

## Proposal 3

The sibling link (criterion 4) for SECONDARY school admission should no longer apply from the 2005 admission round.

**Question 3 on the Questionnaire at the end of this document seeks your view on this proposal.**

## Proposal 4

If Proposal 3, removing the sibling link for secondary school admissions, is adopted then there should be a phasing in period. Children already attending the secondary school before September 2005 would still count as a sibling link for younger brothers and sisters. Children entering the school from September 2005 would not count as a sibling link for younger brothers or sisters.

**Question 4 on the Questionnaire at the end of this document seeks your view on this proposal.**

## 3. Final Oversubscription Criterion for Grammar School Admissions

### What happens now?

The final oversubscription criterion for Buckinghamshire primary and upper schools relates to the distance between home and the school. At the moment the final rule for grammar schools is the score the child achieves in the 11+ Verbal Reasoning Test (VRT). The full list of rules is in Appendix 2.

### Why are we proposing to change this?

The Special Needs and Disability Act of 2001 has recently come into force. It places a new duty on admission authorities not to discriminate against children who are disabled in their access to education. This applies to the oversubscription criteria and how they are applied.

The School Admissions Code of Practice 2003 requires us to ensure that we do not disadvantage children who have special needs or who are vulnerable.

The VRT(11+) score a child achieves can be affected by a number of events such as a family bereavement, sickness or disability. Many girls start menstruation during the time of the testing.

Children achieving a lower score for any of these reasons may be disadvantaged even though they qualify for a grammar school, when they are considered for their preferred school.

We are therefore proposing that the final oversubscription criterion for grammar schools should be the distance from home to school as for our other schools.

### Would this rule affect all children?

If the proposals for secondary school catchment areas were agreed, we would not expect this rule to affect children who live in the catchment area of the school. This is because, normally, all children who live in the catchment area should be able to attend the school if they have expressed a preference for it.

The Governing Body of Beaconsfield High School, a foundation grammar school, has asked the County Council to consult you on their behalf on this rule. If the outcome of the consultation is that parents indicate they agree with this proposal, Beaconsfield High School would also adopt the change.

SOURCE: LEA