

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

Proposal 1 - clarify the catchment area of St David's Roman Catholic High School

During the disaggregation of Lothian Regional Council in 1996 and the subsequent formation of Midlothian Council the catchment area of St. David's RC High School was not formally clarified. Proposal one is to clarify the catchment area of St. David's RC High School to cover all addresses in the Midlothian Council region only.

Proposal 2 - variation to the 'Education Policy Admission to Primary and Secondary Schools', in relation to entry to denominational primary and secondary schools.

Midlothian Council has one denominational high school, St. David's RC High School.

Only children living in the clarified catchment area of St. David's RC High School will be deemed as catchment to the school.

The Council's research of catchment maps and admission policies from both Midlothian and East Lothian Councils do not show Loretto RC Primary School as forming part of the St. David's RC High School catchment. Based on this research, the education authority understood that following the disaggregation of Lothian Regional Council in 1996, pupils from Loretto RC PS were not formally within the catchment area for St David's RC HS but were afforded priority in admissions through an informal arrangement. The meeting of Midlothian Council elected members on 9 September 2025 instructed officers to set aside any historical arrangement and enter into a new agreement, including any priority for Loretto RC Primary School pupils.

If Midlothian Council establishes a new agreement with East Lothian Council regarding children who both reside in the Loretto RC Primary School catchment area and attend the school to attend St. David's RC High School, the proposed priority groups in Table 1 on page 3 will apply and offers will be issued on that basis.

Pupils in Midlothian Council denominational schools may be affected by the proposed change in priority groups.

Families should view the scenarios on pages 4 to 6 to understand how the proposals may affect them.

How to Have Your Say

The consultation will start on Tuesday 21st April 2026 and will end on Thursday 4th June 2026, you must have submitted your thoughts on the proposal by the end date, otherwise they won't be considered.

A copy of the full proposals is document is available on the Midlothian Council website: [St David's RC High School Catchment and Admissions Consultation](#) or a paper copy is available at a Midlothian Council library.

In-person public meetings and virtual public drop-in sessions will be held to discuss the proposals.

- The public meetings will be held in person on:
 - 19 May 2026 in Woodburn Primary School at 6.30pm
 - 1 June 2026 in Sacred Heart RC Primary School at 6.30pm
- Virtual drop-in sessions will be held on 13 May 2026 and 26 May 2026, there will be 20-minute time slots available from 2pm to 4pm and 5pm to 7pm. Please contact EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk to book a time.
- Written responses can be made online here: [St David's RC High School Catchment and Admissions Consultation](#)
- Or by completing the consultation questionnaire at the end of the full consultation document and emailed to EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk or by post to Admissions Education Consultation, Freepost SCO 622, Midlothian Council, Dalkeith EH22 1DN

TABLE 1: Priority groups should the proposed agreement be formed between Midlothian Council and East Lothian Council to include entry to S1 for Loretto Roman Catholic School pupils to St David’s Roman Catholic High School

Priority Group Number	Denominational High School
1	Midlothian resident children who have been offered a place in the school’s Complex Needs Provision class by the Education Resource Group (ERG)
2	Midlothian resident catchment children who have been prioritised based on exceptional circumstances
3	Midlothian resident catchment children who are baptised in the Roman Catholic faith and will have siblings attending the school at the same time.
4	Midlothian resident catchment children who are baptised in the Roman Catholic faith and will not have siblings attending the school at the same time.
5	Loretto RC PS registered catchment children who are baptised in the Roman Catholic faith and will have siblings attending the school at the same time. (for entry to S1 at St. David’s RC High School only)
6	Loretto RC PS registered catchment children who are baptised in the Roman Catholic faith and will not have siblings attending the school at the same time. (for entry to S1 at St. David’s RC High School only)
7	Midlothian resident catchment children, who are not baptised in the Roman Catholic faith and will have siblings attending the school at the same time.
8	Loretto RC PS registered catchment children who are not baptised in the Roman Catholic faith with a sibling attending the school at the same time. (for entry to S1 at St. David’s RC High School only)
9	All remaining Midlothian resident catchment children
10	All remaining Loretto RC PS registered catchment children. (for entry to S1 at St. David’s RC High School only)
11	Any remaining unreserved places will be available to Placing Requests, in line with the Admission Policy Placing Request priority list.

Scenario 1

My child is not baptised Roman Catholic but attends a Midlothian Council Roman Catholic primary school.

Current priority

- If the child lives in Midlothian, they are treated as a catchment child.
- They are prioritised after all baptised Roman Catholic children (with or without siblings.)
- They are prioritised before pupils from outside Midlothian making placing requests.

Proposed priority (if the changes are implemented)

- Your child would remain below all baptised Roman Catholic children, whether those baptised pupils live in Midlothian or attend, and reside in the catchment area of, Loretto RC Primary School.
- They would be admitted before non-baptised children from Loretto RC Primary School and other external placing requests.

What is changing:

Midlothian non-baptised pupils would be in priority group 7 or 9 depending on if they have a sibling attending St. David's RC High School at the same time.

All baptised Roman Catholic pupils whether resident in Midlothian or attending and residing in the catchment area of, Loretto RC Primary School will be offered places first.

Therefore, there is a risk that all places at St. David's RC High School have been allocated to pupils in priority groups 1 to 6 or 8. In these circumstances pupils in priority groups 7 and 9 will be offered places at their non-denominational catchment high school.

Scenario 2

My child is baptised Roman Catholic, lives in Midlothian, but attends non-denominational primary school.

Current priority

- Attendance at a non-denominational primary school does not affect priority.
- The key factors are Midlothian residence and Roman Catholic baptism.

Proposed priority

- No change.
- Your child remains above all non-baptised children (including Midlothian non-baptised pupils) and above all Loretto pupils.

What is changing:

Midlothian resident, Roman Catholic baptised pupils would be in priority groups 3 or 4 depending on if they have a sibling attending St. David's RC High School at the same time. It is likely that all pupils in priority groups 3 and 4 will be offered places at St. David's RC High School.

Scenario 3

My child is baptised Roman Catholic, lives in Midlothian, and attends a Midlothian Roman Catholic primary school.

Current priority

- This is one of the highest priority categories for entry, with or without a sibling attending St. David's RC High School at the same time.

Proposed priority

- This remains one of the highest priority groups.
- These pupils continue to be admitted before all other children, including Loretto RC Primary School pupils and Midlothian resident non-baptised pupils.

What is changing:

Midlothian resident, Roman Catholic baptised pupils would be in priority groups 3 or 4 depending on if they have a sibling attending St. David's RC High School at the same time. It is likely that all pupils in priority groups 3 and 4 will be offered places at St. David's RC High School.

Scenario 4

My child lives in the catchment area for and attends Loretto RC Primary School and is baptised Roman Catholic.

Current priority

- Historically, pupils in this category were admitted under a long-standing informal arrangement rather than through a placing request process.
- This practice sits outside the published admissions policy.

Proposed priority

- A placing request would be required.
- Should the proposed agreement between Midlothian and East Lothian Councils proceed, your child would be prioritised:
 - below Midlothian resident baptised Roman Catholic children, but
 - above Midlothian resident children who are not baptised Roman Catholic, even if those children attend a Midlothian Roman Catholic primary school.

What is changing:

These pupils will be in priority groups 5 or 6 depending on if they have a sibling attending St. David's RC High School at the same time. It is likely that all pupils in priority groups 5 and 6 will be offered places at St. David's RC High School.

Scenario 5

My child lives in the catchment area for and attends Loretto RC Primary School and is not baptised Roman Catholic.

Current priority

- Historically admitted as part of the informal Loretto arrangement, with no differentiation by faith set out.

Proposed priority

- Your child would be placed after all Midlothian catchment pupils, and children who live in the catchment area for and attends Loretto RC Primary School baptised Roman Catholic pupils.
- After Midlothian catchment non-baptised children,
- Before general external placing requests.

What is changing:

These pupils would be in priority group 8 or 10 on if they have a sibling attending St. David's RC High School at the same time.

Therefore, there is a risk that all places at St. David's RC High School have been allocated to pupils in priority groups 1 to 7 or 9. In these circumstances pupils in priority groups 8 and 10 will not be offered places at St. David's RC High School and will be offered a place at a high school by East Lothian Council.

If St David's RC High School is oversubscribed, children in this category are less likely to be offered a place.