

## INFORMAL SURVEY OF OPINION ON RIDDLEDOWN COLLEGIATE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA – June 2016

*The Collegiate Trust* is the **responsible body** and the **admissions authority** for *Riddlesdown Collegiate*; as such the Trust wishes to carry out an **informal survey of opinion** on the **Admissions Criteria** for *Riddlesdown Collegiate*. Following this informal survey, there will be a full and formal consultation towards the end of 2016; *The Collegiate Trust* will then make a decision in February 2017 as to whether there should be any changes to the criteria.

Please note that should this process lead to any change in our admissions criteria, this would only impact on children who are currently in Year 4 or below of their primary school. Parents of children who are currently in Year 5 will apply to Riddlesdown Collegiate under the criteria published on the school's website at <https://www.riddlesdown.org/admissions> for 2017/18. Of course, those in Year 6 have already completed their applications and are not impacted at all by this.

### Why are we doing this?

The Collegiate Trust would love to be able to allow every child into Riddlesdown Collegiate who wanted a place. However, in 2016 there have been almost 1100 applications for the 328 places, so like all schools we have to have a mechanism for deciding which families are allocated a place – this mechanism is known as our **admissions criteria**. These criteria have to be clearly understood and consistently applied.

Every few years admissions authorities are required to consult formally on their **admissions criteria** for schools, to give local parents and others a chance to express their views on whether they should change and if so in what way; it is then for the admission authority itself to decide whether to make any changes. We shall carry out that **formal consultation** for Riddlesdown Collegiate between **October and December of 2016** for admissions into the school in Year 7 for September 2018. In advance of that, we want to carry out this informal survey to give interested parties an opportunity to express full views.

We recognise that the process of admission to schools is a tremendously important issue as it impacts on whole families and the lives of individual children; that is why we want to hear your view of what we currently do at Riddlesdown Collegiate. We do not have any planned outcomes to this informal survey – we really want to hear your views – and want to emphasise that should we consider any changes then we would formally consult on them in line with the requirements of the statutory Admissions Code.

Please read the rest of this document, record your views and return this information to us by Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Gordon Smith  
**Chief Executive** – *The Collegiate Trust*

Please read our current *Admissions Criteria* below in the black text. The red text provides guidance on the criteria or our current thinking. Please record your responses in the tables. You will note that the questions in the tables are deliberately framed towards the positive, to give you the opportunity to agree (Yes) or disagree (No). Perhaps more important is the box asking *Do you have any comments...?* We would appreciate you completing this informal survey of opinion by Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June and returning it to:

**Ms Diane Lane – Admissions Officer**

The Collegiate Trust  
 Honister Heights  
 Purley  
 CR8 1EX

Should you wish to send comments or questions by email, please send to:

[admissions@tct-academies.org](mailto:admissions@tct-academies.org)

**1. Looked After Children:**

*The wording of this criterion is as follows:*

Priority will be given to students in the care of a local authority at the time of application and also students who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order, immediately after being looked after. An application made under this category must be supported by a letter from the relevant Local Authority’s Children’s Department and/or relevant documents including a copy of adoption, residence or special guardianship order where applicable.

**WE WOULD NOT PROPOSE ANY CHANGE TO THIS STATUTORY REQUIREMENT**

**2. Primary School Attended:**

*The wording of this criterion is as follows:*

Priority will be given to students transferring from Atwood, Greenvale, Gresham, Harris Primary Academy Kenley and Selsdon primary schools.

*The aim of this criterion is to ensure that children who attend local schools are able to gain a place at Riddlesdown Collegiate. Please use the following table to tell us what you think of this:*

	Yes	No	Don’t know
Does the system of having named feeder schools help us to ensure that local children are able to attend Riddlesdown Collegiate?			
Is the system of having named Feeder Schools a fair system for gaining a place at Riddlesdown Collegiate?			
Do you have any comments or suggestions about our named feeder schools?			

### 3. Medical Reasons:

*The wording of this criterion is as follows:*

Places may be offered to any children whose parents are able to provide medical evidence, at the time of application, from a registered health professional that entry to The Collegiate rather than any other is essential.

**WE WOULD NOT PROPOSE ANY CHANGE TO THIS STATUTORY REQUIREMENT**

### 4. Ability:

*The wording of this criterion is as follows:*

Up to 15% of pupils admitted each year will be selected on the basis of their performance in an Entrance Examination made up of tests in English, Mathematics and Science, set and administered by the Collegiate. In the event of tied scores in the examination, priority will be given to the child with the higher score in the Science section of the examination. Students must score above 67% on the test in order to be considered for an ability place. Please note however that if such a score places a student outside the top 15% or 48 performers, they cannot be offered a place under this criterion in the first round of offers made by the Local Authority. However, these students will be placed on an ability waiting list and could subsequently be offered a place if others above them do not accept their offer.

*Whilst most of our very able children gain a place through the other criteria, the aim of this criterion is to allow a small number of the most able who might not otherwise be able to come to Riddlesdown Collegiate to gain a place. Please use the following table to tell us what you think of this:*

	Yes	No	Don't know
Does the Entrance Examination help us to ensure that bright children who might not otherwise gain a place can benefit from an education at Riddlesdown Collegiate?			
Is the Entrance Examination a fair system for gaining a place at Riddlesdown Collegiate?			
Do you have any comments or suggestions about our ability criterion?			

### 5. Sibling

*The wording of this criterion is as follows:*

The word sibling refers to all blood, half, foster, step and adoptive brothers and sisters (not cousins) who are on roll at the date of admission of the younger sibling and who live at the same home, in the same family unit as the child on a permanent basis and where the home address is within a 2 mile radius of Riddlesdown Collegiate. The measurement is taken as a direct line from the front gate of Riddlesdown Collegiate to the front door of the home. A sibling connection does not apply for children whose older siblings will/may be attending the College VI in years 12 & 13 unless the sibling previously attended Riddlesdown Collegiate in years 7 to 11 for at least one year.

*The aim of this criterion is to allow families that live locally to be able to send their children to the same school. Please use the following table to tell us what you think of this:*

	Yes	No	Don't know
Does the sibling criterion help families to place their children in the same school?			
Is the 2 mile limit on siblings a fair system for making sure that local children have priority for admission to Riddlesdown Collegiate?			
Do you have any comments or suggestions about our sibling criterion?			

## 6. Geography:

*The wording of this criterion is as follows:*

All remaining places will then be allocated to children on the basis of distance from Riddlesdown Collegiate. This distance will be measured as a direct line from the front gate of Riddlesdown Collegiate to the front door of the home at which the student normally resides. In the case of multi-occupancy residence eg. a block of flats, stairways, corridors and walkways will be measured to the front door of the specific flat or apartment in which the child is permanently resident. In the case of separated parents, if a child spends time with both parents, the home address is deemed to be that of the parent who receives the Child Benefit payment. In the event of a tie, priority will be given to the child whose journey to school via public transport is the shortest distance. A map is attached showing the area from which places have been offered to children in previous years. An address within this area does not guarantee a place at the Collegiate.

**WE WOULD NOT PROPOSE ANY CHANGE TO THIS CRITERION, ALTHOUGH WE ARE LOOKING AT A BETTER WAY OF MEASURING DISTANCES.**

***Other comments / suggestions***