



Liverpool College

## ADMISSION APPEALS 2020

### SCHOOLS CASE FOR NON-ADMISSION SECONDARY PHASE SEPTEMBER 2020

This is the Case for the Governors which will be declared at the appeal:-

#### **INFORMATION**

1. Liverpool College is a non-denominational all-through academy for pupils aged 4 – 19 years old. The Primary Phase (Pre Prep and Preparatory Schools) consists of Reception – Year 6 and the Secondary Phase consists of Year 7 – Year 13 (Middle, Upper School and Sixth Form). It serves the local and wider community, and welcomes applications from parents both within and outside the Liverpool area. Liverpool College builds on high aspirations, inclusion and excellence which are the hallmarks of the current school.
2. We were inspected by Ofsted in November 2019 and were deemed to be outstanding. The Inspectors acknowledged that the school has experienced a significant increase in the number of pupils on roll since the previous Ofsted inspection in May 2015.
3. Given the transition of Liverpool College to Academy status for the September 2013 intake, the growth in pupil numbers was phased in over time, with increased numbers feeding through on a year by year basis, which started in September 2013. In September 2013 the pupil number was 855 compared with today's number of 1494.
4. The College increased its Published Admission Number in Year 7 in 2019. The governors decided to move to a maximum class size of 29. This decision was taken partly in response to the substantial funding pressure schools are under from school funding changes and from the significant oversubscription and parental demand for places we continue to experience.

#### **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

5. Liverpool College has an approved Published Admission Number (PAN) of 91 pupils to Year 7 in September 2020. The College will accordingly admit 91 pupils into Year 7 each year if sufficient applications are received. The admission number applies only to those being admitted from outside Liverpool College. If fewer than 54 pupils intend to transfer from the current Year 6 within the College, then the College will admit over the admission number up to the overall size of the Year 7 group (i.e. 145), should sufficient applications be received. This year 54 pupils from Year 6 at Liverpool College have accepted their places in Year 7.
6. For September 2020 intake the Local Authority received 1412 preferences for the School for the 145 places available in Year 7 for September 2020. The Admissions Committee of the Governing Body of Liverpool College Independent Schools Trust allocated the 145 places using the published Admissions Criteria. The actual number of places allocated as at 1.5.20 is 148. This is due to the fact that Liverpool City Council named Liverpool College on the Education Health Care Plans of three pupils after the date that they notified 145 parents that they had been allocated a place at Liverpool College.

7. The Governor's opinion is that if another child is admitted to Year 7 it would prejudice the provision of efficient education and efficient use of resources at the school.

### **ORGANISATION OF TEACHING GROUPS AND SPACE ALLOCATION**

8. As part of the process to become an Academy, Liverpool College reviewed its available educational accommodation. Teaching areas were identified and measured, although the majority of the classrooms were undersized in comparison with current building bulletins. In September 2015 a new building (Mossley Vale) was opened which has eight classrooms of 49m<sup>2</sup> each. The design and funding of the new building, including the size and number of classrooms, was based on a PAN of 1100 and a secondary school with four forms of entry at Year 7 of 25 children each.
9. As our pupil numbers expand it is essential that the expansion considers space available against national standards. Measurements of all the main teaching areas have been carried out by an independent education consultant whose findings were that:
  - a. The building bulletin states that general teaching space for this age of student should be 63 square meters including storage.
  - b. Many of the Liverpool College buildings are converted houses and many rooms have quirks so it is not just the size of the room that has to be considered. The location of loose furniture and its proximity to the teaching wall has to be considered. Many rooms have bay windows and protruding pillars where walls have been removed. For these reasons the size of the classes using these areas has to be considered when they are timetabled.
10. Considering that the school has already taken steps to maximise teaching areas to accommodate classes of 29 through modification and reconfiguration of spaces, the admission of another child into Year 7 will:-
  - a. Affect Liverpool College in the current and following academic years as the year group moves through the school and would be impractical due to the lack of space to accommodate larger class sizes
  - b. There are no other spaces that could be re-allocated as teaching areas and budget planning does not allow for the extra teaching and support staff needed to separate the class sizes into smaller group

### **IMPACT OF EXTRA PUPILS BEING ADMITTED**

12. An admission of another child to Year 7 will have an effect on pupils already at the school in the following ways:-
  - a. An additional pupil would prejudice the provision of efficient education and efficient use of resources at the school. There is no room for such a pupil in a majority of our classrooms or science labs, thus having an impact on the safety of staff and pupils.
  - b. An additional pupil will add to the constrained circulation within the school and the supervision will have to be reviewed to ensure discipline is maintained which will again have an impact on the constrained budget.
  - c. An extra pupil would mean that the school will experience adverse budgeting issues.

### **QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

13. The mission of the school was and will always remain, to excel in the education and formation of the whole person, intellectually, artistically, spiritually and athletically. Our educational emphasis is not only on academic but on spiritual and personal development in the broadest sense which values the dignity of the individual and provides a consistent and formative experience of community, service, mutual responsibility and self-discipline.

- 14.** The school maintains high standards of behaviour, attendance and punctuality by raising standards and aspirations, identifying, nurturing and developing the aptitude of every pupil, together with excellent pastoral care and by incorporating best practices for education in the UK.
- 15.** The school's pastoral and academic structures are based upon this, so any increase in pupil numbers would not only affect the quality of teaching and pastoral care, but also the teaching budget and the support staff budgets.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS**

- 16.** There will be a Health and Safety impact as circulation space is already constrained and will need extra supervision at time of movement. This will have an impact on the constrained budget.
- 17.** The number of students in Years 7 – 11 has reached/exceeded the PAN. The PAN for admission in September 2020 in Years 7 – 11 is 725.
- 18.** The numbers in each year group for September 2020 are **forecast** as follows: -

	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y 3	Y 4	Y 5	Y 6	Y 7	Y 8	Y 9	Y 10	Y 11	Y12	Y 13
	84	84	84	84	84	56	56	148*	148	144	147	145	135**	125
Pupils with EHCP	Not yet known	0	0	0	1	1	1	5	5	0	3	1	1	1
Pupils receiving SEND support	Not yet known	9	1	11	5	17	9	16	19	26	24	23	12	5

\* Due to the late allocation of EHCPs at local authority level the total number of places allocated for Year 7 is 148

\*\*The number of Sixth Form admissions is dependent upon exam results and is therefore estimated

- 19.** The buildings and site are clearly not adequate for the number of students that are on roll.

The Governors conclude that they could not offer your child a place.