



# The Minerva Learning Trust

September 2020

Burton Bradstock CE Primary School  
St Mary's CE Primary School  
Bridport Primary School – for information  
Sir John Colfox Academy – for information  
St Catherines Roman Catholic Primary School, CAST Academy  
Loders C of E Primary School, Acorn Academy  
Dorset Council Schools Admissions  
Devon County Council School Admissions  
Somerset County Council

To all Parents, Carers and other related parties

We write to inform you that, as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic and in order to meet with expectations of the Department for Education and the Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) in respect of the Trust's Admission Policy for 2020/21, it has become necessary to request a variation to be made to the oversubscription criteria within the Trust's admission policy relating to Burton Bradstock CE Primary School and St Mary's CE Primary School.

These changes arise from the need for Churches and other places of worship to have been closed for public worship under the provisions of the Coronavirus Act and its associated regulations since lockdown was implemented in mid March. From 4 July 2020 churches were permitted to re-open for public worship in a Covid-secure way with the decision to reopen resting with parish priests and their Parochial Church Council in collaboration with the Bishop. It is therefore recognised that churches will reopen on different dates. This has led to parents being unable to show that they meet the faith-based oversubscription criterion for regular church attendance during this period of temporary church closure. The proposed changes to the policy will enable the schools to readily determine what the admissions oversubscription criteria are and how they may be met, and thereby enable the school to deal lawfully, fairly and transparently with admissions matters in the exceptional circumstances of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Minerva Learning Trust Board has therefore agreed to make changes to the wording within its Admissions Policy as below:

## 13. OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

- l) Burton Bradstock CE Primary School and St Mary's CE Primary School will consider applications for children living outside the catchment area who are regular (monthly) practising Christians of whatever denomination at a regular church or religious group, ie a member of Churches together in Britain and Ireland (see [ctbi.org.uk](http://ctbi.org.uk)); the Evangelical Alliance (see [eauk.org](http://eauk.org)); the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (see [www.fiec.org.uk](http://www.fiec.org.uk)); Affinity Fellowship of Churches (see [www.affinity.org.uk](http://www.affinity.org.uk)).

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church [or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these [admissions] arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church [or in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

If you have any queries relating to this decision please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Principal for the Trust.

Yours sincerely



**Clive Bath**  
**Chairman of the Board of Trustees**

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The Minerva Learning Trust (Dorset) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 8561222

**The Registered office is at: The Minerva Learning Trust, The Ridgeway, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3DT**  
Tel: 01308 422291, Email: [office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk), Executive Principal: [LovettA@minervalearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:LovettA@minervalearningtrust.org.uk)



Bridport Primary School



Burton Bradstock CE Primary School



St Mary's CE Primary School



The Sir John Colfox Academy

The revised admissions policy for 2021-2 is at

[www.burtonbradstock.dorset.sch.uk/policies/MLTAdmissions.pdf](http://www.burtonbradstock.dorset.sch.uk/policies/MLTAdmissions.pdf)