

To: The Vicar, Minister or Religious Leader

We would like to remind you that admissions are made mainly on the basis of the information you provide the Governing Body in **Part B** of The Blue School's Supplementary Information Form.

The Admissions Panel requests that all references are to be signed and dated.

We advise that active membership must be for at least 2 years with attendance at least fortnightly by at least one parent. Families who have changed church/place of worship within 24 months prior to the Governors' consideration of admissions must provide a second reference from their previous Vicar/Minister/Religious Leader.

Faith School Admissions Variation Arrangements

The Governing Body of The Blue School has agreed the following statement in order to clarify how its faith-based oversubscription criteria will be interpreted whilst churches are/were closed or attendance at church is/was unsafe due to COVID-19. This statement has been shared with churches in order to ensure that determinations made by relevant ministers concerning church attendance are being made on a consistent basis.

If a parent/carer attended a given church prior to the closing of churches for public worship, then where a parent/carer has not subsequently attended worship at a given church for a given period, a parent/carer will be considered to have attended worship at that church for that period where either of the following apply:

1. The church was closed for public worship
2. By returning to church, the parent/carer would not be taking account of government guidance concerning shielding and protecting persons either moderately or extremely clinically vulnerable to COVID-19.

We recommend that you discuss your reference with the family before sending it to us.

We ask for another Church official to countersign the form in line with the Blue School's safeguarding guidance on countersignatures which is now mandatory. This is to act as a witness to your signature. It may be a Deacon, Elder, Church Secretary, Administrator, Lay Leader or other Faith Leader who is in a position of recognized leadership in your Church/Institution.

Please attach to the form, any additional observations you wish to make about this application which are directly relevant to the admissions criteria.

After the Governing Body's Admissions Panel has made a decision, it may be necessary to share the information you have provided with the child's family.

Thank you for your assistance.

Mrs Debbie Sayer
Admissions Officer