



Bretherton Endowed Church of England Primary School

Variation to ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS For September 2021

Dear parents,

Part of our admission arrangements include provision for families to show their faith commitment and school will accept a faith reference from the Church that they attend where attendance is verified by a member of the clergy or designated church officer.

However, the COVID19 pandemic has led to churches – and indeed other places of worship – being closed for public worship under the provisions of the Coronavirus Act and its associated Regulations since lockdown was implemented in mid-March. From 4 July 2020, churches are permitted to reopen for public worship, however we know that for many, this may not be the case as their opening can be dependent on many factors. It is recognised that churches will open on different dates and their pattern of services may also be different, for example to ensure that social distancing can operate effectively. So in short, parents have been unable to show that they meet the faith-based criterion for regular church attendance during this period of temporary church closure. This may have created anxiety for them and uncertainty for clergy, schools, governors.

So to confirm, Bretherton Endowed CE Primary school has, along with the Blackburn Diocese advice, requested a variation to our admission policy for the admission policy 2021 2022. The variation wording is as follows:

“ In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church [or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] 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 in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] or alternative premises have been available for public worship”.

In a nutshell, the Admission Authority for Bretherton Endowed CE Primary accepts that attendance within the period requested can only cover times when the Church was open and available. We would ask parents of children looking to start at Bretherton in September 2021 to complete the supplementary details on faith,

but outline dates where they were able to attend. This will be verified by the Church official as part of the reference process.

If you have any questions about this variation, please do not hesitate to email me Head@bretherton.lancs.sch.uk

Kind regards,

A Moxham

Head Teacher.