, there will be fewer families looking for a school place in Reception. Pupil number forecasts indicate that no more than 15 places will be needed in Reception in Lulworth & Winfrith each year from September 2026. By running the school with a Published Admissions Number <sup>1</sup> (PAN) of 15, we can ensure that the school remains financially stable. It is more cost-effective to run a smaller number of full classes than lots of very small ones. The PAN can be increased again in the future if the number of children in the area starts to increase.
<b>Oakdale Junior: PAN reduction from 128 to 96.</b>	Oakdale Junior	There is a decline in pupil numbers across the local authority area of BCP. This means that, for the foreseeable future, there will be fewer pupils transferring into Year 3 in junior schools. The Published Admission Number (PAN) at Oakdale was previously reduced from 180 to 128 and we can see that it needs to be reduced a bit more. By running the school with a PAN of 96, we can ensure that the school remains financially stable. It is more cost-effective to run a smaller number of full classes than lots of smaller ones. The PAN can be increased again in the future if the number of children in the area starts to increase. With a PAN of 96, Oakdale will still be able to accommodate every child from its typical feeder infant schools because they, too, are experiencing smaller numbers of pupils.

<sup>1</sup> Published Admission Number (PAN). The maximum number of pupils admitted into a school's year of entry (Reception in primary/infant; Year 3 in junior).