

Admissions Policy Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: What are the proposed variations to the admissions policy for primary and secondary education in Midlothian?

A: The proposal aims to prioritise children and young people living within the designated catchment area of a Midlothian school. Next in priority will be children and young people residing in Midlothian but outside their catchment area, who will need to make a placing request. Finally, all other children and young people wishing to obtain a place within a Midlothian school will be treated as out-of-authority placing requests.

Q2: I live in Midlothian and would like my child(ren) to attend a school in another catchment area. Will this still be considered?

A: Yes, children and young people living in Midlothian and wishing to attend a school outside their catchment area will be required to submit an out-of-catchment placing request. Information on how to make a placing request, along with the attached form, can be found at the end of this document.

Q3: I live outside Midlothian and would like my child(ren) to attend a Midlothian school. Will this still be considered?

A: Yes, children and young people residing outside Midlothian will need to submit an out-of-authority placing request. Information on how to make a placing request, along with the attached form, can be found at the end of this document.

Q4: Do the proposed changes to vary the admissions policy mean that any child or young person not residing within a designated catchment area of a Midlothian School or living outside Midlothian will not be granted a place?

A: No, parents/carers can request a place for their child in a non-catchment school through a placing request. The Council must grant these requests if places are available, except in certain cases outlined in The Education (Scotland) Act 1980. Information on how to make a placing request, along with the attached form, can be found at the end of this document

Q5: How will the proposed variations affect children and young people who are not baptised in the Roman Catholic faith but wish to attend a Roman Catholic school in Midlothian?

A: Children and young people who are not baptised in the Roman Catholic faith can still apply to attend a Roman Catholic school. However, priority is given in the following order: children offered a place in the school's Complex Needs Provision class by the Education Resource Group (ERG), catchment children prioritised based on exceptional circumstances, catchment children baptised in the Roman Catholic faith with siblings attending the school at the same time, catchment children baptised in the Roman Catholic faith, catchment children not baptised in the Roman Catholic faith with siblings attending the school at the same time, remaining catchment children, out of catchment placing requests, and out of authority placing requests.

Q6: What do the proposed changes mean for children from Loretto RC Primary School in East Lothian who currently have the opportunity to attend St David's RC High School?

A: Should the proposed variations to the School Admission Policy be adopted, giving priority to catchment children then Midlothian children before non-Midlothian children, pupils from Loretto RC Primary School will be treated as out-of-authority placing requests. If a parent or carer wishes their child to attend St David's RC High School, they will need to submit a placing request. Information on how to make a placing request, along with the attached form, can be found at the end of this document.

Q7: When will the proposed variations to the admissions policy be implemented?

A: If approved by Midlothian Council elected members, the changes will take effect from September 2025 for the August 2026 intake. The proposed changes **do not affect** the current admissions process for August 2025.

Q8: How can parents and carers provide feedback on the proposed variations?

A: Parents and carers can provide feedback by completing the questionnaire available on the Midlothian Council website:

<https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/admissions-policy-consultation>

Q9: Will there be catchment changes along with the proposal to vary the admissions arrangements to Primary and Secondary education?

A: There will not be any catchment changes in relation to this consultation. However, all future consultations, including those relating to catchment changes in Midlothian, will be advertised on social media platforms, and affected consultees will be notified. You can find a list of current and closed consultations here: www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultations.

Q10: What is the process for submitting a placing request?

A: To submit a placing request, parents or carers need to complete the placing request form available on the Midlothian Council website at www.midlothian.gov.uk/placing. The form must be submitted by the specified deadline to be considered for the upcoming school year.

Q11: What factors are considered when evaluating placing requests?

A: When evaluating placing requests, the Council considers factors such as the availability of places at the requested school, the impact on class sizes, and the overall capacity of the school. Priority is given to children living within a Midlothian catchment area, followed by those living in Midlothian but outside their catchment area, and finally, those living outside Midlothian. Additional classes will not be created for non-catchment children.

Q12: What affect will the proposal have on catchment children to Danderhall PS?

A: There will be no effect as a result of this proposal on children who live in the Danderhall PS catchment area and who wish to attend their catchment schools. Danderhall PS catchment area is unaffected by this admissions policy proposal.

Proposed 3-18 Shawfair campus

Midlothian Council will launch a statutory consultation in 2025 to agree the catchment areas for a new community and all-through education campus to be established at Shawfair. The all-through campus will accommodate children and young people aged three to eighteen with sports and community facilities to be included. More information about the consultation will be advertised on social media platforms, and affected consultees will be notified.

