



## Consultation Paper

### On St Edward's College becoming an 'All-Through' Academy for boys and girls aged 4 - 18

#### Proposal

The Governing Body of St Edward's College is proposing that St Edward's College becomes an all through academy for pupils aged 4 to 18 years with effect from 1 September 2017.

St Edward's College already has academy status (it is thereby a Catholic school funded directly by the government, so does not charge parents fees) and educates pupils aged 11 – 18.

The major aim of this proposal, which is supported by the Archdiocese of Liverpool, is to respond to the preference of parents and the shifts in the distribution of population which has resulted in an inadequate provision of Primary places in the area around St Edward's College, especially for Baptised Roman Catholic children.

A second factor in the proposal is the desire to strengthen the provision of Chorister education so that boys can become Cathedral Choristers without reference to their parents' ability to pay school fees: similarly we wish to create parallel provisions for boy and girl Choristers from Years 3 to 8, rather than the current arrangement (whereby girls become choristers at the age of 11). The College's Admissions Policy allows for the admission of up to 20% of pupils on the basis of music aptitude. Both the College and Cathedral authorities believe that such a change would be a significant improvement in the opportunities for Catholic girls and boys.

Runnymede St Edward's School (an independent school in the ownership of the Congregation of Christian Brothers) would close on 31 August 2017 and the College would use the buildings vacated to provide Primary education.

St Edward's College and Runnymede St Edward's School are adjacent within a campus in Sandfield Park and share the use of Sport facilities. Until 1997 Runnymede was part of St Edward's College and hence the schools share a common heritage and a strong Roman Catholic ethos.

The College Governing Body has been in discussions with the Trustees (Congregation of Christian Brothers) and the Governing Body of Runnymede St Edward's School concerning this matter. The Christian Brothers support the principle that education in a school of the Edmund Rice tradition should be made available to children without reference to an ability to pay.

A copy of the draft Admissions Policy for Primary places is attached.

The College Governing Body is grateful to both the Archdiocesan and City Council authorities who have advised on and contributed to these proposals.

The College has been educating children since 1853 and remains committed to offering a high quality Catholic education in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice. The Governing Body believe that, if enacted, this proposal will enhance the provision for future generations of College pupils.

Following the Consultation period, the Governors will decide whether to make an application to the Education Funding Agency for a proposed change to be implemented. Any proposal would require formal approval by the Secretary of State. It should be noted that this is a proposal that the Governing Body is considering. Therefore, it should not be assumed either that the Governing Body will submit a proposal or that any proposal will be approved.

The Governing Body wishes to consult with all interested parties and you are invited to express your views on this proposal.

## **Benefits of an All Through Academy**

- Improved continuity and progress from Reception to Key Stage 5 with smoother transition and common approaches to curriculum planning, assessment, record keeping and target setting.
- Greater flexibility and opportunity to meet individual pupil needs by tailoring learning experiences.
- A wider range of resources could be shared and common themes developed across the school.
- Closer contact for parents with school staff over a longer period of time. A more continuous relationship between the school and parents can ensure that all pupils are supported effectively from Reception through to the end of Year 13.
- Work to improve the new school would be led by a single leadership team and governing body.
- Improved efficiency in managing a school budget, with fewer duplicated costs and more streamlining resulting in maximum resources being spent on teaching and learning.

## **Capacity & Admissions**

- The Primary phase would admit 384 pupils and the Secondary phase admits 1070 pupils (at present).
- The new all through academy would admit 48 children into Reception.
- An additional 12 children (Cathedral choristers) would be admitted to Year 3.
- A further 110 children would be admitted to Year 7. Parents of children at other primary schools would apply for a place in Year 7 through the normal admissions round. The total number of pupils in Year 7 is currently 150.
- A draft Admissions Policy is attached to this document and can be downloaded from the College website.

## **Transitional Arrangements**

Pupils in Runnymede St Edward's School – in all year groups from Reception to Year 6 – on Wednesday 7 September 2016 would have a guaranteed place in St Edward's College (Primary Section or Year 7, for those currently in Year 6) on 1 September 2017.

## **Buildings**

The all through academy would continue to operate on the existing sites. The Runnymede St Edward's School buildings and grounds would become part of the new all-through academy.

## **Staffing**

- The change in status would not result in any changes for the staff of the current St Edward's College.
- Staff employed in Runnymede St Edward's School on 31 August 2017, would transfer to the new all through academy under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (as amended by the 2014 Regulations).

## **Educational Standards**

St Edward's College has a commitment to providing excellence in teaching and learning and this commitment to outstanding lessons would be a central feature of our vision for the all through academy.

The new school would continue to operate within the family of Catholic schools within the Archdiocese and would provide pupils with a high quality, Catholic education.

## **How to respond to this Consultation**

The consultation period is open from Monday 12 September until Monday 10 October. There will be a public meeting for parents and any other interested parties in the College Refectory on Wednesday 5 October at 5.00pm. Should you wish to respond to the consultation, you have until the deadline to submit your comments. Responses can be submitted in writing to the Clerk to the Governors at the College address and must be received by noon on Monday 10 October. Once the consultation period has closed, the feedback received would be included within a Business Case which would be submitted to the Education Funding Agency for approval by the Secretary of State.



## **Draft Admissions Policy**

### *PRIMARY PHASE*

#### **Reception**

In September 2017, the College will admit 48 children aged 4 to Reception. The College has an Indicated Admissions Number (IAN) of 48.

When the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, the Governing Body will apply the following over-subscription criteria.

Following consultation with the Local Authorities, children with an Education Health Care Plan which names St Edward's College, will be admitted and will count against the 48 children to be admitted.

The College will admit 48 children in the following order of priority:

- 1 Baptised Catholic children who are in the care of the Local Authority (looked after children) and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
- 2 Children of members of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the College for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- 3 Children who have a sibling who is a pupil at St Edward's College **on the expected date of admission**. Siblings include brothers and sisters, step brothers and sisters, half brothers and sisters and foster children who are living with the same family at the same address.
- 4 (a) 50% of the remaining places will be offered to Roman Catholic children who live within a one (1) mile radius of the main entrance gates of St Edward's College. If there is an uneven number of remaining places, an additional place will be offered to a pupil who lives within a one (1) mile radius of the main entrance gates. Proof of baptism will be required in the form of a Baptismal Certificate and proof of residence will be required in the form of a utility bill, council tax bill etc.  
(b) The remaining places will be offered to Roman Catholic children without reference to where the child lives. Proof of baptism will be required in the form of a Baptismal Certificate.
- 5 Children whose parents express a preference for a place at the College.

If there are more applicants than places in criteria 2 to 5, the tie-break will be via a random allocation process.

The random allocation process will be supervised by a person not otherwise involved in the admissions process. The process will be open to scrutiny by an appropriately qualified external consultant appointed by the College Governing Body.

## **Application Process**

Applications to the College are part of the Coordinated Admissions Arrangements operated by Liverpool Education Authority. Applications for places in Reception in September 2017 should be made both to the Home Local Education Authority using the Preference Form (which is issued by your Home Local Authority but can also be completed online) and also directly to the College using the application form (available from College). When allocating places in Reception in September 2017, the College will coordinate admission arrangements with the Liverpool Education Authority and will follow the equal preference scheme determined by the Education Authority.

## **Year 3**

In September 2017, the College will admit 12 children aged 7 (6 boys and 6 girls) who have had a successful voice trial at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King and must be Cathedral Choristers upon admission to the College.

Application forms are available from the College.

## **Repeat Applications**

There must be a minimum of 12 months between repeat applications unless there has been a significant change in circumstances.

## **Arrangements for the Independent Appeals Panel**

Parents or guardians will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of St Edward's College. The Appeal Panel will be independent of the College. The arrangement for appeals will be in line with the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Education as it applies to Academies. The determination of the Appeal Panel will be made in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code and is binding on all parties. St Edward's College will prepare guidance for parents or guardians about how the appeals process will work and provide a named contact who can answer any enquiries about the process.