

## Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education

### Admissions Arrangements: Guidance for Church Schools

#### Background

The Church of England Vision for Education: *Deeply Christian Serving the Common Good*, offers a vision of human flourishing for all, worked out through four core strands:

- **Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills:** enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.
- **Educating for hope and aspiration:** enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.
- **Educating for community and living well together:** a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.
- **Educating for dignity and respect:** the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.

In keeping with this vision; our aim to be scandalously inclusive; and the original purpose of the majority of church schools which were set up for the 'education of the poor' we encourage all admissions authorities to consider carefully whether any choices they make may result in any group or groups being or feeling excluded (including indirectly or unintentionally). A church school education should be available to anyone who wants or needs it.

Your admission arrangements offer you a wonderful opportunity to live out your school's vision, actively building community and promoting living well together, ensuring all are treated with dignity, respect and equity.

**With this in mind, you should not include faith-based oversubscription criteria in your admissions arrangements. If this presents you with any difficulty or you wish to discuss this, please get in touch (contact details below).**

#### Admissions Builder Tool

The Church of England has produced a tool to help you ensure that your admission policy is compliant with the School Admissions Code 2021 and is clear and simple for parents and carers to use.

The tool will guide you through a series of sections for inclusion in your policy and will generate a PDF of your admissions arrangements. As you work through each section, the tool will prompt you to think about issues which are relevant and will tell you, for example, ranges within dates which much fall, minimum time periods etc.

As well as the text you choose to include, the policy will contain a set of standard provisions to inform families about other relevant or related issues such as admissions outside the normal round, appeals etc.

You can find the tool here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/admissions-arrangements>

## Questions to Consider

When reviewing your admissions arrangements it is important to reflect on the impression of your school that they create.

You may wish to consider:

- Do your admission arrangements reflect the vision and ethos of your school?
- Do your admission arrangements suggest that you are a welcoming space?
- Are there any groups that may be excluded (directly or indirectly) by your admission arrangements?
- How will you show your commitment to being deeply Christian while serving the common good through your admission arrangements?
- Are your admission arrangements suitable to the local context?
- Has the local context changed since you last reviewed your admission arrangements?
- How does your approach to admissions support a positive interaction between your school, your church and wider local communities?

## Support for Schools

As you are aware, there is a requirement to consult with the Diocese about your proposed admission arrangements before any public consultation.

However, please don't feel you need to wait until a formal consultation to seek guidance or advice. If you have any questions, would like to discuss your admission arrangements, need any help with using the Admissions Building Tool or there is anything else you require, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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