
Consultation Report: Determined Admission Arrangements for 2024/25

1 Background

Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) is the admission authority for all schools within the Trust. The admission authority constitutes an admission committee of trustees and governors for each school (referred to as the 'committee' hereafter). Admission arrangements are reviewed and determined (agreed) on an annual basis. The committee has the freedom to determine what their admission arrangements will be for each intake. There are no guarantees that admission criteria set in previous years will remain the same in future years for parents wishing to apply and hoping to secure a place for their child(ren).

Whenever a committee for a state school or academy wishes to make any changes to its admission arrangements it is required to conduct a statutory consultation. Changes must be consulted approximately eighteen months before the admission date of the students affected, so changes for admissions in September 2024 must be consulted on in winter 2024/25 following the timetable set out in the School Admissions Code 2021 (SAC) [DfE School Admissions Code](#). It stipulates:

- Who must be consulted; such as parents, other admission authorities, other schools.
- When the consultation must happen - for a minimum of 6 weeks ending no later than 31st January 2023.
- When the arrangements must be determined (agreed) following the consultation - by 28th February 2023.
- When the arrangements must be published - by 15th March 2023.
- Objections to the schools adjudicator - by 15th May 2023.

Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) consulted on the admission arrangements for the following schools within the Trust for children who will be admitted during the academic year 2024/25;

- **Headley Park Primary School**
- **Hotwells Primary School**
- **St Werburgh's Primary School**
- **Stoke Park Primary School**
- **St Katherine's School**

- **Trinity Academy**

The consultation process ran from Tuesday 15th November 2022 to 12 noon on Tuesday 10th January 2023.

Anyone wishing to comment or offer feedback on the proposed admission arrangements was able to complete the online form, ticking the relevant box to show which school their comments referred to or contact CST via email; consultation@cathedralschoolstrust.org or post.

2 The proposed changes for the above schools

The proposal is to include a children of staff criterion to the priority list for admissions for these schools. This is in line with other CST schools who already have a children of staff criterion. It was clear from responses to the consultation last year that the option for staff to be able to send their children to the school where they work was important for a range of reasons including making the logistical challenges of childcare more manageable and supporting their wellbeing. It was also clear that the staff criterion supports retention and helps to build the shared sense of community within each school.

In addition, CST consulted on the admission arrangements for:

- **St Katherine's School (11 - 16 provision and Post 16 provision)**

The proposal is to amend the wording for clarity in respect of the sibling criterion to include siblings in the 6th Form. 'A sibling must be attending (or is expected by the admissions authority to be attending) the school, including the 6th Form, on the date of admission, or year of entry'.

In addition, CST consulted on the admission arrangements for;

- **Trinity Academy (age 11- 16 provision)**

Trinity was established in 2019 to support the needs of families within north Bristol and to meet the demand for school places in this area. Priority areas were identified in consultation with Bristol City Council whilst recognising the importance of not impacting negatively on the catchment areas of neighbouring schools. Whilst a place can never be guaranteed, since the school opened all children, whose parents made on-time applications, living in the inner or outer priority areas have been offered places in either the first round allocation or subsequent rounds from the waiting list (this includes children who are at the feeder school).

The proposal is to:

- amend the wording of the sibling criterion (category 4 of the oversubscription criteria). Children will be considered under the sibling criterion if, on the date of

admission, they will have a sibling on roll at Trinity Academy (age 11 - 16 provision). A sibling must be attending (or is expected by the admission authority to be attending) the school (age 11-16 secondary provision only) at the time of admission. For the avoidance of doubt this does not include cousins, other family members, friends or siblings attending the 6th Form (Post 16 provision).

- clarify how home to school distances are measured (category 7 of the oversubscription criteria)

In addition, CST consulted on the admission arrangements for;

- **Trinity Academy (Post 16 provision)**

The school will admit students to its Sixth Form for the first time in September 2024, therefore it is necessary to consult on the proposed admission arrangements.

3 Consultation responses and proposed admission arrangements amendments

The consultation was sent to all parents of students for each school where relevant, published on the relevant school website and/or newsletter of each school and published on the Trust website. It was also circulated to local schools situated in the same local authority with a request to forward to their parents, and other schools situated in neighbouring local authorities with a request to forward to their parents. It was sent to the local authority in which the schools are situated and to neighbouring local authorities and any other relevant body such as the Diocese and local libraries. This includes a mailing list of circa 500 recipients as per the requirements of the School Admissions Code.

The consultation was also displayed on the Bristol City Council website and available to view [here](#).

The committee was provided with all responses received during the consultation process and has considered all comments made by consultees.

3.1 Responses

Overall there were 5 responses to the consultation. 1 response related to all schools and 4 responses related to Trinity Academy including 1 response related to Post 16

3.1.1 All schools: in conclusion

Given the low number of responses put forward by respondents, CST's recommended that the admission arrangements for schools in the consultation be determined by LGBs as per the consultation version with overall approval by Trustees as the admission authority. Some wording in the arrangements has been varied to improve clarity and to ensure they are compliant with applicable legislation.