

24 January 2008

Dear Parent

**EFFINGHAM LEARNING PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE ON 2009
ADMISSIONS' CRITERIA**

Encompassing eleven schools in the local area, the Effingham Learning Partnership (ELP) has been collaborating on a wide range of initiatives over the last six years. There is no doubt that the Partnership has brought considerable benefits to all the children and families in our community.

As Heads within the Effingham Learning Partnership, we are only too aware of the considerable anxiety that has been caused within our schools by the recent changes to the Surrey County Council Admissions Policy. Our aim is to seek a resolution to this issue which will unite, rather than divide, our community and which will ensure that your children continue to benefit from our collaborative work. To this end, we met on Thursday 17 January 2008 to consider a joint response to the LA's 2009 consultation process for the Local Authority's 2009 Admissions' Criteria. The following guiding principles and working practices were the outcome of that meeting and have been agreed by the Heads of all the schools within the Partnership.

Guiding Principles:

- Schools within the Effingham Learning Partnership support an Admissions System which is fair, transparent and based on equality of access for children within the local community.
- Partnership schools believe that all conurbations should have access to a local secondary school. As the current situation appears, where demand for places exceeds supply, conurbations which have traditionally had access to a particular local secondary school should be enabled to continue to do so.

Working Practices:

The following working practices on admissions have been agreed by Heads of all schools within the Effingham Learning Partnership:

- Schools will not allow meetings of partial groups such as Action Groups on their premises.
- Schools will not act as a vehicle for communications from partial groups such as Action Groups.

No doubt you are aware that the consultation process comes to an end on 31 January 2008. If you would like to take part, there is a response form available on the Surrey County Council website www.surreycc.gov.uk/schooladmissionconsultation where you can register your comments. Alternatively you can contact the Council's Contact Centre on 08456 009009 for a hard-copy response form.

Yours sincerely

Signatures of all ELP heads

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Rhian Gaffney R. Needy Tom Park
M. M. Karen O'Brien L. Neill
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