



22nd October 2026

Dear Parent / Carer / Stakeholder,

Full Statutory Consultation on William Cobbett Primary School Admissions Arrangements for 2028/2029

In accordance with Department for Education requirements, we are writing to inform you that the Weydon Multi Academy Trust is proposing changes to William Cobbett Primary School's admissions arrangements for the academic year 2028/2029.

As part of our commitment to transparency and meaningful engagement, we are holding a full statutory consultation and would like to invite your views on any aspect of the proposed admission policy, as well as the proposed changes.

The consultation will run for a six-week period from Friday 23rd October 2026 until noon on Monday 7th December 2026.

The proposed changes to the William Cobbett Primary School Admissions Policy 2028–2029 are as follows:

Summary of Proposed Changes and Policy Clarifications

1. Re-ordering of Oversubscription Criteria - Reason for change: To align William Cobbett Primary School's admissions policy with the WMAT framework and ensure consistency across Trust primary and secondary academies. Benefits of the Change: Supports staff recruitment and retention, Promotes staff wellbeing and work–life balance, Recognises and values staff commitment to the school, Encourages workforce stability and continuity for pupils, Ensures consistency and clarity across Trust academies.

The priority order has changed as follows:

- Priority 2 – Children of Staff: Moved from Priority 3 to Priority 2.
- Priority 3 – Exceptional Social or Medical Circumstances: Moved from Priority 2 to Priority 3.

2. Introduction of Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs) Reason for change: To ensure evidence is submitted in a consistent format, supporting fair and transparent decision-making by the Governors' Admissions Committee.

Applicants seeking priority under Criterion 2 or 3 must submit the relevant school SIF directly to the school/WMAT Admissions Officer by the application deadline (15 January for normal admissions or alongside the application for in-year admissions).

Junior Site: (Registered address)
Weybourne Road
Farnham
Surrey
GU9 9ER

Infant Site:
Knights Road
Farnham
Surrey
GU9 9DA

Tel: 01252 312772
www.william-cobbett.surrey.sch.uk
juniors@william-cobbett.surrey.sch.uk
Infants@william-cobbett.surrey.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr Andrew Stear

- Criterion 2 – Staff: The Staff SIF must include HR verification of at least two years’ service or Headteacher endorsement confirming an identified skills shortage.
- Criterion 3 – Exceptional Circumstances: The Exceptional Circumstances SIF to include (if appropriate) a recent, letter headed evidence from a registered professional (e.g. a doctor, social worker or consultant) explaining why William Cobbett is the only school able to meet the child’s specific needs.

3. Sibling Priority and EHCP Inclusion Reason for change: To provide clarity at the point of application and support family cohesion, including for children whose siblings are admitted through specialist SEND provision.

- Assessment timing: Under the 2027 policy, a sibling had to be on roll and expected to remain at the school when the applicant was admitted. Under the 2028 policy, sibling priority is based on having a qualifying sibling on roll at the time of application.
- EHCP inclusion: Mainstream applicants may qualify for sibling priority where they have a sibling with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming William Cobbett Primary School, provided that sibling is expected to start at the school on or before the mainstream applicant’s admission.

4. Feeder School Priority Reason for change: To clarify eligibility for late and in-year applicants.

Note - Feeder schools: Badshot Lea Village Infant School and Folly Hill Infant School remain the designated feeder schools, unchanged from 2027.

- Feeder school priority applies only to initial Year 3 admissions during the normal admissions round. It does not apply to Spring or in-year waiting lists once a child has left their infant school.

5. Published Admission Numbers (PAN) and Specialist Provision - To clarify mainstream admission capacity and specialist SEND placements. This remains unchanged from 2027.

- PAN: 30 places for Reception and 60 places for Year 3.
- Woodlands ASD Centre: Eight pupils are admitted directly to the Centre each September through Surrey County Council’s specialist SEND admissions process, outside the standard PAN: two in Reception and six in Year 3.

6. Waiting Lists and Spring Term Re-registration Reason for change: To meet the DfE School Admissions Code requirement to maintain waiting lists until at least 31 December, while keeping lists accurate and up to date.

- The main Reception and Year 3 waiting lists will operate until 31 December.
- Parents wishing to remain on a waiting list for the Spring and Summer terms must contact the school by the end of December to re-register on a new Spring waiting list. For Year 3, the list will be reformatted without the feeder school criterion (5).

7. Independent Tie-Breaker Supervision Reason for change: To ensure transparency, impartiality and compliance with the School Admissions Code and Trust procedures.

- Where applications are tied on distance, random allocation will take place in the presence of at least two senior WMAT central team officers who are independent of the school’s admissions process.

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We value your comments and feedback and encourage you to share your views on these proposals. The full draft admissions policy can be read on our school website at <https://www.william-cobbett.surrey.sch.uk>

Responses can be submitted via:

- Online form: [Feedback form Admissions Policy Consultation](#)
- Email: WilliamCobbettAdmissionsConsultation@wmat.org.uk
- Post: William Cobbett School Admissions Consultation, Weydon Multi Academy Trust, Weydon Lane, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8UG

Please note that only responses which are fully completed, including the respondent's name and address, and received by the consultation end date will be accepted.

After the full statutory consultation period closes at noon on 7th December 2026, all responses received by that date will be collated and presented to the Governing Board. The Board will then decide whether to proceed with the proposed arrangements. Once ratified by the WMAT Board of Trustees, the final determined admission arrangements will be published on our website.

Please ensure this information is shared widely, including on your website and circulated to your parent body via your newsletters.

Kind regards,

Weydon Multi Academy Trust

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