

Tuesday 30th January 2018

St Wilfrid's Primary School
A Catholic Voluntary Academy
Millhouses Lane
Sheffield
S7 2HE

St Thomas of Canterbury School
A Catholic Voluntary Academy
Chancet Wood Drive
Sheffield
S8 7TR

Re: Changes in admissions criteria for 2019-20 for St Wilfrid's Primary School

Re: Changes in admissions criteria for 2019-20 for St Thomas of Canterbury School

Dear

With reference to the consultation process for changes in the admissions criteria at both St Wilfrid's Primary School and St Thomas of Canterbury School (SToC), I feel the current and proposed criteria treat "non-Catholic" children already within their schools inequitably and unfairly compared to their "Catholic" peers.

Both Schools advertise themselves as having a caring and Catholic ethos in all that they do. The opening "Our School" statement on St Wilfrid's website says St Wilfrid's is a wonderful, inclusive Catholic school where "Everybody Matters" The SToC's vision statements says...

"All parents will feel part of the school, fully engage with the school and support their child's learning." "

I feel from personal experience that the current and proposed admissions criteria do not achieve these fundamental aims of either school in respect of their "non-Catholic" children who are already under their educational care. I am sure you will be aware that due to the over subscription at St Thomas of Canterbury (SToC) last year, our middle daughter (aged 4 years) could not gain admission to the reception class despite already attending pre-school at SToC and having an elder sibling (aged 7 years) already at the school. From experience, I can report that having two young children separated and attending different schools has negatively impacted our children and whole family life in numerous ways. Surely it is quite hypocritical to say "everybody matters" if what you really mean is that if you are Catholic you matter more? It is also difficult to feel as engaged with SToC knowing now that you value our children less than their peers.

I would therefore ask that the respective School Governor boards carefully act as a moral compass and fully consider the potential impact of implementing the proposed admission changes on all the children currently under their care. Whilst I fully recognise the Catholic nature of the schools and the desired direction of travel intended by the proposed changes, I would ask that you do not neglect the needs of all current pupils whether Catholic or non-Catholic. A staged introduction giving some protection to existing pupils could be a compromise.

I look forward to a personal reply.

Yours sincerely