

ARCHDIOCESE



OF LIVERPOOL

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To: Headteachers of Schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool

Dear Colleague

Admissions Policy 2020

The purpose of this letter is to provide some information on intended changes to the Archdiocese common admissions policy for 2020 and to provide an opportunity for engagement with our schools over the coming weeks.

It is pleasing that the Archdiocesan common admissions policy has held up to continued significant scrutiny and has proven to be robust, clear and compliant with the law, supporting schools in the management of the annual admissions process, including appeals. Everyone in the Schools Department recognises the excellent work undertaken by staff and governors in the effective administration of school admissions and in working to support families in accessing places in our schools. This year has once again brought a very high number of admissions appeals for Archdiocesan schools, and officers in the Schools Department have worked effectively to support schools and families; Fran Coldicutt has again made an excellent job of co-ordinating this work.

We take the opportunity every year to review the common policy to ensure that it remains compliant with the law and is operationally most supportive of schools in the administration of the admissions process. To that end, we intend to consult on a number of updates to the policy for 2020 and five items are detailed in the document accompanying this letter. They are largely clarifications to provide further detail on existing provisions within the policy but one material change relates to children previously in state care outside of England and follows a request from the Department for Education that all admissions authorities give priority to such children.

I should be grateful if, along with your governing bodies, you could consider the proposed changes and provide feedback to me by 23 November 2018. We will also be providing an opportunity for discussion on this matter at the area headteachers' meetings during November. Following this date we will consider the final nature of any changes on which we will formally consult.

The Code requires a six-week consultation period which, in the event that we progress with consultation, we will operate from 3 December to 25 January. We will co-ordinate the consultation on behalf of schools in order to make the process as straightforward as possible for you all; I will contact you again nearer the time to explain any such process in further detail.

Please also contact me if there are any matters specific to your school which are other than those identified in the accompanying document but which may require discussion and/or formal consultation before governors can determine your policy for 2020.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CW', written in a cursive style.

Chris Williams
Deputy Director of Schools and Colleges

Enclosed: Proposed Changes to Common Admissions Policy 2020