

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

POLICY STATEMENT

ADMISSION OF SIBLINGS

The Board of Education appreciates that schools experience difficulties over allocation of places when the differing merits of each application are considered. This can be particularly difficult when considering an application from a committed church family alongside one from a family already having children in the school. It is easy to sympathise with each family's view of its 'right' to a place at the school and consequently difficult to justify denying a place to either. It is important that the governing body itself is clear which application has priority and has an admission policy which makes assigning this priority possible.

The Board recognises that within the primary phase it is desirable that siblings, wherever possible, should be educated at the same school, to encourage stability and a sense of community within the school. Within the secondary phase, however, this may cease to be as significant a factor when considering admission applications. In this situation, with the relatively small number of church places available, more weight should perhaps be given to church commitment. It should, of course, be recognised that giving priority to either siblings or committed church families can upset the balance of the intake too much in either direction, for example, a policy giving priority to siblings can, over a number of years, result in the virtual exclusion of church families without siblings in the school. Governors would need, therefore, to keep the admission policy under review.

The Board of Education will seek to assist governing bodies of church schools within the Diocese to:

- decide its priorities in relation to admission of siblings;
- construct an admission policy which enables the governing body's priorities to be assigned;
- review the workings of such a policy to ensure that it reflects accurately the governing body's wishes.

March 1995 (Schools Committee)