



Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear parents, carers and members of our local community,

The Governors of St Mary's Bryanston Square School would like to consult you on proposed changes to our admissions criteria for 2017/18. These criteria have been robustly debated by the Governing Body, and we are now seeking the views of our school and local community.

The admissions criteria have been split into two categories: 'Foundation' and 'Open'. This is the model recommended by the London Diocesan Board for Schools, and is commonly used in Church schools. It enables a mixture of both Christian families and families of other faiths or no faith, who consider St Mary's to be part of their community, to be included.

The rationale for the particular changes St Mary's Governors are proposing are:

1. Under the current admissions criteria, siblings of existing pupils are not always able to gain a place in the school, particularly if their family have moved house between the admission dates of the different siblings. With several families being re-housed outside of our local area, this has become an increasingly difficult problem for families who would like all their children to attend St Mary's. In the proposed criteria for 2017/18, in both the 'Foundation' and 'Open' categories, siblings are prioritised before other pupils.
2. St Mary's school has a strong link with St Mary's church, but very few families who attend the church are able to meet the admissions criteria due to the distance they live from the school. Many Church families consider the parish of St Mary's to be their community and would like their children to be included in the life of the school. The proposed admissions criteria for 2017/18 would provide those families with the opportunity to do so.

The provision for Looked After Children (or previously Looked After) remains the same.

If you have any comments on these proposals, please send them in writing to the school care of Ms Breeda Cahill – either by post (St Mary's School, Enford Street, London W1H 1DL) or by email ([office@stmbs.org.uk](mailto:office@stmbs.org.uk)).



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Responses should be received no later than Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016. These will then be considered by the Governors in determining their final policy by the end of February 2016.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Ward".

Jon Ward

Chair of Governors

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