



Consultation on Proposed Changes to School Admissions Policies from September 2027

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. Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT) is the admission authority for the schools within its multi academy trust and is co-ordinating a consultation process on behalf of the schools listed in paragraph 4 of this document.
3. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, a consultation period must run for a minimum of six 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 3 November 2025 and 15 December 2025.** Information on how you can respond can be found from paragraph 12 below.

Schools Consulting on Changes to Admissions Policy

4. CDAT is undertaking this statutory consultation process with all interested parties on behalf of the following schools:
 - (i) Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School, School Lane, Bunbury, Tarporley, CW6 9NR
 - (ii) Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School, Old Wrexham Road, Handbridge, Chester, CH4 7HS
 - (iii) St Mary's CE Primary School, Castlefields Avenue South, Runcorn, WA7 2NR
 - (iv) St Oswald's CE Primary School, Grove Road, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LG
 - (v) St Oswald's CE Primary School, Church Road, Aston Juxta Mondrum, Nantwich, CW5 6DP
 - (vi) Warmingham CE Primary School, School Lane, Warmingham, Sandbach, CW11 3QN

Specific Proposals

5. The Trust and Local Governance Committee wish to add an additional criterion to the policy for **Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School**, specifically:
 - Criterion 6: Children who have attended the school's nursery class for at least one term in the previous two years. This includes children who have attended on a part-time basis. Part-time is defined as less than the standard 32.5 hours of schooling per week.
6. The Trust and Local Governance Committee wishes to consult on a new admissions policy for **Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School** following the school's transfer from a voluntary controlled school to an academy school. The proposals will specifically define the school's catchment area as the parish of St Mary on the Hill.

7. The Trust and Local Governance Committee wishes to consult on a reduction in the planned admission number for **St Mary's CE Primary School** from 35 to 30.
8. The Trust and Local Governance Committee wishes to consult on a reduction in the planned admission number for **St Oswald's CE Primary School, Mollington** from 20 to 15.
9. The Trust and Local Governance Committee wish to add an additional criterion to the policy for **St Oswald's CE Primary School, Nantwich** specifically:
 - Criterion 6: Children who have attended the school's nursery class for at least one term in the previous two years. This includes children who have attended on a part-time basis. Part-time is defined as less than the standard 32.5 hours of schooling per week.
10. The Trust and Local Governance Committee wish to add an additional criterion to the policy for **Warmingham CE Primary School**, specifically:
 - Criterion 6: Children who have attended the school's nursery class for at least one term in the previous two years. This includes children who have attended on a part-time basis. Part-time is defined as less than the standard 32.5 hours of schooling per week.

Further Information

11. Further information on the individual school proposals can be accessed via the following link and clicking on the school name at the foot of the webpage: www.cdat.co.uk/latest-from-cdat.html. If you require a hard copy of the document please ask for one at the relevant school.

How to Return Your Comments

12. The consultation period will run between 3 November 2025 and 15 December 2025 and you are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal above to: Chester Diocesan Academies Trust, Room 526, The Heath Business and Technical Park, Runcorn, WA7 4QX. Alternatively, you may wish to e-mail: chris.williams@cdat.co.uk. Comments should also be copied to the Chair of school's Local Governance Committee at the school address.
13. Please submit any comments no later than 15 December 2025. Following the consultation period the Board of Trustees for the Chester Diocesan Academies Trust will be required to formally determine the school admission arrangements for the academic year commencing September 2027 before 28 February 2026. Any subsequent objections will need to be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2026.