

DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Department for Education

Admissions Advice September 2022

The governing board of maintained voluntary aided schools are reminded that their policies for admissions in 2024/2025 are due to be determined by the governing board by March 2023 and both published on the school's website and supplied to the Local Authority and the Diocesan Department for Education.

All information required by the Local Authority must be provided by 31st July 2023 to allow the authority to publish online and in hard copy.

Consultation on policies for 2024/2025 (minimum of six weeks) on any proposed changes must take place between the 1st October 2022 and the 31st January 2023. Governing boards are, therefore, urged to review this year's arrangements **as soon as possible in the autumn term** and, if changes are needed, starting the consultation before the end of the term.

Consultation must be determined by the 28th February 2023 and published on the school website and sent to the relevant local authority by March 2023. Objections must be submitted to the adjudicator by May 2023.

Some general points:

- If variations are made to policies as a result of comments received during the consultation period, there is no need to begin the consultation again.
- The Diocesan Department for Education **must be included as a consultee**.
- The Bishop expects governing boards to have regard to advice offered by his delegate and the Diocesan Department for Education. The ultimate responsibility for ensuring the policy complies with the Code of Practice rests with the governing board.
- Our model admission arrangements have been very clear not to apply any requirement about the timing of baptism; simply that the parent must be able to provide a baptism certificate at the point of application. That is a very clear and simple requirement which can be objectively applied. If they do not have such a certificate, then they will not qualify to be considered under a Catholic criterion. Schools must not make a judgement, about whether a child would have been baptised but for covid, they should continue to apply their admission criteria consistently. This means not giving priority to children who cannot provide evidence of baptism. It is for parents to manage the timing of baptism to ensure that they are able to comply with that requirement in collaboration with their priest.

For further advice on admissions please contact education department on 0161 817 2204 or education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Please forward a copy of your 2023/2024 Admissions Policy to
education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk