

St Wulstan's RC Primary School 11/041
Admission Policy
DETERMINED POLICY 2021/2022

This procedure applies to admissions to St Wulstan's Primary School which is a Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided School, provided by the Diocese of Salford and is maintained by the Local Authority.

The school's Governing Body is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions.

The number of places available for admission to the school in 2020/2021 shall be 25.

If your child is due to start school during the next academic year, it is important that you apply for a place in September. If your child's fifth birthday is between the months of September and December, then, if you wish it, admission may be deferred until January; if it is between January and April, then admission may be deferred until the start of the summer term though it is likely to be in your child's interest to start no later than January. You may also request that your child attend school part time until he/she reaches his/her fifth birthday.

As required by law all children with a Statement of Special Needs naming the school will be admitted before the application of the oversubscription criteria.

*Applications for a place at September 2020 must be made on a Common Application Form (CAF) issued by Lancashire County Council either via the on-line system or on the paper form which should be returned to the Pupil Access team at the Area Education Office, 44 Union Street, Accrington, BB5 1PL by the closing date, **15th January 2021**.*

Parents who wish their application to this Catholic school to be considered against the priority faith criteria should also complete the school's Supplementary Information Form. If the school is oversubscribed, failure to complete the Supplementary Information Form may result in your application for a place in this school being considered against lower priority criteria, as the Governing Body will have no information upon which to assess the application on the basis of the applicant's baptism.

In order to be considered against the higher priority criteria, the applicant's baptism must have taken place by the closing date, published by the Local Authority, as the deadline for applications for admission.

If there are more applications than places, offers will be made in order according to the oversubscription criteria listed below.

1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
2. Baptised Roman Catholic siblings of children at the school who will still be on the school roll at the time of admission.
3. Other baptised Roman Catholic children who are resident in the parish of Our Lady and St. Hubert's with St. Wulstan's.
4. Other baptised Roman Catholic children.
5. Other children who will have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
6. Children with proven and exceptional medical and social needs where admission to the school might best help satisfy those needs, provided that appropriate evidence from a doctor or social worker is submitted with the application.
7. Other children.

If, within any category, there are more applicants than places, available priority will be given on the basis of proximity to the school, measured in a straight line (radial) from the centre of the home to the centre of the school.

Notes:

- A. 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, residence or special guardianship order.
- B. All applicants will be considered at the same time and after the closing date published by the Local Authority as the deadline for applications for admission.

- C. Each Roman Catholic applicant will be required to produce a baptismal certificate. Baptism must have taken place by the closing date published by the Local Authority as the deadline for applications for admission.
- D. Parents should check carefully whether they are resident within the parish boundary of Our Lady and St. Hubert's with St. Wulstan's. A map illustrating the boundary is available for inspection in the school.
- E. It is the duty of governors to comply with the class size limits at Key Stage 1. This means that the school cannot operate classes in Key Stage 1 of more than 30 children. However, where there are twins or triplets and there is only a single place left within the admission number, the governing body will exercise as much flexibility as possible, within the requirements of infant class sizes. In exceptional cases we are now able to offer places for both twins and all triplets, even when this means breaching infant class size limits.
- F. The Governing Body reserves the right to admit children with proven and exceptional medical and social needs (associated with the child and / or family) where admission into the school might best help satisfy those exceptional needs, providing that such application is submitted with appropriate evidence from a doctor, social worker or qualified professional indicating why this school is most suitable.
- G. The waiting list will be transferred to the school on 1st September and will be maintained for one term. Should a vacancy occur, the place would be offered to the child in accordance with the school's published oversubscription criteria and not on any other basis.
- H. The term 'brothers and sisters' will be taken to include, half brothers and sisters, stepbrothers and sisters, foster children and children of partners living in the same household. The governing body must comply with the maximum infant class size of 30 children and the Local Authority's systems for random draw will decide which pupil receives an offer.
- I. Where the parents live at different addresses and there is shared parenting, the address used will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings. If there is any doubt, then the address of the Child Benefit recipient will be used. Parents may be asked to show evidence of the claim that is being made for the address used.
- J. In the event of a tie break, distance will be measured in a straight line (radial) from the centre of the home to the centre of the school. If there is 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).
- K. Late applications will be considered by the Governing Body's Admissions Committee who will then liaise with the Local Authority. The Local Authority will be responsible for issuing offers to parents up to the start of the Autumn Term. After the start of the Autumn term, the Governing Body's Admissions Committee will make the decisions and issue letters accordingly.
- L. Where the Governing Body discovers that a child has been awarded a place as a result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent (for example, a false claim that the child has been baptised as a Roman Catholic) which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, then the Governing Body is required to withdraw the offer of the place. The application will then be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.
- M. If the Governing Body has turned down an application for admission, parents can appeal to an independent Appeals Panel. This appeal should be sent in writing to the Clerk to the Governors of the school within 20 days of notification of refusal. The date of notification will be 2 working dates after posting by first class post. The parents must give their reasons to appealing in writing and the decision of the Appeals panel is binding on all parties.

Admission of children outside of their normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if a child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child^[1] may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. Admission Authorities **must** make clear in their admission arrangements the process for requesting admission out of the normal age group.

^[1] The term summer born children relates to all children born from 1 April to 31 August. These children reach compulsory school age on 31 August following their fifth (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on 31 August) It is likely that most requests for summer born children admitted out of their normal age group will come from parents of children born in the later summer months or those born prematurely

Admission authorities **must** make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. *They **must** also take into account the views of the head teacher of the school concerned. When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the admission authority **must** set out clearly the reasons for their decision.*

Where an admission authority agrees to a parents' request for their child to be admitted out of their normal age group and. As a consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to a relevant age group (ie the age group to which pupils are normally admitted to the school) the local authority and admission authority **must** process the application as part of the main admissions round, unless the parental request is made too late for this to be possible, and on the basis of their determined admission arrangements only, including the application oversubscription criteria where applicable. They **must** not give the application lower priority on the basis that the child is being admitted out of their normal age group. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. *This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.*

Appeals should be addressed to:

Clerk to the Governors
St Wulstan's RC School
Governor Services
Fern Bank
210 Coal Clough Lane
Burnley

Parents who are considering sending their child to the school may visit the school at any time by prior appointment with the Head teacher. The most convenient time would be after the afternoon session, though arrangements can be made to visit whilst the school is in operation at a mutually convenient time.

Non-routine admissions

It sometimes happens that a child needs to change school other than at the 'normal' time; such admissions are known as non-routine or in year admissions. Parents wishing their child to attend St Wulstan's RC School should arrange to visit the school. They will be provided with an application form once they have a definite local address. If there is a place in the appropriate class, then the governors will arrange for the admission to take place. If there is no place, then the admissions committee will consider the application and information about how to appeal against the refusal will be provided. Appeals for children moving into the area will not be considered until there is evidence of a permanent address, e.g. exchange of contracts or tenancy agreement with rent book.

If you wish to visit the school before stating your preferences, please contact us.

Appeals for children moving into the area will not be considered until there is evidence of a permanent address, e.g. exchange of contracts or tenancy agreement with rent book. Please note that you cannot re-apply for a place at a school within the same school year unless there has been relevant, significant and material change in the family circumstances.

**DIOCESE OF SALFORD SUPPLEMENTARY FAITH REQUEST FORM
ST WULSTAN'S R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL (LANCASHIRE 11/041)**

Name of Applicant : _____

Address of Applicant : _____

Parish Community in which you live/worship:

Please confirm that the applicant is a baptised Catholic:

Yes : Date and Church in which child was baptised:

NB. The baptismal certificate must be presented to the school.

Signed (Parent/Carer) _____ Date _____