

## **Response to Admissions Consultation – September 2010 intake**

A consultation paper on Halton's proposed admission arrangements for September 2010 was issued on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Details were published in the local press and a consultation page was available on the Halton Borough Council website. An email detailing the consultation process was sent to the Head Teachers of all infant/junior/primary and secondary schools in Halton, and the email was copied to all neighbouring authorities and the 4 diocesan authorities. The consultation closed on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

No changes were proposed to the admission arrangements to Halton primary schools, no changes were proposed to the admission arrangements for Runcorn secondary schools. However, the Local Authority were proposing the introduction of catchment zones for The Bankfield School and Wade Deacon High School in Widnes, with Saints Peter & Paul Catholic College continuing to serve the catholic community and other pupils seeking admission to the school. Two options were put forward by the Local Authority detailed in the attached maps (Appendix A and Appendix B).

In total 22 on-time responses were received to the consultation.

**a)** Identical responses were received from 10 individual governors at Wade Deacon and Fairfield High School Federation advising that the preferred Option was Option 1 proposed by the LA with an amendment (See Appendix C). A further letter was received from the clerk to the governing body at Wade Deacon and Fairfield High School Federation confirming the Resolution of the Governing Body preferring Option 1 as amended.

**b)** Two additional responses were received from other Governors at Wade Deacon and Fairfield High School Federation, one supporting Option 1 as amended but with the Sibling Criteria receiving a higher ranking than catchment zones, the second requesting that admissions commenced at the East side of Widnes and places should be allocated moving East to West across Widnes until the admission limit of 300 was reached.

**c)** Five further identical responses were received from the Management Team at Wade Deacon and Fairfield High School Federation detailing the same preferred option as detailed in point (a) above.

**d)** Four further individual responses to the consultation were received. One objected to the introduction of catchment zones but offered no alternative, one supported Option 1 as amended by the Governing Body at Wade Deacon and Fairfield High School Federation but objected to those living within the catchment zone taking precedent over siblings should the school become oversubscribed i.e. making the sibling criteria the second oversubscription criteria, and two objected to parts of the Upton Rocks estate in Widnes not being included in the catchment zone for Wade Deacon – but neither of the respondents confirmed that they preferred Option 2 as proposed by the LA.

A response was received from The Bankfield School favouring option 2, however this response was received after the closing date and after the Halton Admissions Forum had met so could not be considered.