Admissions Consultation Document

Warrington Borough Council Admission Arrangements Consultation

Schools for Which Warrington Borough Council is the Admissions Authority

Secondary Schools

- Culcheth High School

Primary Schools

- Barrow Hall Community Primary School
- Cherry Tree School
- The Cobbs Infant and Nursery School
- Grappenhall Heys Primary School
- Newchurch Community Primary School
- Stockton Heath Primary School
- Thelwall Community Junior School
- Twiss Green Community Primary School

When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information form) that will apply for admission applications the following school year.

Proposed Changes to Admission Arrangements

The council are proposing to amend the admission arrangements for Culcheth High School by increasing the number partner primary schools.

Proposed Amendment

Culcheth High already has one designated partner primary school – St Helen's Church of England Primary School. This is a longstanding priority in Culcheth High's oversubscription criteria. Under the proposed updated criteria, pupils attending St Helen's would continue to receive a higher priority above children attending other partner primary schools. Pupils attending this school would be placed in 'Priority Group A'.

We propose adding a 'Priority Group B' of partner primary schools to the oversubscription criteria.

Proposed Priority Group B Schools

- Culcheth Community Primary School
- Newchurch Community Primary School
- Glazebury Church of England Primary School
- Twiss Green Community Primary School

- Croft Primary School
- St Lewis' Catholic Primary School
- Winwick Church of England Primary School

Proposed Oversubscription Criteria

Based on the outcome of the consultation, the proposed admissions oversubscription criteria will be as follows:

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated in the following priority order:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children including those previously in state care outside of England.

2. Siblings (pupils with elder brothers or sisters already attending the preferred school and expected to continue at the school in the following school year. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address as part of the same family unit).

3. Children with proven medical needs which are directly relevant to the school concerned. If you wish to be considered under this category you must provide appropriate supporting evidence at the time of your application from a doctor or other professional. This evidence must explain why the preferred school is the most suitable and what difficulties would be caused if the child had to attend another school.

4. Pupils attending a designated partner primary school from priority group A.

- St Helen's CE Primary School

5. Pupils attending a designated partner primary school from priority group B.

- Culcheth Community Primary School
- Newchurch Community Primary School
- Glazebury Church of England Primary School
- Twiss Green Community Primary School
- Croft Primary School
- St Lewis' Catholic Primary School
- Winwick Church of England Primary School

6. Pupils living nearest to the school measured as a direct distance from the child's permanent place of residence to the school using a geographical information address point system. Distances will be measured in a straight line from the central point of the child's permanent place of residence to the central point of the school. (Central points are as defined by the Warrington Local Land and Property Gazetteer and distances are based on the same system.)

Rationale for Increasing the Number of Partner Primary Schools

The proposed partner primary schools are local primary schools whose pupils have traditionally moved on to Culcheth High School.

The proposal also takes account of planned housing growth in Winwick and nearby areas. As the local authority, we must make sure there are enough school places for local children.

Adding more partner primary schools would:

- Help children attend a secondary school that serves their community.
- Make it clearer how places are allocated when the school is oversubscribed.
- Support a smoother move from primary to secondary school.
- Enable more children to transfer with friends and classmates from their primary school.
- Ensure admission arrangements reflect local demand and future population growth.
- Make the admissions process more transparent.

Overall, the proposal aims to support families and communities, strengthen transition arrangements between primary and secondary schools, respond to growing demand for school places, and ensure that admission arrangements remain fair, transparent and easy to understand.

Information Parents May Want to Know

Why were these schools chosen?

The proposed partner primary schools have been identified using a range of factors, including:

- Distance from Culcheth High School.
- Historic admission patterns.
- Established community links.
- Future demand for secondary school places.

Will this reduce the chances of children who do not attend these schools?

No. Children who do not attend a named partner primary school can still apply for a place at Culcheth High School. Applications will continue to be considered in line with the published oversubscription criteria.

How many children will be affected?

Historically, most pupils admitted to Culcheth High School have come from the proposed partner schools and surrounding communities. Approximately 80% of Year 6 pupils from the proposed partner schools have applied for a place at Culcheth High School in the last two years.

This can be broken down as follows:

- Croft Primary School – 94%
- Culcheth Community Primary School – 97%
- Glazebury Church of England Primary School – 89%
- Newchurch Community Primary School – 94%
- St Helen's Church of England Primary School – 93%
- St Lewis' Catholic Primary School – 70%
- Twiss Green Community Primary School – 97%
- Winwick Church of England Primary School – 79%

Why is St Helen's being treated differently?

St Helen's CE Primary School has been a designated partner primary school for many years. The proposal retains this existing priority while introducing additional partner primary schools to reflect current and future demand.

When would the change take effect?

If approved, the revised admission arrangements would apply from the September 2028 admissions round.

Does attending a partner primary school guarantee a place at Culcheth High School?

No. Attending a partner primary school does not guarantee a place, but it would give children a higher priority within the admissions process.

Does attending a partner primary school make my child eligible for free home-to-school transport?

No. Eligibility for home-to-school transport is assessed separately from school admission arrangements. Attending a partner primary school does not automatically qualify a child for free transport.

Do these admission arrangements change the process for children with an EHCP?

No. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are allocated school places under different regulations and will override all other categories or priority. Children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will be admitted to the school over and above the published oversubscription criteria, in line with the SEND Code of Practice (2015) and School Admissions Code (2021).