



## Admissions Policy for 2027-2028

<b>Policy Leader</b>	<b>Mrs C Jones</b>
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<b>Date to Review</b>	<b>Annually</b>



## **ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR 2027-2028**

### **Mission Statement**

*“Love one another as I have loved you” (John, 15)*

We believe that Jesus Christ and his Gospel Call – to love God and all people – are at the heart of what we do.

He inspires us, as children of God, to uphold the dignity of each individual.

We strive to develop a community in Christ which fully supports all in achieving their potential – spiritually, academically and personally.

# **CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

## **DETERMINED ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR SEPTEMBER 2027 TO AUGUST 2028**

Christ The King Catholic High School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its Academy Trust (Mater Ecclesiae) as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and articles of association and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. As a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with these admission arrangements.

The Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust is the admission authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round. The admission authority has set the school's Published Admissions Number ("PAN") at 100 pupils to be admitted to year 7 in the school year which begins in September 2027.

The admission authority will, where logistically possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within the school's PAN.

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSION IN SEPTEMBER 2027**

1. Applications for a place at the school should be made on the Common Application Form available from the Local Authority or online.
2. Parents who wish their application to this Catholic school to be considered against the priority faith criteria (1-3 and 5-7) should also complete the school's Supplementary Information Form. If the school is oversubscribed, failure to complete the Supplementary Information Form may result in your application for a place in this school being considered against lower priority criteria, as the Multi Academy Trust will have no information upon which to assess the application on the basis of the applicant's baptism
3. Each Catholic applicant will be required to produce a baptismal certificate or other evidence of baptism
4. The admissions committee will consider all applications at the same time after the given closing date.
5. Parents/Carers will be informed of the outcome of their application in writing by the Local Authority
6. As required by law, all children with an EHCP naming the school will be admitted before the application of the oversubscription criteria
7. The closing date for applications for September 2027 is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026. Offer letters will be sent out on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2027.

### **Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (see note 1)**

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

This will be determined by Lancashire County Council Admissions Team but will be based upon the following:

*Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority.*

1. Catholic looked after and previously looked after children. (see notes 2&3)
2. Catholic children who are resident in the parish(es) of St John XXII (covering the former parishes of St Augustine, St Ignatius, St Josephs and St Teresa. (see notes 3&11)
3. Other Catholic children. (see note 3)
4. Other looked after and previously looked after children. (see note 2)
5. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church. (see notes 4&5)
6. Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion. (see note 6)
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader. (see note 7)
8. Any other children.

***Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.***

- (i) Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school, the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made. (see note 10)
- (ii) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) above (see note 8).

### **Tie Break**

Priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. Distances are calculated on the basis of a straight-line measurement between the front door of the child's home address (including the community entrance to flats) and the main entrance of the school. In the event of distances being the same for two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the school. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

### **Application Procedures and Timetable**

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round, you must complete a Common Application Form available from the local authority in which you live. You are also requested to complete the Supplementary Information Form attached to this policy if you wish to apply under oversubscription criteria 1 to 3 or 5 to 7. The Supplementary Information Form should be returned to the School Office by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application on 16<sup>th</sup> April or the next working day, by the local authority on our behalf. If you are unsuccessful (unless your child gained a place at a school you ranked higher) you will be informed of the reasons, related to the oversubscription criteria listed above, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

***If you do not provide the information required in the SIF and return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, your child may not be placed in criteria 1 to 3 or 5 to 7, and this may affect your child's chance of being offered a place.***

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026.

### **Late Applications**

Applications for school places which are received late will not necessarily be dealt with at the same time as those received by the set deadline. The reasons for a late application may be requested and where these are not exceptional the relevant admission criteria will be initially applied to all others received on time. The late application will be dealt with after this process.

Application forms received after the published closing date, will only be considered at that time if the following conditions apply:

- a) if the number of preferences received for the school is below the published admission number or:
- b) there are extenuating circumstances justifying a late application.

These may include:

- a) parents moving into the County after the closing date;
- b) parent/carer illness which required hospitalisation for the major part of the period between the publication of the composite prospectus and the closing date for applications.

## **Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group**

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Any such request should be made in writing to the Headteacher at the school at the same time as the admission application is made. The admission authority will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the head teacher, including the head teacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the admission authority will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals, as appropriate.

## **Waiting Lists**

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful children will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and **not** in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year. The waiting list will be held open continuously until the last day of the summer term 2027.

**Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.**

## **In-Year Applications**

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the normal admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. Please see our website for more information [Admissions | Christ the King Catholic High School](#). Applications should be made to the school by emailing [admissions@ctk.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@ctk.lancs.sch.uk)

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out above, will be applied.

If there are no places available, the child will be added to the waiting list (see above).

You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

## **Fair Access Protocol**

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the admission authority is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol. The admission authority has this power, even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the PAN.

## **Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)**

1. An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.
2. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making an application to the school.

A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

3. 'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest who, after consulting with the Diocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

4. 'Catechumen' means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the order of catechumens.
5. 'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.
6. "Children of other Christian denominations" means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England and CYTÛN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

7. "Children of other faiths" means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian denominations' at 6 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:
  - A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
  - A religion which does not involve belief in a God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.

8. 'brother or sister' includes:
  - (i) all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and the child of a parent's partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.

9. A 'parent' means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.
10. To demonstrate an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can be most appropriately met at this school, the admission authority will require compelling written evidence from an appropriate professional, such as a social worker, doctor or priest.
11. A child's "home address" refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form ("CAF"). Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.



## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM:

### DIOCESE OF LANCASTER

Christ the King Catholic High School, Preston



## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

2027/2028

If you are expressing a preference for a place for your child at Christ the King Catholic High School in **Lancashire** and wish to apply under a faith criterion, you should complete this Supplementary Information Form.

- The completed Supplementary Information Form, together with all supporting documentation (see Notes below), should be **returned to The Office at Christ the King Catholic High School** by the closing date **31<sup>st</sup> October 2026**.
- If you are applying to more than one Catholic school or academy you will need to complete a separate Supplementary Information Form for each school/academy.
- **If you do not provide the information required in this form and return it to the school, with all supporting documentation, by the closing date, your child may not be placed in the appropriate faith category, and this may affect your child's chance of being offered a place.**
- Remember – you **must** also complete the Common Application Form.

Name of child:

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Address of child:

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Parent/Carer Name:

Parent/Carer Email:

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Please read the relevant school Admissions Policy, noting in particular any faith criteria, and your Local Authority booklet, before completing this form.

**NOTE: When completing the Common Application Form, it is important that you provide details of any siblings (brothers or sisters) who will be attending the Catholic school at the proposed time of admission. If this information is not provided the admission authority of the Catholic school may not be able to place the application within the correct criteria.**

**Religious Status of child (please indicate by placing a tick in the appropriate box – please note that a tick should be indicated in only a single box)**

Criteria	Tick Box	Evidence: insert details in accordance with the Notes below
1. Catholic with a Certificate of Baptism	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Catechumen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Member of an Eastern Christian Church	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Member of other Christian denomination	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Member of other faith	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Siblings attending school at the time of admission (Sept 2027)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Catholic Parish in which your child lives		

In compliance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, we wish to ensure that you are aware of the purpose for which we collect and process the data we have asked you to provide on this form.

1. We are Christ the King Catholic High School, part of the Mater Ecclesiae Trust. The registered name of the academy trust company is Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust. The Trust is the data controller for the purposes of data protection law. As a school within this trust, Christ the King operates under the governance and policies of Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust, which is responsible for determining how and why personal data is processed across all its academies.
2. Being a Catholic education provider, we work closely with the School's Diocesan Authority, the School's Trustees, the Local Authority, the Catholic Education Service and the Department for Education, and may share the information you provide on this application form if we consider it is necessary in order to fulfil our functions.
3. The person responsible for data protection within our organisation is Vanessa Spinks and you can contact them with questions relating to our handling of the data by emailing [dpo@mecmat.org](mailto:dpo@mecmat.org)
4. We require the information we have requested for reasons relating to our functions as the admission authority of the school.
5. It is necessary for us to process personal data for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller (Article 6(1)(e) of the UK GDPR).
6. To the extent that you have shared any special categories of data this will not be shared with any third parties except as detailed in paragraph 2 above, unless a legal obligation should arise.

7. It is necessary for us to process special category data for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller (Article 6(1)(e) of the UK GDPR). Additionally, processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest on the basis of domestic law which is proportionate to the aim pursued and which contains appropriate safeguards (Article 9(2)(g) of the UK GDPR).
8. If the application is successful, the information you have provided on this form will be migrated to the school's enrolment system, and the data will be retained and processed on the basis of the school's fair processing notice and data protection policies which apply to that data.
9. If the application is unsuccessful, the application form and any documents submitted in support of the application will be destroyed after a period of 12 months. The school may keep a simple record of all applications and their outcome as part of their permanent archives in accordance with the school's data retention policy.
10. To read about your individual rights you can refer to the school's fair processing notice and data protection policies.
11. If you wish to complain about how we have collected and processed the information you have provided on this form, you can make a complaint to our organisation by reporting to Christ the King Catholic High School. If you are unhappy with how your complaint has been handled, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office via their website at: [ico.org.uk](http://ico.org.uk).

**I confirm that I have read the Admissions Policy of the school and that the information I have provided is correct. I understand that I must notify the school immediately if there is any change to these details and that, should any information I have given prove to be inaccurate, the Admission Authority may withdraw any offer of a place even if the child has already started school.**

Signed.....

Date.....

## **Notes**

### **1. Evidence of Catholic Baptism**

If an application is being made for a place at the school for a Catholic child evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church is required. A certificate of baptism or certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church should be provided at the same time as this form is returned to the school.

[The admission authority may request additional supporting evidence if the written documents that are provided do not clarify the fact that the child was baptised or received into the Catholic Church, e.g. where the name and address of the Church is not on the certificate or where the name of the Church does not state whether it is a Catholic Church or not. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism or reception into the Church should contact their Parish Priest.]

### **2. Evidence for Catechumens**

If an application is being made for a place at the school for a catechumen evidence of their being a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church will be required. A certificate of reception into the order of catechumens should be provided at the same time as this form is returned to the school.

### **3. Evidence of Membership of an Eastern Christian Church**

If an application is being made for a place at the school for a member of an Eastern Christian Church, including Orthodox Churches, evidence of membership will be required. A certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church should be provided at the same time as this form is returned to the school.

### **4. Evidence for Other Christian Denominations and Other Faiths**

If an application is being made for a place at the school as a member of another Christian denomination or another faith evidence confirming membership of that Christian denomination or faith and signed by the appropriate minister of religion or faith leader, will be required. The evidence should be provided at the same time as this form is returned to the school.

#### **Checklist:**

Have you enclosed?

- Copy of baptism or certificate of reception into the Catholic Church (where applicable).
- Evidence confirming membership of a Christian denomination or other faith (where applicable).

Have you completed and returned your local authority's Common Application Form?

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES** (These notes are part of the policy)

### **Baptised Catholic**

Please note this is not a change in our admission policy, it is a definition for the purpose of clarification. For admission to this Catholic school a baptised Catholic is

- One who has been baptised into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various ritual Churches in communion with the See of Rome (Proof of baptism with a copy of a baptismal certificate or details of the date and place of baptism may be required)
- A child, baptised in another Christian Faith who has been received into full communion with the Roman Catholic faith. (Proof of baptism and reception from the Register of Receptions or Baptismal Register may be required)
- A child who, with his or her family, is enrolled in a recognised course of preparation leading to Catholic baptism (Proof of enrolment with details of the place and date of enrolment from the appropriate parish records may be required)
- One who is a member of the Eastern Christian Churches and the Orthodox Churches. (Proof of baptism with a copy of a baptismal certificate, details of the date and place of baptism or certificate of reception may be required).

### **Children in public care**

This means a child who is looked after by a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989. This is a child in public care who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority.

### **Siblings**

Sibling refers to full brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. Stepchildren or foster children who live at the same address are also classed as siblings

### **Address of Pupil**

The address used on the school's admission form must be the current one at the time of application. If the address changes subsequently, the parents should notify the school. In some cases, for example, where shared parental living arrangements are in place, a child's address may be difficult to determine. In these circumstances, the address used for child benefit purposes, ie, the address of the parent claiming the child benefit, will be used.

If you are moving house and applying for the school and it is not oversubscribed, using your new address may not be a problem. In the event of oversubscription it may be possible to consider your application on the basis of an address you are intending to move to. You must be resident at a specific address and not just have a stated intention to move to an area. You must provide evidence that you have exchanged contracts on a house or have an offer of a tenancy on a property in which you intend to live and which will be in place when your child would start at the school. This evidence must be submitted as soon as possible. Further evidence, eg utility bills, may also need to be submitted.

### **Multiple Births**

Where there are twins or multiple birth children wanting admission and it is not possible to offer a place to all of the children concerned or there is only one single place left within the admission number, then the Governing Body will exercise as much flexibility as possible. If places for both twins or all triplets, etc cannot be offered, the family will be advised accordingly. This may also apply to siblings who are in the same year group. If it is not possible to offer a place to all of the children concerned or only a single place can be offered then the place(s) will be offered via a random draw.

## **Late Applications**

Applications received after the closing date will be treated as late applications. Only in exceptional circumstances, and where appropriate evidence is provided, will applications received after the closing date (but before offers of places have been made) be considered alongside those received on time.

## **Waiting List**

A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the admissions criteria. Parents/Carers are invited to contact the school if they wish to be informed of their child's position on the waiting list. The waiting list will be held open continuously until the child is no longer of school age.

## **Fraudulent Applications**

Where the Governing Body discovers that a child has been awarded a place as a result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent, for example, where a false address has been provided, then the Governing Body is required to withdraw the offer of a place. The application will then be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

## **Appeal Arrangements – see Appendix 1**

If an application for admission has been turned down by the governing body parents can appeal to an independent appeals panel. This appeal should be sent in writing to the clerk to the governors at the school within 14 days of notification of refusal. The date of notification will be considered to be 2 working days after posting by first class post of the refusal to offer a place. The parents must give their reasons for appealing in writing. The decision of the appeal panel is binding on the parents and on the governing body.

Parents who wish their application to this Catholic school to be considered against the priority faith criteria should also complete the school's Supplementary Information Form and return it directly to the school. If the school is oversubscribed with mid-year applications at the time of requested admission, failure to complete the Supplementary Information Form may result in your application for a place in this school being considered against lower priority criteria.

The admission of all students to Lancashire schools will be co-ordinated by the Lancashire Local Authority, in line with recent changes in legislation.

## **Fair Access Protocol**

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the admission authority is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol. The admission authority has this power even where admitting the child would mean exceeding the PAN.

**The admission authority reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place or, where the child is already attending the school the place itself, where it is satisfied that the offer or the place was obtained by deception.**

## Appendix 1

### **LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC INFORMATION IN REALATION TO** **ADMISSION APPEALS FOR ACADEMIES, FOUNDATION, VOLUNTARY AIDED & FREE** **SCHOOLS**

1. The Academy Trust is the admission authority for Academies. The Governing Body is the admission authority for Foundation or Voluntary Aided schools and Free Schools. The Academy Trust/Governing Body must admit a pupil whose parents express a preference for their child to attend the Academy/School unless to comply with the preference would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.
2. If a pupil is refused a place at the Academy/School, parents have a right to appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Arrangements for appeals are made by the Appeals Team, Legal and Democratic Services, in accordance with the School Admissions Appeals Code.
3. The Panel will consist of three or five independent members (usually three). No members will have been involved in the original decision whether or not to admit the pupil. The Panel act independently of the Academy/School and the Local Authority.

Membership of the Panel will comprise of the following:

- a. At least one lay member. Lay members are people without personal experience in the management or provision of education in any school.
- b. At least one person with experience in education who is acquainted with educational conditions in the local authority area or who is a parent of a registered pupil at a school.
4. Appeal Panels consider the reasons given by the admissions authority for not admitting the pupil and also parental reasons for requesting a place at the Academy/School.

It is therefore extremely important that you ensure all information / supporting documentation are included within the Appeal form, using extra papers if necessary.

5. The Appeal Panel makes its own independent assessment of each case and must follow a two-stage process.

#### **Stage 1**

The Panel will have to consider whether the Academy/School's published admission arrangements:

- a) complied with the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code and Part 3 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998;
- b) were correctly and impartially applied in the case in question and
- c) whether prejudice would arise if the child were to be admitted.

If the admissions authority fails to establish the above, the Panel **must** allow the appeal. If however, the above is established, the Panel must proceed to the second stage.

#### **Stage 2**

The Panel exercises its discretion, balancing the degree of prejudice that would be caused to

the Academy/School against parental reasons and decide which should prevail.

#### Infant class size prejudice appeals

6. By law, all infant classes (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2) can only have a maximum of 30 pupils in a class. Where a child is refused a place under 'infant class size prejudice'; an Appeal Panel can only uphold the appeal where:
  - it finds that the admission of additional children would not breach infant class size limit; or
  - it finds that the admission arrangements did not comply with the admissions law or were not correctly and impartially applied (child would have been offered a place if the arrangements had complied or had been correctly and impartially applied).
  - it decides that the decision to refuse admission was not one which a reasonable admission authority would have made in the circumstances of the case.
7. The decision of the Panel is binding on the Local Authority, the school and the appellants. The decision will not be communicated immediately after the hearing. However, the Clerk to the Appeal Panel will write to the parents as soon as possible after the meeting, giving the decision and the grounds on which the decision was made.
8. If a parent considers that there has been maladministration, a formal complaint can be made to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for Academies/Free Schools or the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) for all other schools. Maladministration covers issues such as a failure to follow correct procedures at the hearing or a failure to act independently and fairly. A complaint cannot be made if an appellant simply feels that the decision made is wrong. Please note that the EFA or the LGO **cannot overturn a decision made by an Independent Appeals Panel**. However, they may require that a fresh appeal be heard. There is no further right of appeal in law but the decision of an Appeal Panel can be made subject to a review by the courts if it is found to be unlawful.

Revised 29 March 22