



## Determination

Case Reference	Local authority	School Name	Type of School	Religious Character
VAR1641	Nottinghamshire	All Hallows CofE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	Church of England
VAR1642	Nottinghamshire	Caunton Dean Hole CofE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	Church of England
VAR1643	Nottinghamshire	Cuckney CofE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	Church of England
VAR1644	Nottinghamshire	Kneesall CofE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	Church of England
VAR1645	Nottinghamshire	North Wheatley Church of England Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	Church of England
VAR1646	Nottinghamshire	Ranby CofE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	Church of England
VAR1647	Nottinghamshire	St Andrew's CE Primary and Nursery	Voluntary Controlled	Church of England
VAR1648	Nottinghamshire	St John's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	Church of England

<b>Case Reference</b>	<b>Local authority</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>Type of School</b>	<b>Religious Character</b>
<b>VAR1649</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	<b>St Matthew's CofE Primary</b>	<b>Voluntary Controlled</b>	<b>Church of England</b>
<b>VAR1650</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	<b>St Wilfrid's CofE Primary School</b>	<b>Voluntary Controlled</b>	<b>Church of England</b>
<b>VAR1651</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	<b>Trowell CofE Primary School</b>	<b>Voluntary Controlled</b>	<b>Church of England</b>
<b>VAR1879</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	<b>Lowes Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School</b>	<b>Voluntary Controlled</b>	<b>Church of England</b>

**Date of decision: 17 November 2020**

## **Determination**

**In accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, I approve with modification the proposed variations to the admission arrangements determined by the Governing Board for each of the above schools for September 2021.**

**I determine that for admission in September 2021 the faith based oversubscription criteria for these schools will be as described in this determination.**

## **The referral**

1. For each of the above schools (the schools) Nottinghamshire County Council (the LA) is the admission authority and has referred a proposal for a variation to the admission arrangements for September 2021 for the schools to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.
2. The proposed variations make changes to the faith based oversubscription criteria and are made in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the interests of dealing speedily with this and the many other requests for variations along the same or similar lines as a result of Covid-19 I have not considered other aspects of the admission arrangements. Therefore,

nothing in this determination should be taken as indicating that other aspects of the arrangements do or do not conform with the requirements relating to admissions.

## Jurisdiction

3. The referral was made to me in accordance with section 88E of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the Act) which states that: “*where an admission authority (a) have in accordance with section 88C determined the admission arrangements which are to apply for a particular school year, but (b) at any time before the end of that year consider that the arrangements should be varied in view of a major change in circumstances occurring since they were so determined, the authority must except in a case where the authority’s proposed variations fall within any description of variations prescribed for the purposes of this section (a) refer their proposed variations to the adjudicator, and (b) notify the appropriate bodies of the proposed variations*”.

4. I have been informed that the required notifications have taken place in each case and I am satisfied that the proposed variations are within my jurisdiction.

## The proposed variations and consideration of the proposed variations

5. Where schools are oversubscribed priority may be given on the basis of faith. The above schools’ arrangements take account of attendance at places of worship. During the Covid-19 pandemic places of public worship have at some times been closed altogether and at other times not available for public worship or access to such worship has been restricted in the interests of public health. It is against that background that the requests for variations are made. Since the schools’ oversubscription criteria include attendance at public worship of a specified frequency over a specified period of time, parents and their children are unable to meet this criterion under the terms of the schools’ current admissions arrangements. In consequence the proposed variations provide that attendance will only have been required at times when places of public worship are open for such public worship.

6. It is beyond question that the Covid-19 pandemic represents a major change of circumstances. I will set out my determination in relation to each school below.

7. **Caunton Deal Hole, Cuckney, Kneeshall, North Wheatley, Ranby, St Andrew’s, St John’s and St Mathews.** I am satisfied that the proposed variation is a pragmatic and appropriate response. Following discussion with the LA I approve the variations modified so that where each currently reads “at least twice a month for a minimum period of one year prior to the date of application”, the word “immediately” is inserted before “prior”.

8. **All Hallows, Trowell and Lowe’s Wong.** I am satisfied that the proposed variation is a pragmatic and appropriate response subject to the modification set out below. In each of these schools’ oversubscription criteria regularity of worship (for example monthly) is set

out but no period during which such worship is to take place is specified. I have consulted the LA and it has agreed to a modification so that in each instance the words in bold are added, so that each will read “at least twice a month for a minimum period of one year **immediately prior to the date of application**”.

9. **St. Wilfred’s**. I am satisfied that the proposed variation is a pragmatic and appropriate response. In the school’s oversubscription criteria regularity of worship is set out but no period during which such worship is to take place is specified. I have consulted the LA and it has agreed with the substitution of the words “at least twice a month for a minimum period of one year immediately prior to the date of application” for “twice a month during the previous year”.

### **Addendum**

10. The LA should ensure that the modified wording in the oversubscription criteria is reflected in the Supplementary Information Forms for each school.

Dated: 17 November 2020

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Brooke', written in a cursive style.

Schools Adjudicator: Tom Brooke