



Address line one  
Address line two  
Town  
County  
Postcode  
Date

**RE: Consultation on admission arrangements**

Dear **interested party**,

I am writing to notify you of the upcoming consultation on the Academy's Admissions Policy. The consultation period will run from 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 until 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021; during this time, parents are invited to express their views and any concerns about the proposed changes to the admission arrangements at George Salter Academy.

In accordance with the DfE's 2014 statutory 'School Admissions Code' guidance, as a school we must consult on our admission arrangements when changes are proposed, and at least once every seven years.

We are consulting all stakeholders regarding our policy for 2022-23 due to our recent request for a variation to our Admissions Policy for 2021-22. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, the Academy were forced to cancel our Nfer non-verbal reasoning tests and also our Performing Arts Aptitude Tests, which have formed part of our Admissions Policy for a number of years. For the 2022-23 policy (for entry to the Academy in September 2022) we are proposing to re-introduce the Performing Arts Aptitude Tests. However, we are also proposing to again remove the Nfer Non-Verbal Reasoning Tests.

Therefore, although the 2022-23 policy will have a change to it, the significant change is the proposed removal of Nfer (Banding) Tests and the re-introduction Performing Arts Aptitude Tests. The only other change relates to our Post-16 capacity, which is proposed to reduce from 300 to 200 in total.

To this end, the following amendments to our admission arrangements have been proposed:

1. Remove the Nfer non-verbal reasoning test for applicants seeking admission to Year 7.
2. Re-introduce the Performing Arts Aptitude stream admitting up to 10% of the Year 7 cohort.
3. Reduce the capacity of the Sixth Form from 300 to 200 places.

This is being proposed for the following reasons:

Points 1. and 2. were removed from the 2021-22 Admissions Policy as a late requested changed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. George Salter Academy proposes to re-introduce the Performing Arts Aptitude test in order to meet our curriculum vision in promoting the Performing Arts. We propose to remove the Nfer non-verbal reasoning test due to a willingness to move away from this form of selection from our entry cohort in Year 7. Whilst it is difficult to judge the impact on the cohort that gains entry, it may be that it becomes easier for children who live very local to the Academy to gain entry. Instead, applications over the PAN will be subject to the Oversubscription Criteria published in the policy only.



Point 3. is not an alteration of our PAN for external students, but a reduction in capacity due to the need to streamline the curriculum and staff, and the ability to offer courses that fit our post-16 academic ethos.

A full version of the proposed changes to the admission arrangements, as well as the rationale behind them, is available to view on the academy website or in hard copy from the school office.

In accordance with statutory DfE guidance, the consultation will run for at least six weeks and, as an interested party at George Salter Academy, we are keen to hear your views on the proposed changes to the admission arrangements; therefore, we invite you to participate in the consultation if you have any concerns regarding the matter.

All responses to the consultation should be made in writing and submitted before midnight on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to:

Mr R. Reeve  
Senior Vice Principal  
George Salter Academy  
Davey Road  
West Bromwich  
Sandwell,  
West Midlands  
B70 9UW  
or

To Mr R. Reeve at [r.reeve@georgesalter.com](mailto:r.reeve@georgesalter.com).

Please note that written responses should outline your personal details, including your name, address and relationship to the academy. You are also encouraged to provide feedback on the academy website here: [georgesalter.com](http://georgesalter.com).

At the end of the consultation period, the governing board will meet to consider responses and submit a final policy to the Ormiston Academies Trust Board of Trustees for approval.

For further information regarding the consultation process, please refer to our proposal document, copies of which can be located on the academy website or in hard copy from the school office. If you wish to further discuss this matter, or anything mentioned in this letter, please contact the school office on 0121 553 4665 Ext 5262 or [r.reeve@georgesalter.com](mailto:r.reeve@georgesalter.com).

Yours sincerely

Adrian Price  
Principal