

This is the website link – the hypertext link unfortunately does not work in a pdf document, so it is in the home page of the church website until 20th June.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/faith-schools-consultation-response/>

This is the “standard response” that comes up on the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales website regarding removing the 50% cap. Please add bit to questions that ask you for more information, so it becomes a personalised response. Adding information about how the ethos (all human being are made in the “image of God”) affects the way people treat children makes faith-based schools different and enabling new free schools especially schools for children with Special Needs will only be possible if the 50% cap is removed.

Adding information about OFSTED highly rating faith-based schools in HULL (both Primary and Secondary) will also personalise your response.

Please reply by 20th June as that is when the consultation closes.

To Department for Education consultation,

Question 10: Do you support the proposal to remove the 50% faith admissions cap for new and existing free schools?

Strongly agree

Question 11: Please provide further details to your answer for question 10.

The application of the cap to new free schools has prevented the Catholic Church and others from accessing the funding available for the establishment of new schools. Removing the cap will allow the Church to open new schools and widen choice.

Question 12: Do you think the proposal is likely to have an impact on equality and/or on those who share a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010?

Positive effect

Question 13: Please explain why you answered question 12 in this way.

Catholic schools are amongst the most diverse in the country, but they are adversely affected by the cap due to their popularity not only with Catholic parents but also with many parents from outside that community. As a result, in some areas of the country Catholic schools are so oversubscribed that

they are unable to offer places to all Catholic families who require a Catholic education for their children let alone children of other faiths or none. Removing the cap will end this discrimination.

Question 14: Do you agree with the proposal that special academies should be permitted to have a religious designation?

Strongly agree

Question 15: Please explain why you answered question 14 in this way.

I agree that special academies should be allowed to have a religious designation alongside existing special schools with a religious character. The opportunity for the Church to open faith-based special academies will bring about expansion of much needed provision. It will increase diversity and widen choice for parents who will be able to choose a school that is compatible with their faith provided it meets the specific needs of their child.

Question 16: Do you think these changes would affect how easily local authorities find it to place children and young people?

It would make it much easier

Question 17: Please explain why you answered question 16 in this way.

Allowing the Catholic community to open special academies will increase parental choice and allow faith-based provision alongside meeting a child's special educational needs.

Question 18: Would the designation of a special academy with a religious character affect parents' choice of which school they prefer their child to attend?

Yes

Question 19: Please explain why you answered question 18 in this way.

The designation of special academies with a religious character will increase diversity and give parents a greater choice. Parents will be able to choose a school that is compatible with their faith provided that it can meet the specific special needs of their child.

Question 20: What are your views on the overall impact of this proposal?

I believe that the proposal will have a significant and positive impact on the number of dedicated specialist provision and give parents a greater degree of choice about the type of school they can send their children to.

Question 21: Do you think the proposal is likely to have an impact on equality and/or on those who share a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010?

Yes

Question 22: Please explain why you answered question 21 in this way.

The proposal will have a positive impact on equality. Having special academies with a religious character will allow parents to have a greater degree of choice about the setting within which their children might be supported, including the right to have their child educated in accordance with their religious and philosophical convictions.

I am responding as an individual, I consent to my data being held by the DfE and would like my response to be kept confidential.

Kind regards,

Dr David Crick