Pope Francis
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION 2028-29

This is the formal consultation document for the admission arrangements for 2028-29 for the academies in Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust in Sefton Local Authority. They are :

- Sacred Heart Catholic Academy (Secondary)
- Salesian Academy of St John Bosco (Secondary)
- St Edmund's and St Thomas' Catholic Primary School (Primary)
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Primary)
- Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School (Primary)
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School (Primary)

Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust is consulting on the Admissions Arrangements for all schools in the Trust. The Trust is the official admissions authority and will continue to form part of the coordinated primary and secondary transfer arrangements with Sefton Local Authority. This means that all applications for primary and secondary admissions will be made on the applicant's home local authority form.

All state-funded schools (this includes those holding academy status) have an Admissions Policy which includes a published admission number and oversubscription criteria to help them process school applications consistently, transparently and fairly in accordance with the 2021 School Admissions Code.

We are consulting on some proposed changes to our admissions policy in our schools from September 2028. In summary, they are :

- Introduction (within the oversubscription criteria) of a criteria for children with an exceptional medical, social or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at the school
- Removal of reference to catechumens
- Amending Tie Break section to make the methodology clearer

The oversubscription criteria for each school are shown in the Annex.

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Comments

If you wish to comment on the proposed admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria for these academies, or if you have any comments, queries or concerns about the school admission arrangements, please email louise.jones@pfcmat.org. Any comments or queries can also be directed to each individual academy, with contact details for each academy provided below. Please ensure that any communication is marked 'Admissions Consultation'.

Feedback provided through the admissions consultation will be treated confidentially and will be considered by the Trust Board when deciding the final arrangements.

Consultation Timeline

Consultation opens	Monday 23rd November 2026
Consultation closes	Friday 22 January 2027
Review by Trust Board	Thursday 11th February 2027
Final determination	Thursday 11th February 2027

Academy Contact Details

Sacred Heart Catholic Academy	Liverpool Road Crosby L23 3TF	0151 931 2971	admin@shca.pfcmat.org
The Salesian Academy of St John Bosco	Netherton Way Bootle L30 2NA	0151 521 3088	admin@sjb.pfcmat.org
St Edmund's & St Thomas' Catholic Primary School	Oxford Road, Waterloo L22 8QF	0151 928 5586	admin@sest.pfcmat.org
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	Back Lane Little Crosby L23 4UA	0151 924 4447	office@stmarys.pfcmat.org
Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School	Stand Park Avenue Netherton L30 3SA	0151 525 6358	admin@olow.pfcmat.org
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	Grantham Road Southport PR8 4LT	01704 568375	admin@olol.pfcmat.org

Annex

Admissions Policies

The full Admissions Policy for each school is on the Trust Website and on the individual school website.

Over-Subscription Criteria:

All Schools

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

Where more applications are received than places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be used to determine the allocation of places:

Sacred Heart Catholic Academy

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children (see note 2)
    i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
    ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
    iii. Other children

2. Catholic children who are resident in the parishes of St Helen's, Crosby; St Joseph's, Blundellsands; St Peter & Paul, Crosby; St Oscar Romero (the parts of the parish formerly referred to as St Edmund's, Waterloo and St Thomas of Canterbury, Waterloo) (see notes 3 & 10)
    i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
    ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
    iii. Other children

3. Other Catholic children (see note 3)
    i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
    ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
    iii. Other children

4. Other children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission

5. Other children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)

6. Children attending one of the following Catholic Partner Primary Schools in the parishes or former parishes named in criterion 2 above: Great Crosby, St Edmund's & St Thomas', Ursuline

7. Members of an Eastern Christian Church not in full communion with Rome (see notes 4 & 5)

8. Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion (see note 6)

9. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader (see note 7)

10. Any other children

The Salesian Academy of St John Bosco

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children (see note 2)
    i. Children who have an exceptional social, medial or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
    ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
    iii. Other children

2. Catholic children resident in the parishes of Holy Spirit, Our Lady of Walsingham, St Oscar Romero (the part of the parish formerly referred to as Our Lady Star of the Sea), St Josephine Bakhata (the part of the parish formerly referred to as St Elizabeth of Hungary), St James, St Monica & St Richard and St Robert Bellarmine (see notes 3 & 10)
    i. Children who have an exceptional social, medial or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
    ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
    iii. Other children

3. Other Catholic children (see note 3)
    i. Children who have an exceptional social, medial or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
    ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
    iii. Other children

4. Other children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission

5. Other children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)

6. Children attending one of the following Catholic Partner Primary Schools in the parishes or former parishes named in criterion 2 above: Holy Spirit, Our Lady of Walsingham, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Elizabeth of Hungary, All Saints, St Monica's and St Robert Bellarmine.

7. Members of an Eastern Christian Church not in full communion with Rome. (see notes 4 & 5)

8. Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion. (see note 6)

9. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader. (see note 7)

10. Any other children.

St Edmund's and St Thomas' Catholic Primary School

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children (see note 2)
    i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
    ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
    iii. Other children

2. Catholic children who are resident in the parish of St Oscar Romero (the former parishes of St Edmund of Canterbury, Waterloo, Our Lady Star of the Sea & St Thomas of Canterbury, Waterloo) (see notes 3 & 10)
    i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
    ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
    iii. Other children

3. Other Catholic children (see note 3)
    i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
    ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
    iii. Other children

4. Other children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission

5. Other children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)

6. Members of an Eastern Christian Church not in full communion with Rome (see note 5)

7. Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion (see note 6)

8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader (see note 7)

9. Any other children

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children (see note 2)

i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
iii. Other children

2. Catholic children who are resident in the parishes of St Mary's, Little Crosby; Our Lady of Victories, Hightown and Holy Family, Ince Blundell. (see notes 3 & 10)
   i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
   ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
   iii. Other children

3. Other Catholic children (see note 3)
   i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
   ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
   iii. Other children

4. Other children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission

5. Other children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)

6. Members of an Eastern Christian Church not in full communion with Rome (see note 5)

7. Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion (see note 6)

8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader. (see note 7)

9. Any other children

Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children (see note 2)
   i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
   ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
   iii. Other children

2. Catholic children who are resident in the parish of Our Lady of Walsingham (see notes 3 & 10)
   i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
   ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
   iii. Other children

3. Other Catholic children (see note 3)

i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
iii. Other children

4. Other children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission

5. Other children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)

6. Children of an Eastern Christian Church not in full communion with Rome (see note 5)

7. Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion (see note 6)

8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader (see note 7)

9. Any other children

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children (see note 2)
   i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
   ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
   iii. Other children

2. Catholic children who are resident in the parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes & St Joseph, Sacred Heart & St John Stone and St Teresa (see notes 3 & 10)
   i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
   ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
   iii. Other children

3. Other Catholic children (see note 3)
   i. Children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)
   ii. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission
   iii. Other children

4. Other children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission

5. Other children who have an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need which can most appropriately be met at the school (see note 4)

6. Members of an Eastern Christian Church not in full communion with Rome (see note 5)

7. Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion (see note 6)

8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader (see note 7)

9. Any other children

All Schools

Tie Break

If it is not possible to offer places for all applications within any criteria, priority will be given to those living closest to the school measured by the shortest walking distance from the child's home (the property address point) to the nearest school gate, using the methodology of measurement adopted by Sefton Local Authority, and using recognised routes known to the local authority at the time of measurement.

In the event of distances being the same for two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the school. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out. This should then be formally minuted for future reference.

Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. An Education, Health and Care Plan 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' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making an application to the school.
   A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
3. 'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church.
   For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact the local Parish Priest who, after consulting with the Archdiocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

4. Evidence must be provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school. To demonstrate such a need, the admission authority will require compelling written evidence from an appropriate professional, such as a social worker, doctor or priest (please see Guidance Handbook for further information).
5. 'Eastern Christian Church' **not** in full communion with Rome includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.
6. "children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities" means children who belong to other churches bodies 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 in 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 and CYTÛN 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. Any queries as to membership should be made to the Archdiocese.
7. "children of other faiths" means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian Ecclesial Communities at 6 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:
   - 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.
8. 'brother or sister' includes step brothers and sisters, half-brothers and sisters, adopted brothers and sisters, foster children or children of the parent(s)/carer(s)'s partner, living in the same family unit at the same address.
9. 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.
10. For the purposes of this policy, parish boundaries can be confirmed on an individual basis from the School Office.
11. A child's "home address" refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form ("CAF") as defined by the Local Authority in which the child lives. For Sefton residents, in cases where parent(s)/carers(s) are separated and both have retained joint responsibility, the parent with whom the child primarily resides should complete the application form. The home address used will be that which is directed by the court, or the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week. If the child's time is split equally between two homes, the address of the parent who receives the child benefit will normally be used.