

I am writing in response to your letter of 30th January 2018 regarding the admissions policies of both schools. Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation. The letter will be included as part of the consultation process and the comments noted.

As a parent, I can see how challenging it must be to drop two children off at different schools at the busiest time of the day. I can also appreciate your anxiety about future school places. However, in terms of the admissions policies for both schools, the key changes that have been implemented are in line with the CES requirements. The main issue raised in your letter is regarding the prioritisation of Catholic children above non-Catholic children. The latest guidance states that:

['Catholic school governing bodies have an over-riding duty to offer places to Catholics first. This is a requirement of the Trust Deed and therefore a legal requirement on governing bodies. Catholic schools must not operate any policies if the consequence is to offer a place to a non-Catholic and deny that place to a Catholic.'](#)

As I am sure you can appreciate, this is a legal requirement on governing bodies therefore we would not be able to operate a policy which did not prioritise Catholic children above non-Catholic children.

In relation to the comments about our mission statements or vision, both schools are extremely inclusive and welcoming places to all of our children and families. We are very proud of both schools and their success has resulted in a higher demand for places than in most other schools. It would be wonderful if we were able to offer places to every family who applied however there has to be a clear oversubscription criteria and in our case this must comply with current CES legal requirements.

Yours sincerely,