

**Relevant Area for School  
Admissions Arrangements  
2022-2023  
Consultation Report**

**November 2020**

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## 1. Background

Gloucestershire County Council consulted on the Relevant Area for Admission Arrangements between 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The School Standards & Framework Act 1998 requires local authorities to establish a Relevant Area(s) for admission policy consultations. Each local authority is required to define a 'relevant area' in which admission authorities must consult on their proposed admission arrangements. The relevant area is determined after consultation with all interested parties and is reviewed periodically.

Once the relevant area has been determined, any school or academy proposing to change arrangements will need to consult with all other interested parties within this area in line with the Schools Admission Code.

## 2. Consultation Methodology

Stakeholders were invited to take part in the consultation via an online survey. The promotion of this survey was undertaken in the following ways:

### 2.1 Online

An online survey was developed and promoted through heads up and what's up Gov communications.

All neighbouring authorities and Gloucester Diocese were contacted directly via email.

The GCC website was also updated with details of the consultation:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions-scheme-criteria-and-protocol/review-of-relevant-area-for-admissions-arrangements/>

## 3. Consultation Feedback

### 3.1 Online Survey

A total of 51 responses were received via the online survey.

## 4. Respondents

Respondents were asked to identify themselves as belonging to **one or more** groups of respondents. The tables below provide a breakdown of the people who responded to each question

Respondent	Percentage	Number of responses
Parent/Carer	45%	27
Child/Pupil	0%	0
Local Authority	1.67%	1
Pre-School	0%	0
Community Group	0%	0
School Employee	15%	9
Councillor	6.67%	4
Governor	10%	6
Volunteer	1.57%	1
Other	20%	12

Those selecting 'other' identified themselves as a Resident, Retired Headteacher, Diocese, BnB Owner.

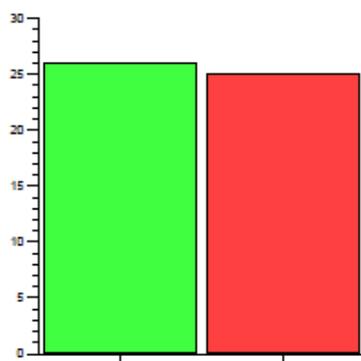
## 5. Key findings

### Question 1

#### Are you aware of the proposed changes to the relevant area?

Of the 51 people who responded to this question, 50.98% said that they were aware of the proposed changes to the relevant area.

Are you aware of the proposed changes to the relevant area?



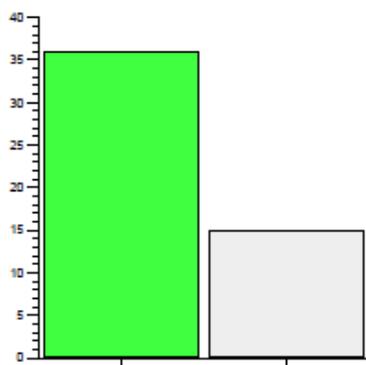
	% Total	% Answer	Count
Yes	50.98%	50.98%	26
No	49.02%	49.02%	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>51</b>

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### Question 2

**Have you any comments/feedback on the relevant area that you would like to make?**

Question responses: 36 (70.59%)



	% Total	% Answer	Count
[Responses]	70.59%	100.00%	36
[No Response]	29.41%	--	15
Total	100.00%	100.00%	51

### Comments

Some of the respondents misunderstood the question and made comments about school catchment areas.

Others made the following comments:

*I am concerned that extending the consultation area removes the school further from its community. I have not seen logic for this change. (Governor)*

*I agree with the proposal as tabled. (Councillor)*

*Rather than a blanket 3 miles from the boundary the area should include communities that would reasonably use Gloucestershire Schools (Resident)*

*This proposal may well be appropriate for primary and infant schools. Currently, Gloucestershire secondary schools (notably grammars) take many students from well beyond even the current consultation area. This directly impedes social equity and mobility. Consultation needs to include at least the areas from which current and recent pupils have come. Ideally, schools would be strictly prohibited from taking students from excessively outside the county boundary. Only if that is done would this proposal be appropriate. (Parent/Carer, School Employee)*

*Some schools serve large areas of the county, i.e. more than 10 miles away e.g. grammar schools drawing from all parts of the county - if admission arrangements change for these schools then they could impact on all/most Gloucestershire schools it is therefore important for these schools that all schools are consulted. When schools have a more delineated population then the proposals seem appropriate. (Governor)*

*The proposed changes seem perfectly reasonable. (Retired Head Teacher)*

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*Children should be able to attend their nearest local school. It is not relevant to consult on changes to the admission policy across the whole of GCC. Only neighbouring or feeder schools need to be consulted. (School Employee, Councillor)*

*I believe that it is a sensible move to set a mileage limit of the schools to inform. (School Employee)*

*It would be helpful to have clear guidance on exactly how an individual school could determine whether it was consulting appropriately with this changed guidance - Will schools have to determine for themselves what constitutes the 10 miles or will this be pre-determined for each school by the LA? What will the powers of the LA be to enforce these changes rules given it may potentially be down to each school to determine exactly who it will now involve consulting with and what powers will the LA have to enforce these arrangements? (School Employee)*

*I agree with the proposal that each school's relevant area would change to a minimum distance of 10 miles radius from the individual school. Where this distance falls outside of Gloucestershire, this area is adjusted to 3 miles into the neighbouring County. It is more realistic and makes far more sense. (Gloucester Diocese)*

*It is important for us to know about local changes, but not about changes to schools in other areas. (School Employee)*

*I fully support the proposed change to make Relevant Areas smaller & therefore more them relevant & workable for schools. Thank you very much for proposing the change. I think 10 miles is appropriate for secondary schools but would suggest that for primary schools, it is likely to be too large & so would suggest 5 or 6 miles for them. (Diocese)*