We have already elaborated the details to our own objections, but to clarify the primary reasons to object to the changes in Admissions are that they:

1. go against the previous Adjudication, just several years ago, to remove feeder school status.
2. are unreasonable, due to not serving the local community (a third of the intake to GSHS in September 2016 did not attend one of the proposed MAT primary schools; pupils from our school, which is the second biggest provider of GSHS intake, would be disadvantaged and this is unfair) and therefore breaks the Admissions Code.

In addition, parents have informed us that the GSHS website and emails have been unavailable for two weeks over the Christmas break which is during the Consultation period. Parents have told us that they were unable to access the Consultation document on GSHS website and that their responses via email were not able to be delivered. We have passed on this information to the relevant authorities.

In our dialogue with GSHS and others, there has been discussion of an example where an Academy in London had consulted on identical changes in Admissions (Rivers Academy Trust) giving preference to the pupils who attend primary schools in their MAT. This has caused us much worry as we believed that this High School Academy has been working with the proposed admissions changes this last academic year and it was felt this may have set a precedent in law. We are delighted to receive confirmation today that the Schools Adjudicator has now “decided that the naming of the feeder schools in the admission arrangements for Rivers Academy did not comply with the Code because it caused unfairness to the children who attended two local primary schools. The academy trust must now amend its admission arrangements. It has until 27 February 2017 to do so. Should it fail to do so, it will be in breach of its funding arrangements with the Secretary of State who will, if necessary, be able to take enforcement action”.

This news supports our views that the proposed changes by GSHS to Admissions arrangements are unreasonable and break the Admissions Code. Please cite this in your responses. If GSHS go ahead with the proposed changes then this would be referred to the Schools Adjudicator by the School/GB/Diocese and LA.

We as a school and as a Governing Body are doing everything within our remit to oppose these proposed changes. The Diocese and LA are also acting accordingly, however each and every individual voice of objection counts.

We urge you to:

1. Object as individuals, not as couples.
2. Ask concerned family members, members of the local community, local organisations, church groups, community groups and businesses to object.
3. Contact your MPs, Councillors and the press.

We only have one chance to have our objections heard, so please do not rely on others to express your disagreement to the proposals. In fellowship we need to protect our pupils’ options and future.

As we teach our children in our motto - ***Together we aim high and with God’s love we can fly.*** Let us all unite together in our efforts to make sure that as many people as possible make their views known about this unreasonable proposal.

Thank you,

Mrs Kate Strickland-Wright (COG) and Mrs Jacqui Wightman (Headteacher)