



Archdiocese of  
**Liverpool**

**Consultation on Proposed  
Changes to School Admissions  
Policies  
from September 2023**

## Background

1. The School Admissions Code 2021 requires an admission authority to consult each time it proposes to make significant changes to its admission arrangements or if it has not consulted on its admission arrangements for seven years. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult.
2. The Archdiocese of Liverpool is co-ordinating a consultation process on behalf of the Governing Bodies that are the admission authorities of the schools listed in paragraphs 7 -12 of this document (on pages 3 and 4).
3. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, a consultation period must run for a minimum of six term time weeks and take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year. The process allows parents, other schools, other admission authorities, local authorities and other interested stakeholders to raise comments or concerns about the proposed arrangements. This document is particularly for the attention of parents, other admissions authorities, the local authority and other local dioceses. **This consultation will run between 29 November 2021 and 30 January 2022.** Information on how you can respond can be found from paragraph 10 below.

## Catholic Schools in the Trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Liverpool

4. It is expected that all schools within the Trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Liverpool - and those under other trusteeship that wish to do so - adopt a common admissions policy to fulfil the objectives of:
  - Ensuring that all of school Governing Bodies, as admissions authorities, are compliant with the current Admissions Code;
  - Supporting schools in admissions processes;
  - Ensuring that schools provide clear and consistent information to parents seeking a place at a Catholic school for their child, and;
  - Seeking to maximise the opportunities for Catholic siblings to access places in schools.
5. No changes are proposed to the oversubscription criteria in the common policy for admissions to schools in 2023. As such, for primary schools (including those named in paragraph 6 of this document unless specifically stated otherwise) the proposed oversubscription criteria remain as follows:
  1. Looked after children and previously looked after children. This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
  2. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
  3. Baptised Catholic children resident in the [designated parish or parishes served by the school].
  4. Other baptised Catholic children.
  5. Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.

6. Children from other Christian denominations. Proof of Baptism in the form of a Baptismal Certificate or confirmation in writing that the applicant is a member of their Faith community from an appropriate Minister of Religion is required.
7. Children of other faiths. An appropriate Faith Leader would need to confirm in writing that the applicant is a member of their faith group.
8. Other children.

For secondary schools the proposed oversubscription criteria remain as follows:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children. This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children resident in [the designated parishes served by the school].
4. Other baptised Catholic children.
5. Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
6. Children attending one of the following Catholic Feeder Primary Schools in the parishes named in criterion 3 above [feeder primary schools listed].
7. Children from other Christian denominations. Proof of Baptism in the form of a Baptismal Certificate or confirmation in writing that the applicant is a member of their Faith community from an appropriate Minister of Religion is required.
8. Children of other faiths. An appropriate Faith Leader would need to confirm in writing that the applicant is a member of their faith group.
9. Other children.

For all schools, interested parties are invited to review admissions policies on school websites in case of minor school-specific variations to the common policy. Any such variations have, where appropriate, been subject to prior consultation.

#### **Schools Consulting on Changes to Admissions Policy**

6. The Archdiocese of Liverpool is undertaking this statutory consultation process with all interested parties on behalf of the following schools:
  - (i) English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, Piele Road, Haydock, St Helens, WA11 0JY
  - (ii) Faith Church of England and Catholic Primary School, Prince Edwin Street, Liverpool, L5 3LW
  - (iii) Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Springfield Road, Wigan, WN6 7RH
  - (iv) St Augustine's Catholic High School, Boardman's Lane, St Helens, WA11 9BB
  - (v) St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, Blakehall, Skelmersdale, WN8 9AZ
  - (vi) St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Haig Avenue, Leyland, PR25 4SJ

## Specific Proposals

7. The Governing Body of English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School in St Helens wish to consult on a reduction in the school's planned admission number (PAN) from 45 to 30.
8. The Governing Body of Faith Church of England and Catholic Primary School in Liverpool wish to consult on an amendment to criterion 3 of their oversubscription criteria, along with an additional oversubscription criterion (criterion 4). These criteria refer to, respectively, the admission of baptised Catholic or Church of England children, and the admission of siblings.
9. The Governing Body of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Wigan wish to consult on a reduction in the school's planned admission number (PAN) from 60 to 45.
10. The Governing Body of St Augustine's Catholic High School in St Helens wish to consult on a reduction in the school's planned admission number (PAN) from 150 to 125.
11. The Governing Body of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School in Skelmersdale, Lancashire wish to consult on a reduction in the school's planned admission number (PAN) from 60 to 30.
12. The Governing Body of St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Leyland, Lancashire wish to consult on a reduction in the school's planned admission number (PAN) from 45 to 30.
13. Further information on the individual school proposals can be accessed via the following link and clicking on the school name. If you require a hard copy of the document please ask for one at the school. The document will also be made available on the school's website.

<http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/education/admissions-consultations>

14. A copy of the proposed admissions policy for each school can be accessed via the following link and clicking on the school name. Schools are arranged by local authority grouping. If you require a hard copy of the document, please ask for one at the school. The document will also be made available on each school's website.

<http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/education/Admission-Policies>

## How to Return Your Comments

15. This consultation is co-ordinated by the Archdiocese of Liverpool on behalf of each of the individual schools named in this document. The consultation period will run between 29 November 2021 and 30 January 2022 and you are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal above to: The Archdiocese of Liverpool, Education Department, Archdiocesan Office, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, L17 1AA. Alternatively, you may wish to e-mail: [aes@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:aes@rcaol.org.uk). Comments should also be copied to the Chair of Governing Body at the school address.
16. Please submit any comments no later than 30 January 2022. Following the consultation period each Governing Body will then need to meet before 28 February 2022 in order to formally determine the Governing Body's admission arrangements for the academic year commencing September 2023. Any subsequent objections will need to be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2022.