

# Fioretti Trust

Wednesday 9th February 2022

Dear Stakeholders,

## Outcome of Consultation on Changes to Admissions Policies for 2023/24

The Trustees of the Fioretti Trust have reviewed the admissions criteria of their three schools in the light of new guidance issued by the Department for Education in September 2021 (Schools' Admissions Code 2021 (the 'Code')).

*"1.8 Oversubscription criteria **must** be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. Admission authorities **must** ensure that their arrangements will not disadvantage unfairly, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social or racial group, or a child with a disability or special educational needs....."*

After a formal consultation process managed by Birmingham City Council and discussions with the PCC's for each church about changes to the admissions policies for the three schools, Trustees met to consider objections to the proposed changes to 'faith criteria' in the admissions policies for St. Barnabas Church of England School and St. Mary's C of E Primary Academy and Nursery. The Trustees were guided in their thinking by the requirements of fairness as laid out at paragraph 1.8 of the Code, whilst also acknowledging the importance of the faith nature of the schools and education that the Trust provides.

Trustees have decided that it is right for the Trust to continue to support faith based applications to each of their schools, but recognise that they must do more to ensure that these applications are genuine on the basis of families belonging to their church community and not using temporary church attendance as a means of gaining an unfair advantage over other applicants.

To this end, Trustees have resolved to maintain faith based admissions criteria for each of their schools, however they will be bringing forward a uniform and robust system of 'qualification' that is intended to support legitimate faith based applications but reject applications where the intention is to circumvent other admissions criteria.

The consultation period for this annual review of admissions criteria is now over so the Trust will leave the faith based admissions criteria in place for the next year but during this time it will bring forward a new system of validation across all schools in the Trust which will be used to help accept or reject applications for admission on the faith based criteria to ensure the policy is fair to all applicants.



## Fioretti Trust

Chair of Trustees: Giles Allen CEO: Claire Grainger

Head office: St Francis CE Primary School & Nursery, Teazel Avenue, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1LZ.

0121 459 5548 [finance@fiorettitrust.co.uk](mailto:finance@fiorettitrust.co.uk)

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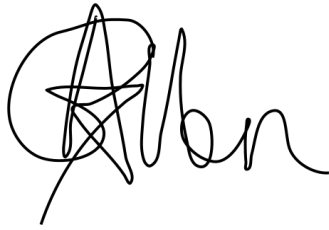


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The Trustees note that the review of admissions criteria is an annual review and they will in future collect data pertaining to continuing church membership of faith based applicants to help ensure that the criteria are not abused; genuine applications are supported and ensure the admissions policies remain fair to all. Trustees will continue to keep admissions criteria under review as required by the Code.

The Trust's current admissions policies can be found on the websites of the individual schools and at <https://www.fiorettitrust.co.uk/admissions/>

Yours faithfully



**Giles Allen**  
Chair of Trustees



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