St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy
Little Chell Lane, Tunstall, Stoke on Trent, ST6 6LZ
Principal: Mr. D. McKenna B.Soc.Sc MA. PGCE. NPQH

St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

14th October 2026

Consultation on Admissions Arrangements for 2028/2029 Academic Year

St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy

Part of the St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi Academy Trust (SGACMAT)

Introduction and Requirement to Consult

St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi Academy Trust (SGACMAT), as the Admissions Authority for St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy is undertaking a consultation on the admissions arrangements for the **2028/2029 academic year**.

This consultation is being conducted in accordance with the statutory requirements set out in the **School Admissions Code 2021** (Section 1.42).

We are proposing to make the following changes to our admissions policy:

- **Dedicated Priority Categories:** Introduces specific ranking categories for Catechumens, members of Eastern Christian Churches, children of other Christian denominations, and children of other faiths, children of a member of staff.
- **Standardised Ranking Order:** Reorders admission priority to rank Catholic children (and feeder schools for secondary) first, followed by Catechumens / Eastern Christian Church members, other Christian denominations, other faiths, and all other applicants.
- **Universal Tie-Breaker:** Applies a consistent tie-breaker within *every* category: priority is given first to siblings of current pupils, then by geographic distance.

The Trust delegates responsibility for the administration of the admissions policy to its local governing board. The board intends to adopt the existing admissions arrangements, including the published oversubscription criteria and planned admission numbers (PANs), for the 2028/2029 academic year.

The full, existing admissions arrangements, for 2027/2028, are available for review on the following websites:

- The St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi Academy Trust website: Admissions
- The individual academy website: https://stmargaretward.co.uk/admissions-and-appeals/
- A hard copy of the proposed arrangements can be requested by contacting: St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy, Little Chell Lane, Tunstall, ST6 6LZ

The proposed arrangements remain fully compliant with the School Admissions Code, all relevant admissions law, and the requirements of the Diocese of Birmingham Diocesan Education Service, Don Bosco House, Coventry Road, Coleshill B46 3EA.

Who Must Be Consulted?

In line with the DfE School Admissions Code, this consultation is directed at:

1. Parents of children who are aged between two and eighteen.
2. Other persons in the relevant areas who in the opinion of the admission authority may have an interest in the proposed admissions.
3. All other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult with secondary schools).
4. The local authority.
5. Any adjoining neighbouring local authority.
6. The Diocese.

How to Respond to the Consultation

The consultation period will run for a minimum of six weeks, starting on **Monday 2nd November** and closing at **5:00 PM** on **Monday 14th December.**

We welcome comments from all stakeholders on the proposed arrangements for 2028/2029. All comments must be submitted in writing via email or post to the following address:

Email: rmunden@smwca.org.uk *(Please clearly title your email: 'SGACMAT Admissions Consultation 2028/2029')*

Post: St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy, Little Chell Lane, Tunstall, ST6 6LZ

Next Steps

Following the close of the consultation period, the Board of Directors will consider all responses received. Should any changes be required, the updated arrangements will be formally determined by 28th February 2027 and published on the school's website by 15th March 2027.

We thank you for taking the time to review these arrangements.

Yours faithfully

Mr D McKenna
Principal