

Education response to written or emailed comments received outwith the online survey is detailed below.

Boundary Lines - clarification was sought on whether, as a result of this consultation, the boundary lines for catchments schools be reconsidered.

Response: This proposal does not include any plans to amend school catchment areas as part of this consultation. The proposal sets out how the Council will prioritise placing requests going forward.

The existing arrangements make no distinction between admission priorities for non-denominational and denominational schools support the new criteria for admission to denominational schools.

Response: The views supporting this new criteria are noted. This criteria would be used in the event that there are more requests than places available within a denominational school in which case baptised Roman Catholic pupils are awarded the highest priority.

Arrangements for pupils from St Joseph's Primary School in Helensburgh, Argyll and Bute Council, who are zoned to Our Lady and St Patrick's High School in Dumbarton and that this should be included in the criteria.

Response: This matter is outwith the scope of the consultation exercise in relation to proposed changes to the schools Admissions and Placing Request policy. There are plans for Education Officers to undertake further discussion with the Archdiocese and the relevant neighbouring local authorities in relation to any arrangements for pupils who reside outwith the boundary of West Dunbartonshire to attend our schools.

Baptismal Certificate - the presentation of a copy of a baptismal certificate of the child who is to be enrolled into a denominational school should be included in your new policy.

Response: There is a requirement under the Education (Scotland) Act 1918 for the Council to provide education provision for both denominational and non denominational education. Parents can request either the denominational or non denominational catchment school, in which case non denominational pupils within the catchment area would not have a baptismal certificate. Evidence of a baptismal certificate would be required in the event that there were more pupils than places available in which case the selection criteria as evidence of the baptismal certificate would provide higher priority to denominational pupils.

Wording of denominational criteria – view that there should be a full stop after RC Church, or, add after it 'and the family has chosen Catholic education'. The reason for this is that in rare cases it may be that the baptised child lives with mum, but dad is the Catholic. Or the Catholic parent has died, and the surviving parent is not Catholic, but the pupil is. If it remains as it is, and 2 pupils are looking for a placing request someone could argue that the Catholic child does not meet the second part of that policy statement where it states, "and whose parents/carers have the same religious belief as the school"

Response: The wording for this criteria has been considered in view of comments received and will be reviewed.

