



Bristol Free School
Concorde Drive
Bristol BS10 6NJ

Tel: 0117 959 7200
admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk
www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S. King

Bristol Free School - Consultation on admissions arrangements for entry to the school in September 2026.

The Russell Education Trust ('RET') is the admissions authority for Bristol Free School. The Local Governing Body considers changes to the school's admissions policy and consults on these. Following consultation, the Governors report to the Board of Trustees on the outcome of the consultation and make recommendations before RET determine the final admissions policy.

The Local Governing Body Bristol Free School have recently consulted on the admissions arrangements for entry to Year 7 and the Sixth Form from September 2026. The consultation followed the procedure set by the Admissions Code 2021 ('The Code') and gave the local community the opportunity to provide their views on the proposed admission arrangements. The consultation period ran from **Monday 9 December 2024 – Monday 28 January 2025**. The consultation was published on the school's website for the duration of the consultation period and interested parties and appropriate bodies were consulted in accordance with 1.47 of the Code. This report confirms the outcome of the consultation.

The following amendments to the admissions criteria were proposed:

Year 7 Admissions Policy – Children of Staff Criterion

It was proposed that reference to "*teaching*" staff is removed from criterion 3 ii so that it is inclusive of school support staff as well as teaching staff i.e. "*The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant ~~teaching~~-post for which there is a demonstratable skill shortage (determined by the Headteacher with the Chair of Governors and CEO of RET).*"

Sixth Form Admissions Policy – Children of Staff Criterion

As with the Year 7 Admissions Policy, the same change was proposed to the Sixth Form Admissions Policy relating to the Children of Staff criterion to remove the reference to "*teaching*" staff so that the criterion is inclusive of support staff and teaching staff.

Summary of responses

The local governing body received seven (7) responses to the consultation.

- 1) One consultee commented on the proposed change to the staff criterion and requested information on the increased population of staff captured under the new eligibility rules and how this compares to current position, as a % of available places for each entry year group.
- 2) Six consultees commented on the school's catchment area. They expressed concerns that local families living within walking distance of the school do not fall within the school's catchment area. They requested that the catchment area be reconsidered.

Outcome of Consultation

The Local Governing Body considered the above responses at their meeting on **Thursday 6 February 2025**. They recommended to the RET Board of Trustees that the amendments proposed to the admissions policies be implemented.

Decision

The RET Board of Trustees have determined the Admissions Arrangements for entry to Year 7 and the Sixth Form in September 2026 and in accordance with the Code, the outcome of the consultation and the determined policies have been published, and appropriate bodies notified.

28 February 2025.

