

## Sale High School Proposed Admission Arrangements 2025

### Consultation Comments and Responses 1 to 5

#### Comment 1

Is the biggest change going to be 1<sup>st</sup> priority will go to children in M33 and M23 postcodes? Will it be a 50/50 split? If the child entering in September 2025 has a sibling in Sale High already and either lives in M33 or M23 will they be guaranteed a place?

#### Response 1

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Sale High School draft Admissions Policy 2025-2026.

The priority catchment area for Sale High School is **Trafford Council residents** in postcodes within in M33 and M23, followed by WA14 and WA15, followed by M32.

**Manchester Council residents** in the M23 postcodes will still be considered as residing outside of the priority catchment area.

There are only nine M23 postcodes in the Trafford area which equates to 1% of all M23 postcodes. For the 2024 admission round, there were no applications from these postcodes, for the 2023 admission round there were 4 applications from these postcodes and for the 2022 admission round there was 1 application.

Similarly, there are twenty M33 postcodes in the Manchester Council area and these will no longer be considered in the priority catchment area of Sale High School. For the 2024 admission round, there were 6 applications from these postcodes, for the 2023 admission round there were 6 applications from these postcodes and for the 2022 admission round there were 5 applications.

All applications for the school will be ranked firstly by category and then by distance within each category. Therefore, applications from **Trafford residents** in the M33 and M23 postcodes will be ranked in category 3 by distance, followed by WA14 and WA15 postcodes by distance and followed by M32 by distance. Applications from Manchester residents in M23 postcodes or other postcodes will be ranked by distance in category 5.

Trafford Council residents in postcodes M33 and M23 applying for a place for their child at Sale High School for September 2025 and where there is already a sibling in attendance at the time of admission will be considered in category 2 of the oversubscription criteria. Whilst there is strong possibility that all category 2 applicants whose preferred choice is Sale High School will obtain a place, admission authorities cannot guarantee a place to any applicant. Point 2.1 of the School Admissions Code states 'admission authorities must not give any guarantees that a preference will be met.'

All comments and responses will be collated into a report for consideration by the governing body as part of the determination process of the 2025 admission arrangements.

### **Comment 2**

It would be appreciated if we could get further clarification as to the decision making process behind M23 becoming a main catchment area, whereas previously residents of M23 were only eligible if there were vacancies.

### **Response 2**

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Sale High School draft Admissions Policy 2025-2026.

The priority catchment area for Sale High School is **Trafford Council residents** in postcodes within in M33 and M23, followed by WA14 and WA15, followed by M32.

**Manchester Council residents** in the M23 postcodes will still be considered as residing outside of the priority catchment area.

There are only nine M23 postcodes in the Trafford area which equates to 1% of all M23 postcodes. For the 2024 admission round, there were no applications from these postcodes, for the 2023 admission round there were 4 applications from these postcodes and for the 2022 admission round there was 1 application.

Similarly, there are twenty M33 postcodes in the Manchester Council area and these will no longer be considered in the priority catchment area of Sale High School. For the 2024 admission round, there were 6 applications from these postcodes, for the 2023 admission round there were 6 applications from these postcodes and for the 2022 admission round there were 5 applications.

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### **Comment 3**

On the revised policy for admissions, just in regards to the wording of the siblings element and also the shared addresses. I am just mindful of the wording around siblings in the eventuality that parents that share 50/50 custody cannot agree. I don't think it's always the case that parents with 50/50 custody will agree on a school choice and submit one application.

### **Response 3**

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Sale High School draft Admissions Policy 2025-2026.

The school's policy where the child-care arrangements are shared equally between the parents states 'Where it is claimed that the child's residency is shared equally between two addresses parents may decide which address will be used for the purpose of the application.'

Since all applications for transfer to state funded secondary schools must be made to your home Local Authority (LA), that is the LA where you live, regardless of where the school of your choice is located, if you are a Trafford resident you will submit any future applications to Trafford Council. There is nothing stopping the other parent applying for schools in their home LA. Trafford LA will collate applications for all Trafford residents and will co-ordinate with other LAs as required.

The authority has consulted and determined that from the 2025 admission round the criteria below will be used in the event the authority receives two applications from different addresses.

*The School Admissions Code states that only one offer per child must be made by the Local Authority. Therefore, only one address can be used to determine the outcome of an application. In the event where two applications are received from different addresses, the authority will use the address of the parent who is in receipt of child benefit to determine the outcome of the application. Where child benefit is not claimed, the authority will use the address where the child is registered with the General Practitioner (GP).*

All comments and responses will be collated into a report for consideration by the governing body as part of the determination process of the 2025 admission arrangements.

#### **Comment 4**

We have grave concerns about the fairness of the proposed changes to Sale High schools' admission criteria. We successfully applied for a place for our son starting year 7 in September 2023 from within catchment (M32). Under the existing admissions criteria, our younger son will qualify as category 2 priority (in catchment with sibling in school). The proposed changes detailed would relegate the application for entry in September 2025 to category 4 (outside catchment with sibling in school) thereby massively reducing the probability that we will send both our children to the same school. This is unfair as we applied for entry in Sept 2023 under criteria where the younger sibling would have a high probability of entry in September 2025 (category 2). Sending both our children to the same school is essential due to the logistics of school drop off and pickup. The proposed change to entry selection is prejudiced against families from M32 with an existing child in school acting as a sibling for a secondary application. This undermines the whole reason a sibling policy is in place-to increase the probability of siblings gaining entry to the same school.

We feel that any proposed change should not result in siblings of existing Sale High school students (those pupils who entered the school before September 2024) being relegated in the priority list. The contract of sibling priority was initiated on the original application and should therefore not be negated mid-term (the term defined as the period where the first sibling is a current Sale High school pupil).

Without modification, these proposed changes will cause major logistical and emotional difficulties for the families who will be unfairly discriminated against with a change in policy after the first sibling has already entered the school. If these criteria were in place for entry of the first sibling, we would have applied elsewhere to increase the probability of having both children in the same school.

#### **Response 4**

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Sale High School draft Admissions Policy 2025-2026.

The priority catchment area for Sale High School includes all Trafford Council residents in postcodes within in M33 and M23, followed by WA14 and WA15, followed by M32. Any younger children from any of these postcodes, will still be considered in category 2 provided that the older sibling is in attendance at the school at the time of admission. Category 4 is for children who live in any other postcode, outside of the priority catchment area, who have an older sibling at the school.

All comments and responses will be collated into a report and forwarded to the governing body for consideration as part of the determination process of the 2025 admission arrangements.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Comment 4**

The Sale High draft admissions policy (25-26) proposes removing M32 from the priority catchment area. Under these draft proposals, my interpretation is that a sibling applying from outside the NEW priority catchment area would be categorised in category 4.

Under the draft proposals, applications from M32 for entry in September 2025 with a sibling still in school will be treated as category 2?

'The priority catchment area for Sale High School includes all Trafford Council residents in postcodes within in M33 and M23, followed by WA14 and WA15, followed by M32. Any younger children from any of these postcodes, will still be considered in category 2 provided that the older sibling is in attendance at the school at the time of admission. Category 4 is for children who live in any other postcode, outside of the priority catchment area, who have an older sibling at the school' seem to be accurate for entry in 2024 but contrary to the draft proposal for entry in September 2025'.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Response 4**

Thank you for your further enquiry regarding the Sale High School draft Admissions Policy 2025-2026.

Our draft Admissions Policy 2025-2026 did not propose to remove M32 from the catchment area. It was only in which postcode order any applications from within the priority catchment area will be ranked. I can confirm that any younger children from M32 postcode will be considered in category 2 provided that the older sibling is in attendance at the school at the time of admission. You were advised of this in our previous response which stated that

*'The priority catchment area for Sale High School includes all Trafford Council residents in postcodes within in M33 and M23, followed by WA14 and WA15, followed by M32. Any younger children from any of these postcodes, will still be considered in category 2 provided that the older sibling is in attendance at the school at the time of admission.'*

Category 4 is for children who live in any other postcode outside of the priority catchment area, who will have an older sibling at the school at the time of admission. Category 5 is for children who live outside the priority catchment area.

### **Comment 5**

I have looked at the proposed new admissions policy and I am unsure as to why the catchment had prioritised Manchester LA children over Trafford LA children when Sale High is a Trafford school.

I would like to know the reasons for the change of catchment proposal. What are the benefits to the school and the children of Trafford? How does it affect the funding if the children come from a different LA? Also, is the priority M33 and then M23? I.e., Does a child living in M33, 2 miles from the school get a place before M32 postcode 1 mile from school? I would like to know further information on this.

### **Response 5**

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Sale High School draft Admissions Policy 2025-2026. Re the catchment area; please be advised, Trafford residents have priority as per the following section from the Admissions Policy:

*The priority catchment area for Sale High School is Trafford Council residents in postcodes within M33 and M23, followed by WA14 and WA15, followed by M32.*

*Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below.*

- 1. 'Looked after Children' both currently and previously (as defined in the Education Act 2002 – a. Admissions)*
- 2. Siblings: children who have brothers and sisters enrolled at this school at the time of admission and live within the priority catchment area. Siblings are defined as half / step / adopted / foster brothers or sisters, and any other children who are living at the same address as part of the same family unit.*
- 3. All other applicants living within the priority catchment area, in order of Trafford residents within M33 and M23, followed by WA14 and WA15, followed by M32.*
- 4. Siblings: All other children who have brothers and sisters enrolled at this school at the time of admission who live outside the priority catchment area.*
- 5. All other applicants outside the catchment area.*

*For each of the criteria listed above, if the demand for place exceeds the admission number, the rank order will be determined by the proximity of the child's home to the school.*

All comments and responses will be collated into a report and forwarded to the governing body for consideration as part of the determination process of the 2025 admission arrangements.