



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Saint Benedict
A Catholic Voluntary Academy

Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy
Duffield Road
Darley Abbey
Derby
DE22 1JD

Thursday 11 November 2021

Dear Headteacher

RE: Consultation on Admissions Arrangements 2023-2024

I am writing to notify you of our consultation on the Academy's Admission Arrangements for the academic year of entry 2023.

The consultation process is being undertaken in accordance with the Department for Education (DfE) School Admissions Code 2021 and the consultation period will run from Monday 15 November 2021 to Friday 21 January 2022. Throughout this consultation period all stakeholders are invited to respond to the question in the consultation and share any views or concerns they have about the changes we are proposing in relation to the Oversubscription Criteria in the Admissions Arrangements.

To comply with the DfE School Admissions Code, we are required to consult on our Admission Arrangements at least once every seven years or when we are proposing a change to our Admissions Arrangements. This consultation applies to Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2023-2024 and thereafter.

We are not proposing any changes to the PAN in our Admissions Arrangements consultation. The consultation is solely related to recommending one change in the Oversubscription Criteria.

Our current Planned Admission Number (PAN) is 245 per year group in Years 7 to 11 and 200 in Years 12 to 13, a total of 1625 across our Academy.

Background to Proposal

The Catholic academies in the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust are under the Trusteeship of the Diocese of Nottingham and belong to the Nottingham Diocesan family of academies. The academies were founded by and are part of the Catholic Church and seek at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. Religious education and worship are in accordance with the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church. This does not affect the right of parents or carers who are not of the faith of these academies to apply for and to be considered for places, applications are welcome from all parents and carers, regardless of faith or background, who would like their children to be educated in a Christian environment. However, we ask all parents or carers applying for a place to respect this ethos and its importance to the academy community.



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The St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi-Academy Trust is the Admission Authority for all the academies in the Trust and is responsible for determining the Admissions Policies. Each year the Trust will review the Admissions Arrangements for the 25 academies in the Trust, and the Board of Directors of the Trust will approve these within the statutory timescales set by the Department for Education (DfE).

As part of the review and approval of Admissions Arrangements by the Trust Board, we review the Oversubscription Criteria in the Admissions Arrangements. We review the Oversubscription Criteria to ensure we meet statutory requirements in the Code and the admissions requirements set by the Diocese.

Where an academy has more applications than places available the Academy Local Governing Body will draw up a ranked list based on the criteria listed below and will allocate places accordingly.

The Trust Board has approved the proposal tabled to consult on making changes to the Oversubscription Criteria for our Academy.

Saint Benedict has a rich history of provision for the performing arts and when Specialist Schools existed was a designated Performing Arts college. This work is still a very distinctive feature of the school. We continue to run one of the largest theatres in Derby, we offer a broad curriculum for the Arts which includes, Drama, Dance, Music and Art in Years 7 to 11 and a broad range of A level and Level 3 arts courses. We have a highly experienced and successful performing arts faculty who achieve consistently outstanding outcomes for students across all of these subjects. We also offer a broad range of extra-curricular Performing Arts opportunities including several school productions every year and a wide range of clubs and ensembles.

We celebrate the diversity of our school and our vision is to ensure that Saint Benedict is as inclusive as possible. While we wish to retain and build on all of these Performing Arts features into the future, we would like this opportunity to be equally accessible to all pupils and therefore wish to remove the clause which relates to selection based on aptitude for the arts from our oversubscription criteria in our Admissions Arrangements Policy.

We will continue to welcome pupils who wish to specialise in the arts, however we recognise that our children come from many different backgrounds and their talent for performance can emerge at any point during their development. Some of our most successful performers have not shown a real flare for performance until well into their secondary school years.

Proposal

We are proposing to make the following changes to the Admissions Arrangements Policy for 2023 - 2024 and thereafter:

1. Consult to permanently remove Criterion 7 in the current Oversubscription Criteria for Saint Benedict Academy. This will mean the removal of the following criterion in assessing pupils for a place where the Academy is oversubscribed: *Children with aptitude in drama, music or dance.* As



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part of this it will also mean the removal of the allocation of a '*maximum of 24 places available under this criterion (7) depending on how many places are available after the other criteria have been applied*' .

Subject to the outcome of the consultation it would mean therefore that the current Criterion 8 '*Any other children*' becomes a new Criterion 7 in the Oversubscription Criteria.

In accordance with the statutory guidance, our consultation will take place for at least six weeks and, as an interested party of Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy we would like to hear your views and invite you to respond to our consultation.

In Annex A you will find an outline of the current Oversubscription Criteria as published in our current Admissions Arrangements Policies and in Annex B you will see the Consultation Response Form for completion by stakeholders. Also, on our website we have published the draft of our Admission Statement for 2023-2024 which shows the changes we are proposing.

All details about our current Admissions Arrangements as well as the consultation on proposed admission arrangements are published on our Academy website under the heading called Admissions.

Please may we ask that responses to the consultation are made in writing using the Consultation Response Form (as attached in Annex B and available on our website) sent in via email or in hard copy by 4.00pm on Friday 21 January 2022. Please submit via email to: enquiries@ben.srscmet.co.uk or in hard copy to the Saint Benedict Academy Office.

Once our consultation closes on 21 January 2022 and by the 28 February 2022 at the latest, the responses and representations will be considered by the Headteacher, the Senior Executive Team and our Trust Board before we determine final decisions in relation to any change to the Oversubscription Criteria in our Admissions Arrangements for 2023 onwards.

We are required, once agreed by the Trust Board, to publish our final Admissions Arrangements Policy for 2023-2024 on our Academy website by 15 March 2022 at the latest.

We look forward to receiving your response to our consultation.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Gritton, Headteacher

Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy



Annex A – Outlined below is our current approved Admissions Arrangements Oversubscription Criteria as published on Admissions Policies for 2021 and 2022 on our website.

Proposal: It is **Criterion 7** we are proposing to remove entirely.

Current as published:

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Where an academy has more applications than places available the academy local governing body will draw up a ranked list based on the criteria listed below and will allocate places accordingly.

Pupils with an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (see Note 1) which names the academy will be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available.

1. *Catholic children who are 'looked after' or who were 'previously looked after' including those 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 (see Notes 2 and 3).*
2. *Catholic children (see Note 3).*
3. *Other children who are 'looked after' or who were 'previously looked after' including those 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 (see Note 2)*
4. *Catechumens, Candidates and members of Eastern Christian Churches (see Notes 4, 5 and 6)*
5. *Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion (see Note 7).*
6. *Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader (see Note 8).*
7. *APPLICABLE TO ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY, DERBY ONLY. Children with aptitude in drama, music or dance (see Note 12).*
8. *Any other children*

First priority within the individual criteria will be given to applications from children who attend one of the partner primary academies.

Second priority within the individual criteria will be given to applications for children who will have siblings (see Note 9) attending the academy in Years 7-11 at the proposed time of admission.



In the event of oversubscription within any criterion allocation of places will be decided on distance measurements supplied by the Local Authority. (See below)

Distance Measurement

Within each criterion applications will be ranked on distance with priority given to children who live nearest to the academy. Measurements will be taken in a straight line from the entrance to the child's home to the principal entrance to the main administrative building of the academy. This will be calculated by the academy or the relevant local authority's computerised distance measuring software. In the event of needing to discriminate between pupils living in the same block of flats, where the same distance measurement is produced, the lower the number of the flat the closer it will be judged to be to the academy.

Tie Breaker

In a very few cases, it may not be possible to decide between the applications of those pupils who are the final qualifiers (e.g. children who live at the same address or have the same distance measurement). In this exceptional situation then the academy will admit the additional children above the planned admission number.

Notes (these form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), is a plan made by the Local Authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.
2. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions in accordance with section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to a academy. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious Organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child-arrangements order or special guardianship order). This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

Child arrangements orders are defined in *section 8 of the Children Act 1989*, as amended by *section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014*. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. *Section 14A of the Children Act 1989* defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).



3. 'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into full communion with the Catholic Church signed by a Catholic Priest and stamped with the parish stamp. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child who is part of a Catholic family where a letter from a priest demonstrates that the child would have been baptised or received if it were not for their status as a looked after child (i.e. a looked after child in the process of adoption by a Catholic family).

For a child to be ranked as Catholic within the oversubscription criteria evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest.

4. 'Catechumen' means a member of the catechuminate of a Catholic Church. This will be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the order of catechumens or a letter of verification signed by the parish priest and stamped with the parish stamp.
5. 'Candidate' means a candidate for reception into the Catholic Church. This will be evidenced by a letter of verification signed by the parish priest and stamped with the parish stamp.
6. 'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches, and is evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.
7. 'Children of other Christian denominations' means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service to the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England (CTE) and Churches Together in Wales (CYTUN) are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

Evidence will be a Baptism Certificate, a Certificate of Dedication or a letter of verification signed by the minister of religion for that church.

8. 'Children of other faiths' means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian denominations' at note 7 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:



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- A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
- A religion which does not involve belief in a God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.

This is evidenced by a Baptism Certificate, a Certificate of Dedication or a letter of verification signed by the religious leader of the community.

9. 'Siblings' means a child who lives as a brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters with either one or both parents in common, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, or the child of a parent's partner where the child for whom the academy place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. It also includes natural brothers or sisters where the child for whom the academy place is sought is not living in the same family unit as the same address as that sibling.

10. A 'parent' means all-natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.

11. Home Address: The governors of each academy use the same definition as used by the Local Authority within which the academy is located.

12. RELATED TO CRITERION 7 AND ONLY APPLICABLE TO ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY, DERBY: Judgment on aptitude will be made from any evidence provided by the parents, and from the pupil taking part in workshops in Performing Arts set by the Academy, designed to establish aptitude. This will lead to a rank order. There will be a maximum of 24 places available under this criterion depending on how many places are available after the other criteria have been applied. The assessor will have skills in the Performing Arts and will have no family connection with any applicant. The assessor's judgement on aptitude is made on the day and is final.

ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR SIXTH FORM

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY, DERBY

Applications to the 6th form must meet the minimum academic requirements for advertised courses. Thereafter, the oversubscription criteria described above will apply. The planned admission maximum number for Year 12 is 220.



Admissions Arrangements Consultation 2023-2024

Annex B Consultation Response Form

Response Form for Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy

Please tick one statement that most applies to you:

I am a parent / carer with a child currently at the Academy	
I am a member of the Academy staff	
I am a Governor at the Academy	
I am a parent / carer local to the area	
I am from a local school / academy / the local authority	
I am a member of the local community	
Other (please specify)	

Please tick one statement:

1	I support the permanent removal of Criterion 7 from the Oversubscription Criteria in the Admissions Arrangements	
	I do not support the permanent removal of Criterion 7 from the Oversubscription Criteria in the Admissions Arrangements	

Please include further comments below and if necessary, please continue onto a further page.

Name: *(optional)*

Please return this form by 4.00pm on Friday 21 January 2022 either to the Saint Benedict Academy Office or email to: enquiries@ben.srscmat.co.uk