

Please see the updated information from Manchester Diocese regarding the recording of church attendance when applying for a place at a Church of England School in September 2021.

Diocesan and national advice is that children applying to a Church of England School to enter in September 2021 should not have their attendance at church services recorded post 17 March 2020 until restrictions imposed by Covid-19 have passed **and** there is unrestricted and open access to all for public worship, that is, until it is **without any restriction on numbers attending**.

The total number of attendances required for category 3 applications to St Mary's for September 2021 will be based upon 35% of the total number of weeks that St Mary's Church was fully open for public worship within the calendar year of 2020 (rounded down to the nearest whole number), as per the amended admissions policy published on the school website (September 2020).

IS IT APPROPRIATE TO RECORD ATTENDANCE AT CHURCH WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN APPLYING TO A CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2021?

(New FAQ – 8 September 2020)

No. Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer of the Church of England, in consultation with the DfE and Office of Schools' Adjudicator (OSA) along with all Diocesan Directors of Education have issued advice that attendance at church worship should not be recorded until after Covid 19 restrictions have fully ceased. This is because we are not yet in a position where all churches can open fully for worship. Restricted seating measures are often in place in order to make churches Covid secure, hence technically churches are not fully open for worship.

Diocesan and national advice remains that children applying to a Church of England School to enter in September 2021 should not have their attendance at church services recorded post 17 March 2020 until restrictions imposed by Covid-19 have passed and there is unrestricted and open access to all for public worship, that is, until it is without any restrictions on numbers attending.