

Saints John Fisher & Thomas More RC High School

Admission Criteria 2021-22

Making an Application

Applications for admission to the school should be made on the common application form enclosed with the Local Authority's brochure, or on-line, via Lancashire County Council's **online admission system** which can be accessed via www.lancashire.gov.uk then search the A-Z to locate 'School Admissions'. Once on the site, parents/guardians can then access the admissions information. In the event you encounter any difficulties in applying online, please contact your Primary School in the first instance.

Supplementary Faith Form

To assist the Governors in the allocation process, parents/guardians wishing to be considered under a faith-based criteria need to complete a **Supplementary Faith Form** at the time of application. Copies are available on the Lancashire County Council admissions website, the school's website or by contacting the school direct.

Completed Supplementary Faith Forms should be returned directly to the school and NOT to Lancashire County Council.

Ss John Fisher & Thomas More Roman Catholic High School serves the contributory parishes and associated primary schools as listed in the addendum below and aims to provide a place for every Catholic child from these areas who seeks a Catholic education.

The standard admission number will be 160. Admission will be in accordance with the following criteria in order of priority.

As required by law all children with a Statement of Special Educational Need/Education Healthcare Plan, naming the school will be admitted before the application of the oversubscription criteria.

If the number of applications received exceeds the places available, the oversubscription criteria will be applied in the following order:

- 1) Roman Catholic children in Public Care and Previously 'Looked After Children'.
- 2) Roman Catholic pupils living in contributory parishes (see addendum) and who attend an associated feeder Roman Catholic Primary School.
- 3) Roman Catholic pupils living in contributory parishes (see addendum).
- 4) Roman Catholic pupils attending an associated feeder Roman Catholic Primary School.
- 5) Other Roman Catholic pupils who have a sibling at the school (see footnote i).
- 6) Other Roman Catholic pupils in a Roman Catholic Primary School.
- 7) Other Roman Catholic pupils.
- 8) Non Roman Catholic children in Public Care and adopted children who were previously looked after.
- 9) Children with a parent/guardian who worships in a Church which is in full membership of Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance and can provide a Christian faith reference and evidence of church attendance within the last two years at the time the application is made. This must be confirmed by the signature of an official of the church or place of worship.
- 10) Non Roman Catholic children:
 - a) Children who attend a main associated feeder Roman Catholic Primary School.
 - b) Non Roman Catholic siblings of children in attendance at the school at the time of transfer (see footnote i)
 - c) i) Special cases – children who have no Statement of Special Educational Need but have **proven and exceptional** medical or social needs where admission to the school might best help satisfy those exceptional needs. The Governors will take into account written medical/social reports and where appropriate will seek external specialist advice.
ii) The children of staff {teaching and non-teaching} of Ss John Fisher & Thomas More RCHS – who have been employed at the school for two or more years at the time the application is made and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
 - d) Other Non Roman Catholic children - In this category, order of priority will be given on the basis of proximity to the school. This will be measured from the centre of the school in Gibfield Road to the centre of the applicant's home.

Footnote

- i) **Siblings:** include children who are legally fostered or adopted, half brothers and sisters and step brothers and sisters residing at the same address and where the sibling is a pupil at Ss John Fisher & Thomas More RCHS at time of transfer.
- ii) **Shared Responsibility:** where the parents live at different addresses and share parental responsibility; the home address will be considered to be where the child benefit is paid. Governors may request documentary evidence to confirm the child's home address.
- iii) **A late application:** is classed as one which has been received after the school has submitted its ranked list of offers to the Local Authority. Where there are extenuating circumstances for an application being received after the last date for applications, and if it is before the governors have established their list of pupils to be admitted, then it will be considered alongside all the others. Otherwise, applications which are received after the last date will be considered after all the others, and placed on the waiting list in order according to the criteria.
- iv) **Waiting list:** in addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful candidates will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the over-subscription criteria set out above and **not** in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. The waiting list will be maintained up to and including 31st December in the academic year of admission.
- v) If only a single place can be offered for twins or siblings who are in the same year group then the Local Authority's system for a random draw will decide which pupil receives an offer.

- vi) 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).

Closing Date for Applications

Please note the **closing date** for on-line applications for admissions in 2021 is **31st October 2020**
Please follow the advice given to you by Lancashire County Council regarding Applications.

Letters/emails informing parents/guardians of whether or not their child has been allocated a place will be sent out by the Local Authority. Statutory date is 1st March of the year of transfer or the next working day.

In Year/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 Ss John Fisher & Thomas More RC High School should arrange to visit the school. They will be provided with an application form and supplementary faith 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 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. 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 family circumstances.

ADDENDUM

Contributory Parishes:

St Joseph's, Barnoldswick
St John Southworth, Nelson
*Sacred Heart, Colne
*Holy Saviour, Nelson
*Ss Peter & Paul, Barrowford
* Known as 'The Good Shepherd Parish' from Jan 2010

Associated Feeder Primary Schools:

Holy Saviour Primary, Nelson
St John Southworth Primary, Nelson
Holy Trinity Primary, Brierfield
Sacred Heart Primary, Colne
St Joseph's Primary, Barnoldswick

Determined Policy: 6 th March 2020
