



Consultation on a proposed change to the published admission arrangements for St Mary's CE Primary School, Castlefields Avenue South, Runcorn, WA7 2NR with effect from September 2027

Background

The Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT) and the school's local governance committee wish to consult on proposed changes to their admissions policy including the oversubscription criteria to be used in the event of the receipt of more applications for places than can be provided. The Regulations and Code of Practice relating to school admissions require an admissions authority, CDAT in this case, to consult when proposing changes to their admissions arrangements.

Specific Proposal

The Trust and Local Governance Committee wish to consult on a reduction in the school's planned admission number (PAN) from 35 to 30 with effect from September 2027.

Operating with a slightly lower PAN will align better with the school's budget and operational capacity, ensuring efficient use of resources without compromising on education quality. The proposed PAN better reflects the intake for the school over recent years, the structure of classes moving forward, and will continue to provide sufficient places for local families.

There are no other changes proposed to the oversubscription criteria.

Subject to the outcome of this consultation process, this change will come into effect on 1 September 2027 and the existing admissions arrangements will remain in place until that time. Those children already with a place in the school will not experience any change to their admissions status as a result of this proposal.

Further information on the proposal, including a full version of the proposed admission policy can be found at: www.cdat.co.uk/latest-from-cdat.html and clicking on the school's name at the foot of the page.

How to Respond

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 the Local Governance Committee at the school address.

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.