



## THE LEARNING TRUST

NURTURING • AMBITION • EXCELLENCE

27 November 2023

### Consultation: Admissions Policy 2025-2026

#### **The Learning Trust's proposals for changes to its Admission Arrangements for 2025-2026 at Christleton High School; Queen's Park High School; Chester International School; and Belgrave Primary School.**

Following a review of the admission arrangements for each of its four schools, The Learning Trust would like to propose, and is seeking comments on its proposals as part of the consultation process, the following changes to its schools' admission arrangements for 2025-2026:-

- A move from four individual Admission Policies to one overarching Trust policy with four Appendices, (one Appendix for each school), detailing their admission arrangements, including oversubscription criteria, which will be reviewed, updated and approved annually by the Trustee Board.

The overarching policy is created from the content of the four individual school policies already drafted for 2025-2026, the School Admissions Code 2021, and the School Admission Appeals Code, October 2022 and is attached for your comments on the proposed changes.

Any references to 'Local Governing Bodies' being the admission authority in these individual policies has been removed and replaced with 'The Learning Trust'.

#### **CHRISTLETON HIGH SCHOOL**

Although The Learning Trust does not need to consult when proposing an increase to the published admission number for one of its schools, please be aware that the Trustees have agreed to formally increase the published admission number from 208 to 224.

Christleton High School's published admission number increased from 200 to 208 in September 2018. On 06 November 2018, the Local Governing Board agreed to temporarily increase the published admission number from 208 to 224 for September 2019 entry to mitigate against potentially eligible families going to appeal. The planned admission number has been temporarily increased to 224 each year since.

**Appendix A** - Christleton High School admission arrangements - details:



## THE LEARNING TRUST

NURTURING • AMBITION • EXCELLENCE

Christleton High School's admission limit or published admission number for September 2025 is 224 places.

### The Trustees proposed amendments to Christleton High School's oversubscription criteria:

- Having reviewed the oversubscription criteria for all four schools, The Trustees propose to remove the oversubscription criteria relating to **particular medical or social reasons** for admission into all year groups i.e. Years 7 to 11, and Sixth Form.

This criteria does not appear in the oversubscription criteria for the Trust's other two Secondary schools, Queen's Park High School and Chester International School. Neither does it appear in the criteria for Belgrave Primary School.

The Trustees feel that the Local Governing Board are not best placed to make the decision as to which children justify admission under this criteria.

The criteria sits as the third criteria after Children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), and Looked After Children or previously Looked After Children for admission into Years 7 to 11, and position 2 for admission into Sixth Form and is open to misuse.

The wording is as follows:

Children for whom there are particular medical or social reasons, which, in the Governors' view, justifies admission to a particular school. Supporting evidence from a registered professional, such as a medical practitioner, psychologist or social worker, must be provided which sets out the particular reasons why the school in question is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. A panel of Governors will consider the information presented and will determine whether the evidence is sufficiently compelling to apply this criterion to the application.

- Christleton High School has a **Children of Staff** criteria which is currently included in its Admission Policy at position 6; presently no other school in the Trust has this criteria included in its oversubscription criteria.

Trustees propose that to treat all Trust employees fairly, the admission arrangements for each of its schools should include this criteria and that, to allow all staff members an equal opportunity to benefit, it should appear at position 4.

The proposal is that the wording of the criteria is as follows:



## THE LEARNING TRUST

NURTURING • AMBITION • EXCELLENCE

Children of staff employed by The Learning Trust who have been employed for two or more years by the 1 September of the year of entry, or who have been recruited to meet a particular skills shortage.

For clarity, applicants in this category will be ranked by distance.

- Proposed change of text for the **Distance** criteria for admission into all year groups i.e. Years 7 to 11, and Sixth Form be altered to state that proof of address will be required to verify place of residence as follows:

Distance - Distances are measured in a straight line from the centrally plotted Basic Land and Property Unit point (BLPU) of the child's home address to the centrally plotted BLPU point of the school as defined by Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). Proof of address will be required to verify place of residence.

### QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Queen's Park High School have not consulted on their admission arrangements for seven years; the School Admission Code 2021 requires the Trust to consult on the school's admission requirements whether changes are required or not.

- Following a review of the admission arrangements for each school, Trustees propose that, to treat all Trust employees fairly, the admission arrangements for each of its schools should include the **Children of Staff** criteria and that, to allow all staff members an equal opportunity to benefit, it should appear at position 4.

This proposed criteria has therefore been added to Appendix B – Queen's Park High School accordingly for consultation purposes. The proposed wording is as detailed above for Christleton High School.

- Proposed change of text for the **Distance** criteria for admission into all year groups i.e. Years 7 to 11, and Sixth Form, to be altered to state that proof of address will be required to verify place of residence as follows. The proposed wording is as detailed above for Christleton High School

### CHESTER INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



## THE LEARNING TRUST

NURTURING • AMBITION • EXCELLENCE

The Trustees reviewed the oversubscription criteria for Chester International School and propose the following changes to bring the school more in line with the other schools in the Trust.

- At present, Christleton High School is named as a **Feeder school** for Chester International School, as it is the sponsor school. However, the Trustees propose to change the Feeder School criteria to allow students from all of its schools to be able to gain a place at Chester International School in Years 10 and 11 and Sixth Form.

The proposed wording for this criteria at position 3 is:-

**Students at other schools within The Learning Trust** – a maximum of 30% of places will be allocated to applicants already on roll at a school within The Learning Trust. In the event of oversubscription within this category, random allocation will be used (see 'Tiebreaker' below).

- It is proposed that, to treat all Trust employees fairly, the admission arrangements for each of its schools should include the **Children of Staff** criteria and that, to allow all staff members an equal opportunity to benefit, it should appear at position 4.

This proposed criteria has therefore been added to Appendix C – Chester International School accordingly for consultation purposes. The proposed wording is as detailed above for Christleton High School.

- Proposed addition of **Sibling** criteria as this criteria is not currently included in the oversubscription criteria for Chester International School but is included in the list of criteria used by each of the other Trust schools. This will be added at position 5 in the list of criteria and the wording will be the same as that used by the other schools.

**Siblings** – students with elder brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or stepsisters, half-brothers, or half-sisters, adopted brothers or adopted sisters living together as part of one household, already attending the preferred school, and expected to continue at the school in the following school year.

- Proposed removal of the following **Pupil Premium** criteria for entry into Years 10 and 11 and Sixth Form as this is not a requirement of the funding agreement for Chester International School and does not apply at any other the other Trust schools.

Children who are eligible for Pupil Premium including the Service Premium (see note 1).

(Note 1 - 1 Parents will need to submit written evidence with their application establishing that their children fall within either (or both) A or B)



## THE LEARNING TRUST

NURTURING • AMBITION • EXCELLENCE

Children given priority under this criterion fall into the following categories:

- Children currently registered as eligible for free school meals and children who have been registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years; and
- Children whose parent(s) are serving in the regular UK armed forces, to the children of regular UK armed forces personnel who were serving in the past 3 years, or to children who are in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and the War Pensions Scheme because their parent(s) died on active service with the UK armed forces

Where the application under the Pupil Premium criteria is not successful, the application will be placed into the next highest criteria and will be considered along with all of the other students falling within that criterion.

In the event of oversubscription within this category, random allocation will be used (see 'Tiebreaker' below).

- **8-mile radius** – the proposal is to amend the existing text to state that proof of address 'will' be required to verify place of residence rather than 'may' be required.
- Proposal to alter the final criteria 'outside 8-mile radius' for Years 10 and 11, and Sixth Form to **Distance** as per the criteria at other Trust schools, using the following wording:-

Distance - Distances are measured in a straight line from the centrally plotted Basic Land and Property Unit point (BLPU) of the child's home address to the centrally plotted BLPU point of the school as defined by Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). Proof of address will be required to verify place of residence.

### BELGRAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The only proposed changes to the admission arrangements for Belgrave Primary School are:-

- Proposed addition of **Children of Staff** criteria at position 4 in the oversubscription criteria. This proposed criteria has therefore been added to Appendix D – Belgrave Primary School accordingly for consultation purposes. The proposed wording is as detailed above for Christleton High School.



## THE LEARNING TRUST

NURTURING • AMBITION • EXCELLENCE

- Proposed change of text for the **Distance** criteria to be altered to state that proof of address will be required to verify place of residence as follows. The proposed wording is as detailed above for Christleton High School.

### How to respond

This consultation will run from Tuesday, 28 November 2023 to 8 January 2024 inclusive.

Please submit any comments either by email to [admissionsconsultation@qphs.co.uk](mailto:admissionsconsultation@qphs.co.uk) or in writing to The Learning Trust addressed for the attention of the Chair of Trustees.

Chair of Trustees  
The Learning Trust  
Queen's Park Road  
Handbridge  
Chester  
Cheshire  
CH4 7AE

Following the consultation period, The Learning Trust will consider any comments received and how to proceed.