



Public Consultation on behalf of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust

Consultation Arrangements

Commencing: Thursday 4th December 2025 at 9:30AM

Ending: Friday 30th January 2026 at 5PM

Responses: Comments/opinions on this proposal will be submitted to the Executive Board of NPCAT via online submission (using link at the end of this document) or in writing to

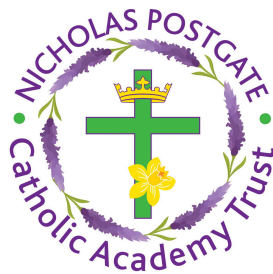
PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSE
Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust,
Postgate House,
Saltersgill Avenue,
Middlesbrough.
TS4 3JP

Proposal

The Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust is opening a public consultation for St Francis Xavier School in Richmond regarding admissions arrangements for the 2027/2028 academic year. The following changes to the Admissions Policy are being proposed:

- 1) Amendments to the list of named feeder primary schools**
- 2) Changes to the oversubscription criteria for entry into Year 7**

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Overview of Proposal 1 - amendments to the list of named feeder primary schools.

Pupils on roll at a named feeder primary school have a higher ranking than pupils on roll at other schools in the oversubscription criteria.

Proposal 1a - Designated named feeder primary schools to include the following:

Trinity Academy Richmond

Rationale

St Francis Xavier School is a joint faith school, governed by both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church. It is therefore felt to be appropriate that, as a local Church of England primary school, Trinity Academy has the same status as the local Catholic primary schools that are part of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust.

Proposal 1b - The removal of named feeder primary schools that have no history of applications to St Francis Xavier School

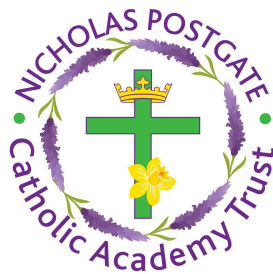
Rationale

When the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust was first formed, all primary schools in the Trust were allocated as named feeder primary schools for each of the secondary schools in the Trust. The Department of Education has since advised that named feeder primary schools in an admissions policy should be kept to a minimum. It is therefore deemed to be appropriate that only the primary schools within NPCAT that have a history of pupils applying to St Francis Xavier School should remain on the list.

The full list of Feeder Primary Schools in the 2027/28 Admissions Policy are proposed to be as follows:

**All Saints Catholic Primary School (North Yorkshire)
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School (North Yorkshire)
St Benedict's Catholic Primary School (North Yorkshire)
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Richmond (North Yorkshire)
Trinity Academy Richmond (North Yorkshire)**

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Proposal 2 - Changes to the oversubscription criteria for entry into Year 7

Rationale:

The Church of England has recently published guidance to schools suggesting that schools should review references to regular and/ or occasional worship in oversubscription criteria. Guidance also includes encouragement to provide support for those in receipt of pupil premium funding at the time of application.

Please read pages 4 to 6 to view the existing oversubscription criteria in the 2026/27 admissions policy.

Please read pages 7 to 12 to view the proposal for changes in the oversubscription criteria for the 2027/28 admissions policy.

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FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Existing Oversubscription Criteria for Year 7 entry in the 2026/27 Admissions Policy

At any time where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered in the following order of priority:

1. Criteria 1: Catholic & Church of England Places

Catholic Places

- a. Catholic looked after and previously looked after children (see notes 3 & 4)
- b. Catholic children attending a named NPCAT feeder primary school (see note 8)
- c. Other Catholic children (*see note 4*).

Church of England Places

- a. Church of England looked after and previously looked after children (*see note 3*).

The baptised children of communicant members of the Church of England who are **regular worshippers** and are resident within the Deaneries of Richmond and Wensley. See associated parish boundary maps at this link:

<https://www.sfxschool.org.uk/Information/Admissions/>

- b. The baptised children of families who are **regular worshippers** at a Church of England church and are resident within the Deaneries of Richmond and Wensley. See associated parish boundary maps at this link:
<https://www.sfxschool.org.uk/Information/Admissions/>
- c. Children who are baptised and themselves **regular worshippers** at a Church of England church and are resident within the Deaneries of Richmond and Wensley. See associated parish boundary maps at this link:
<https://www.sfxschool.org.uk/Information/Admissions/>
- d. The baptised children of communicant members of the Church of England who are **regular worshippers**.

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‘Regular worshippers’ will be determined according to the information/criteria set out on the section of the Supplementary Information Form completed and signed by the Parish Priest/Vicar.

2. Criteria 2: Looked after children

Other ‘children looked after and previously looked after children’ (*See note 3*).

3. Criteria 3: Other Christian children

Children of other Christian denominations means: children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledging God’s revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God’s will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and to fulfill their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

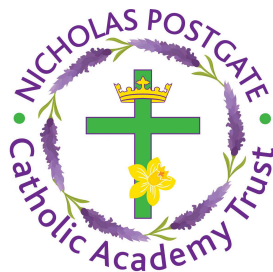
An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England and of CYTŪN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

Applicants seeking admission under criterion 3 will be required to produce a baptismal certificate or a letter confirming their baptism and a letter confirming their commitment as **regular worshippers** from their minister of religion. This should be returned with the ‘Supplementary Information Form’.

‘Regular worshippers’ will be determined according to the information/criteria set out on the section of the Supplementary Information Form completed and signed by the Minister of religion for their denomination.

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4. Criteria 4: Children of school staff

Children of members of school staff (*if the child does not meet criteria 1-3 above*) who have been employed at the school for two or more years at the closing date of the application for admission to the school.

5. Criteria 5: Children attending a named NPCAT feeder primary school (see note 8) who are not placed under criteria 1-4 OR Children baptised as Church of England who are occasional worshippers.

6. Criteria 6: Children who are not placed under criteria 1-5 who regularly attend a Christian Church as recognised by Churches Together in England.

See the list at this link:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/234772/Home/Contacts/Member_Churches_list/M

Applicants seeking admission under category 6 are required to provide a letter confirming their commitment as regular worshippers from their Minister of Religion. This should be returned with the supplementary information form.

7. Criteria 7: Other children

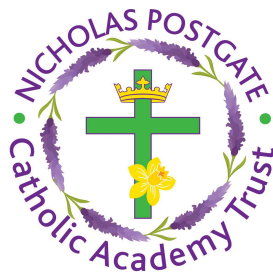
Children who do not meet the criteria above.

First priority in each of the categories above will be given to siblings that is, children who will have older brothers or sisters attending the school in September 2027. (see note 5)

Tie-breaker

Distance from the school will be measured according to current North Yorkshire County Council practice.

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Proposed Oversubscription Criteria for 2027/28 Admissions Policy

At any time where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered in the following order of priority (Criteria 1 - 7) :

1. **Criterion 1: Looked after children**

‘Looked after’ and ‘previously looked after children’ (*See note 2*).

2. **Criterion 2: Catholic & Church of England Places**

- a. Baptised Catholic & Church of England children attending a named feeder primary school (*see note 3*)
- b. Baptised Catholic children (*see note 4*) who are resident within the Dales Catholic Parish & Church of England children (*see note 5*) who are resident within the Richmond Deaneries of Richmond and Wensley. See associated parish boundary maps at this link: (updated link to be inserted to admissions page on school website, showing parish boundary maps)
- c. Other baptised Catholic and Church of England children

3. **Criterion 3: Other Christian children**

Children of other Christian denominations means: children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledging God’s revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God’s will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All member of Churches Together in England and of CYTÛN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial

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communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

Applicants seeking admission under criterion 3 will be required to produce a baptismal certificate or a letter confirming their baptism and a letter confirming their commitment as **regular worshippers** from their minister of religion. This should be returned with the 'Supplementary Information Form'.

'Regular worshippers' will be determined according to the information/criteria set out on the section of the Supplementary Information Form completed and signed by the Minister of religion for their denomination.

4. Criterion 4: Children of school staff

Children of members of school staff (*if the child does not meet criteria 1-3 above*) who have been employed at the school for two or more years at the closing date of the application for admission to the school.

5. Criterion 5: Children attending a named feeder primary school (see note 3) who are not placed under criteria 1-4

6. Criterion 6: Children who are not placed under criteria 1-5 who regularly attend a Christian Church as recognised by Churches Together in England.

See the list at this link:

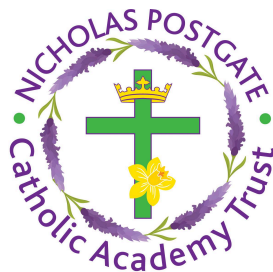
http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/234772/Home/Contacts/Member_Churches_list/M

Applicants seeking admission under category 6 are required to provide a letter confirming their commitment as **regular worshippers** from their Minister of Religion. This should be returned with the supplementary information form.

7. **Criterion 7: Other children**

Children who do not meet the criteria above.

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First priority in each of the categories above will be given to siblings, that is, children who will have older brothers or sisters attending the school. For main round (Y6 going into Y7) the sibling must be attending the school in September 2027. For In-Year applications, the sibling must be attending school at the time of application. (see note 6).

Second priority in each of the categories above will be given to children who are eligible for the pupil premium through free school meal eligibility (see note 9).

Tie-breaker

Distance from the school will be measured according to current North Yorkshire County Council practice.

Home Address

It is the parental address which will be used in applying the admission criteria. This means that, when stating your choice of school, you should give the parental/carer address at the time of application. The address of childminders or other family members who may share in the care of your child should not be quoted as the home address.

Admission of Children Outside their Normal Age Group

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside their normal age group, for example if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Any such request should be made in writing to the Headteacher at St Francis Xavier School at the same time as the admission application is made. The Academy Trust Board will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the Executive Headteacher, including the Executive Headteacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the Academy Trust Board will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals, as appropriate.

Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful children will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and **not** in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admissions in September 2027 will operate until 31st December 2027.

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Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

In-Year Applications

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. Applications should be made both to the school using the Supplementary Information Form (see Appendix A), also available at the school website: <https://www.sfxschool.org.uk/Information/Admissions/>, and to the North Yorkshire County Council admissions www.northyorks.gov.uk/admissions.

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out above, will be applied.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing, and if there are no places available, you will have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Fair Access Protocol

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the Academy Trust Board is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol. The governing body has this power even where admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

The Academy Trust Board reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place or, where the child is already attending the school, to withdraw the offer of the place itself, where it is satisfied that the offer or the place was obtained by deception.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

1. Educational Health and Care Plan

An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.

2.. Looked after children

A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with

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accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making application to the school.

A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the Academy Trust Board) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

3. The named feeder primary schools are:

- All Saints Catholic Primary School, Thirsk (Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust)
- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Northallerton (Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust)
- St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Ampleforth (Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust)
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Richmond (Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust)
- Trinity Academy Richmond (Church of England Academy within Dales Academies Trust)

4. 'Catholic' children

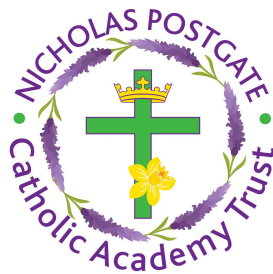
Catholic means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest who, after consulting with the Diocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the laws of the Church.

5. 'Church of England' children

For a child to be treated as a 'Church of England' child, evidence of baptism in a Church of England church will be required, either by a certificate of baptism or a copy of the entry in the baptismal register. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish representative who, after consulting with the Diocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the laws of the Church.

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6. Sibling

'Brother' or 'sister' includes:

- a) all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and
- b) the child of a parent's partner where that child for whom the school place is sought lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.

7. Parent

A 'parent' means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.

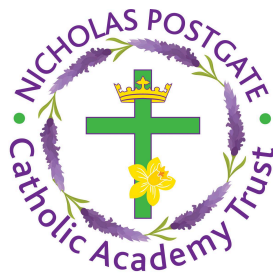
8. Home Address

A child's "home address" refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer, and will be the address provided in the Supplementary Information Form (SIF). Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the SIF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.

9. Children who are eligible for the pupil premium through free school meal eligibility

Pupils who, at the time of application, are recorded as eligible for free school meals, or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years (referred to as Ever 6 FSM), verified by the Local Authority.

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Responding to this Consultation

Please follow the link below if you have any comments/opinions that you wish to be considered regarding any of the above proposals.

[Link Here](#)

The 2026/27 Admissions Policy for St Francis Xavier School in Richmond North Yorkshire, which is already determined, can be found by following this link:

[Link Here](#)

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