



**ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, SKELMERSDALE
DETERMINED ADMISSION POLICY AND ARRANGEMENTS 2020/2021**

St John's is a Catholic School under the trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Liverpool. It is maintained by Lancashire County Council. As a Voluntary Aided School, the Governing Body is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions. The co-ordination of admissions arrangements is undertaken by the Local Authority. For the school's year commencing September 2019, the Governing Body has set its admissions number at 30.

Our principal role as a Catholic school is to participate in the mission of the Catholic Church by providing a framework which will help children to grow in their understanding of the Good News and in the practice of their faith. The school will help the children develop fully as human beings and prepare them to undertake their responsibilities as Catholic in society. The school asks all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the rights of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL will be determined by the Governing Body. Parents must complete a Local Authority Preference Form or apply online via the website www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools. If you wish to have your admission request considered against that school's faith/denomination criteria then you should **ALSO** complete the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) available in the Local Authority Admissions Booklet or the school's own SIF. All preferences listed will be considered on an equal basis and, where there are more applications than the number of places available, the following set of OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA will be applied:

1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children resident in the parish of St Richard.
4. Other baptised Catholic children.
5. Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
6. Children from other Christian denominations. Proof of Baptism in the form of a Baptismal Certificate or confirmation in writing that the applicant is a member of their Faith community from an appropriate Minister of Religion is required.
7. Children of other faiths. An appropriate Faith Leader would need to confirm in writing that the applicant is a member of their faith group.
8. Other children.

Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category, then the distance between the Ordnance Survey address points for the school and the home measured in a straight line will be used as the final determining factor, nearer addresses having priority over more distant ones. This address point is within the body of the property and usually located at its centre. Where the cut off point is for addresses within the same building, then the single measure between address points will apply and the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s).

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health Care Plan that names a school will be offered place without using the admission criteria and will count as part of the school's published admission number.

Notes

- a. All applications will be considered at the same time and after the national closing date for admissions. Late applications (those received after the closing date) **MAY** be considered alongside those received by the closing date under the following circumstances:
 - the family were unable to complete an application form before the closing date because they moved into the school's parish area after the issue of application forms OR
 - the family were unable to conform with the admissions timetable because of exceptional circumstances which prevented the applications arriving on time – the circumstances must be given in writing and attached to the application form.
- b. A Looked After Child is a child who is (a) in the care of a Local Authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their Social Services functions (under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989. A previously Looked After Child is one who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, child arrangements order or special guardianship order.
- c. For a child to be considered as a Catholic evidence of a Catholic Baptism is required. Baptism should take place before the closing date for applications.

A Baptised Catholic can also be defined as one who has been baptised by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various Churches in communion with the See of Rome (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church 1203). Written evidence of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place.

Or

A person who has been baptised in a separate ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Written evidence of their reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the Church in which the Rite of Reception took place.

The Governing Body will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of 'Baptised Catholics'. A Certificate of Reception is to include full name, date of birth, date of reception and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of reception.

Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to the parish priest who after consulting with the Episcopal Vicar, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

- d. Home Address is considered to be the address where the child normally lives. Where care is split and a child moves between two addresses, the household in receipt of the child benefit would normally be the address used but the admission body reserve the right to request other proofs as fit the individual circumstance. Applicants should not state a childminder's or other relative's address.
- e. Sibling is defined in these arrangements as full, half or step brothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit. This does not include cousins or other family relationships.
- f. A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the Admission Criteria. The waiting list does not consider the date the application was received or the length of time a child's name has been on the waiting list. This means that a child's position on the list may change if another applicant is refused a place and their child has higher priority in the admissions criteria. The waiting list will be retained until at least the end of December of the relevant year of the admissions process.
- g. For 'In Year' applications received outside the normal admissions round, if places are available they will be offered to those who apply. Direct application to the school can now be made under this heading. If there are places available but more applicants than places then the published oversubscription criteria will be applied. A waiting list for those who have not been offered a place will be kept until the end of the relevant academic term.
- h. If an application for admission has been turned down by the Governing Body, parents can appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Parents must be allowed at

least twenty school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to submit that appeal. Parents must give reasons for appealing in writing and the decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on the Governors.

- i. The Governing Body reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to the application.
- j. It is the duty of governors to comply with regulations on class size limits at Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. The Governing Body may exceed the regulations for twins and children from multiple births where one of the children is the 30th child admitted. This also applies to in-year applicants who are looked after/previously looked after, children of UK service personnel or children who move into the area for whom there is no other school available within a reasonable distance.
- k. If a child is a “summer born child”, parents can request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred to later in the school year. However, the child has to start school before the end of that school year. If a parent wishes their child to be educated out of their normal school year (kept back a year), they must discuss this with the school before applying. However, the decision on this rests with the school (para 2.17 of the Admissions Code).
- l. Parents may request that their child attend school part-time until he/she reaches his/her fifth birthday.

Over-subscription Criteria 2019 - 2020

**Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the
Governing Body will apply the following over-subscription criteria**

1. Baptised Catholic looked after children.
2. Baptised Catholic children living in the Parish of St Richard (St Mary Queen of the Apostles District).
3. Baptised Catholic children who have a brother or a sister at the school at the time of likely admission. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters or children of the parent/carer's partner, and in every case who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit.
4. Baptised Catholic children living in other Catholic parishes.
5. Looked after children who are other than Catholic.
6. Children who are other than Catholic who have a brother or a sister at the school at the time of likely admission. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters,

adopted and foster brothers and sisters or children of the parent/carer's partner, and in every case who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit.

7. Children from other Christian denominations. Proof of Baptism in form of Baptismal Certificate or confirmation in writing that the applicant is a member of their Faith community from an appropriate Minister of Religion is required.
8. Children of other faiths. An appropriate Faith Leader would need to confirm in writing that the applicant is a member of their faith group.
9. Children whose parents express a preference for a place at the school.

In the event of any over-subscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above then the admissions committee will offer places first to children living nearest to the school measured **by the shortest walking route** from the front door of the house/flat to the main front door of the school as measured by the Local Authority, with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority.

In the event of a tied distance measurement between address points the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s)

Where there are twins/triplets wanting admission and there is only a single place left within the admission number, then the Governing Body will exercise as much flexibility as possible within the requirements of infant class sizes. If places for twins or all triplets, etc cannot be offered, the family will be advised accordingly. This may also apply to siblings who are in the same year group. If only a single place can be offered for twins, then the Local Authority's system for a random draw will decide which pupil receives an offer.

A person who has been baptised in a separate ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Written evidence of their baptism and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases a sub-section of the Baptismal registers of the church in which the Rite of Reception took place.

The Governing Body will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Baptism or Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of "Baptised Catholics". A Certificate of Baptism or Reception is to include: full name, date of birth, date of baptism or reception and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of baptism or reception.

Those who would have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to their parish priest, who after consulting with the Vicar General, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

Those who would be considered to have good reason for not obtaining written evidence would include those who cannot contact the place of baptism due to persecution or fear, the destruction of the church and the original records, or where baptism was administered validly but not in the Parish church where records are kept.

Governors may request extra supporting evidence when the written documents that are produced do not clarify the fact that a person was baptised or received into the Catholic Church, (i.e. where the name and address of the Church is not on the certificate or where the name of the Church does not state whether it is a Catholic Church or not.)

2. The home address of a pupil is considered to be the permanent residence of a child. The address must be the child's only or main residence. Documentary evidence may be required – eg. child benefit payment address.
3. Where care is split equally between mother and father, parents must name which address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place.
4. Late applications (those received after the closing date) will only be considered alongside those received by the closing date under the following circumstances:
 - the family were unable to complete an application form before the closing date because they moved into the school's parish area after the issue of application forms OR
 - the family were unable to conform with admissions timetable because of exceptional circumstances which prevented the applications arriving on time – the circumstances must be given in writing and attached to the application form.

Applications received after the notification date (after places are offered) will be added to the school's waiting list in admission criteria order.

PARENTS MUST COMPLETE THE LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMON APPLICATION FORM AND WHERE APPLICABLE THE SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTARY FORM.



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTARY FAITH REQUEST FORM

A copy of this form should be completed by the parent/guardian and returned to the school.

Name of school applied for: _____

Name of child: _____

Address of child: _____

1. Is the child a baptised Catholic? Yes N

2. If yes, please state parish of baptism and date

3. In which parish do you now live? (*see Note 1*)

4. If your child is not a baptised Catholic, please state to which denomination or faith, if any, your child belongs (*see Note 2*)

Notes

1. Evidence of Baptism – Catholic

If you are applying for a Catholic primary school and your child was baptised in the parish served by the school then the parish baptismal records will be checked by the school to confirm baptism. If your child was baptised in another parish a baptismal certificate or the completion of the statement below will normally be required to confirm your child is a baptised Catholic.

2. Evidence of Faith Group membership

a) If you are applying for a Catholic school and want to be considered under the relevant criterion as an 'other than Catholic' Christian please state your Christian denomination. Proof of Baptism in the form of a Baptismal Certificate **or** confirmation in writing by completing the statement below to show that your child is a member of a faith community by an appropriate Minister of Religion is required.

b) If you belong to a faith other than the Christian faith, please state to which faith you belong. An appropriate faith leader would need to confirm in writing by completing the statement below that your child is a member of their faith group.

Minister of Religion/Faith Leader

Minister/Leader (Print name): _____

Address: _____

Position held: _____

