Achieving, Caring, Enjoying

6th November 2026

Dear Parents, Staff, Local Community Partners and Stakeholders,

Consultation on Proposed Admission Arrangements for 2028/29 Academic Year

As a voluntary aided school, Lowther Endowed School is responsible for determining and managing its own admission arrangements, with the Governing Body acting as the statutory admission authority. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, the Governing Body must ensure that its arrangements are fair, clear and transparent and consult on proposed changes in line with statutory requirements.

We have reviewed the 2027–2028 Admissions Policy and prepared revised arrangements for the 2028–2029 academic year. The proposed policy retains the Published Admission Number (PAN) of 15 for Reception and the existing catchment area, but makes changes to the oversubscription criteria and provides further detail on how applications will be prioritised.

The principal proposed changes are summarised below:

- **Revised oversubscription criteria:** The previous policy contained five main criteria. The proposed policy expands these to eight and changes their order and scope.
- **Children in care and children previously looked after:** The wording is expanded to include children who have been adopted or become subject to a Child Arrangements Order or Special Guardianship Order, including children previously in public care outside England.
- **Medical or physical needs:** A new second criterion gives priority to children with physical and/or medical needs who would be disadvantaged by travelling to another school, supported by written evidence from an appropriate professional.
- **Catchment-area applicants and siblings:** The proposed criteria distinguish between children living within the catchment area who have a sibling at the school, other children living within the catchment area, and children living outside the catchment area who have a sibling at the school.
- **Lowther Nursery *(currently know a Little VIPs Day Care*):** Children who attend Lowther Nursery are included as a separate fifth criterion in the proposed policy.
- **Children of staff:** The proposed policy adds a criterion for children of staff who meet specified employment conditions, including qualifying length of service or recruitment to a post with a demonstrable skill shortage.
- **Distance and tie-break arrangements:** The proposed policy includes a tie-break section explaining that age may determine priority in some categories and that, unless otherwise specified, distance will be used. Distance is measured in a straight line from the centre of the child's address to the school's front gate using the Local Authority's geographical information system (GIS). This replaces the previous policy's different walking-route and straight-line measurements.
- **Further procedural guidance:** The proposed policy includes additional sections and information on deferred admission, fraudulent applications, infant class size, multiple births, excepted pupils and the appeals process. It also provides clearer information on requests for admission outside a child's normal age group.

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The proposed arrangements also retain the requirement for applications to Reception to be made through Westmorland and Furness Council's coordinated admissions process. The dates and deadlines applicable to the 2028–2029 admission round are set out in the proposed policy.

We are inviting views on these proposed arrangements during a six-week consultation period, running from Monday, 9th November to Friday, 18th December. A copy of the proposed Admissions Policy for 2028–2029 is enclosed and will also be available on the school website.

We welcome feedback from parents, staff, local community partners and other stakeholders. If you have questions or would like to comment on the proposed changes, please email admin@lowther.cumbria.sch.uk.

Following the close of the consultation, all responses will be collated and considered by the Governing Body before the admission arrangements are determined.

Thank you in advance for your time and contribution to this consultation.

Yours sincerely,





Michelle Clark
Headteacher

Alice Vince
Chair of Governors

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