

Reviewing School Admission Arrangements for 2028-29

Guidance for Academy trusts, headteachers and governors of VA schools.

For all Church of England Voluntary Aided Schools and stand-alone academies it is the governing body who are the admissions authority. Where a school is part of a MAT, the trust board is the admissions authority. In the case of all Voluntary Controlled Church of England schools the Local Authority takes this role.

The School Admissions Code (September 2021) applies to admissions to all maintained schools and academies and requires all admission authorities to be compliant with the Code.

Admission Authorities must determine (i.e. formally agree) admission arrangements every year. When changes are proposed all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements. Where admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult although consultation must take place every 7 years regardless of no changes taking place.

Admission arrangements for 2028-2029 need to be on the agenda for the governing body or academy trust meetings in early autumn. **If changes are proposed, the governors or trust board will need to contact the Principal Advisor for Admissions at the Diocese to discuss the changes to the arrangements before consultation takes place.** All changes to the admission arrangements will need to go out for consultation. Admission arrangements for entry in September 2028 that require consultation must last for a minimum of 6 weeks and should take place between 1 October 2026 and 31 January 2027.

Consultation must involve:

- a) Parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
- b) Other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
- c) All other Admission Authorities (Voluntary Aided and Academies) within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools);
- d) The local authority;
- e) Adjoining neighboring Local Authorities;
- f) Diocesan Board of Education.

Once all feedback has been received the governing body or trust board need to consider the feedback and where agreed make any changes. Once agreed, the policy needs to be determined, and a copy must be returned to the Diocese and the Local Authority by 28th February 2027. A copy of each school's admission arrangements must be available on each school's website by March 15th 2027.

Whether consultation is needed or not please ensure that the governors or trust board agree your school's trust's 2028-29 admission arrangements. Following agreement

please email a copy of your agreed admission arrangements to dswilliams@glosdioc.org.uk including “*Admission Arrangements – your school or trust name*” in the subject box.

If you require any assistance or guidance, please contact David Williams 01452 835542 or email dswilliams@glosdioc.org.uk