

29 July 2020

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Dear Colleagues,

The Isle of Wight Council is writing to notify you of a proposed in-year variation to the admissions arrangements for the year 2021-22, which will affect admissions to **Bembridge CE Primary School** in September 2021 and possibly beyond. The closure of churches as a result of Covid-19, has raised the difficult issue of clergy verifying an applicant's level of church attendance in order to meet the LA's over-subscription criteria. Clearly it will not be possible for clergy to do so in line with schools' admissions policies during the next admissions application round for the academic year 2021/22. As a result, we are seeking an in-year variation to church over-subscription criteria in order to remedy this and clarify the position for prospective parents. **This proposal is based on advice received from the DfE, the Church of England Education Office and the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.** Please note that this is not a formal consultation, which is not required under these circumstances.

The proposed wording for the variation, as sent to the OSA, is as follows:

"During the Covid-19 pandemic we recognise that attendance has not been possible so a supporting letter from your ⁵Church minister without timescales will satisfy this criterion".

⁵ Church of England Minister

All other aspects of the above schools' admissions arrangements remain unchanged.

Please can I ask that this letter is posted on your website as a formal notification and any queries directed to Sharon.taylor@portsmouth.anglican.org

Apologies for late notice.

Yours sincerely



Martin Goff
Head of Transport & Admissions
Children's Services Department