



Statement confirming the variation to the admission arrangements for September 2021.

Determination

Case reference: VAR1387

Admission authority: The governing board for Cawood Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Cawood, North Yorkshire

Date of decision: 26 October 2020

Determination

In accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the proposal for a variation to the admission arrangements determined by the governing board for Cawood Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Cawood for September 2021, has been approved

The referral

1. The Diocese of York has referred a proposal for a variation to the admission arrangements for September 2021 for Cawood Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Cawood, Selby, North Yorkshire to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator on behalf of the school.
2. The proposed variation makes changes to the faith based oversubscription criteria and is made in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The proposed variation and consideration of the proposed variation

3. Where the school is oversubscribed priority may be given on the basis of faith. The school's arrangements take account of attendance at places of worship. During the Covid-19 pandemic places of public worship have at some times been closed altogether and at other times not available for public worship or access to such worship has been restricted in the interests of public health. It is against this background that the request for a variation is made. Since the school's oversubscription criteria include attendance at public worship of at least once per month for the twelve months immediately prior to the date of application,

parents and their children are unable to meet this criterion under the terms of the school's current admissions arrangements. In consequence the proposed variation provides that attendance will only have been required at times when places of public worship are open for such public worship. The requested variation adds the following to the arrangements and the school's supplementary information form:

"In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these [admissions] arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship."

4. It is beyond question that the Covid-19 pandemic represents a major change of circumstances. The variation is an appropriate response in the current context.