

# Our Lady Queen of Peace

Catholic High School



**Admission Policy 2027/28**

Determined

**Mission Statement - In Christ We Grow – As a learning community we live out our mission statement striving for excellence through caring, sharing and achieving.**

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic High School is a Catholic School under the trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Its purpose is to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and instrument of government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for, and be admitted to a place at the school, in accordance with these admission arrangements.

The governing body is the admission authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round<sup>1</sup>. The admission authority has set the school's Published Admissions Number ("PAN") at 185 pupils to year 7 in the school year which begins in September 2027.

The admission authority will, where logistically possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within the school's PAN.

### **Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (see note 1)**

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements, this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

### **Within each of the categories listed below, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.**

- (i) Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school, the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made. (see note 9)
- (ii) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) above (see note 7).

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<sup>1</sup> This is for admission to the school at the start of the school year in September and not for applications made in-year

## **Oversubscription Criteria**

*Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority.*

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Catholic children who are resident in the parish of St Richard (see notes 3&10)
3. Other Catholic children (see note 3)
4. Children attending one of the following Catholic Partner Primary Schools in the parishes or former parishes named in criterion 2 above:  
St Edmund's, Skelmersdale                      St John's, Skelmersdale  
St Francis of Assisi, Skelmersdale              St Richard's, Skelmersdale  
St James', Skelmersdale
5. Members of an Eastern Christian Church **not** in full communion with Rome (see note 4)
6. Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion (see note 5)
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader (see note 6)
8. Any other children

## **Tie Break**

The distance criterion will be used as the tie breaker if there is oversubscription within any of the admission criteria; it is a straight line (radial) measure. If the Governing Body is unable to distinguish between applicants using the published criteria (e.g. siblings, those living the same distance from home to school, or families residing in the same block of flats) places will be offered via a random draw. The distance measure is a straight-line measurement (radial) between the applicant's home address points and the address point of the school (co-ordinates provided by ordnance survey data).

## **Application Procedures and Timetable**

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round<sup>2</sup>, you **must** complete a Common Application Form available from the local authority in which you live. You are also requested to complete the Supplementary Information Form attached to this policy if you wish to apply under oversubscription criteria 2 to 3 or 5 to 7. The Supplementary Information Form should be returned in person to **Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic High School** by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2026**.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application on **1<sup>st</sup> March 2027** or the next working day by the local authority on our behalf. If you are unsuccessful (unless your child gained a place at a school you ranked higher) you will be informed of the reasons, related to the oversubscription criteria listed above, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

***If you do not provide the information required in the SIF and return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, your child may not be placed in criteria 1 to 3 or 5 to 7, and this may affect your child's chance of being offered a place.***

**All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026.**

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<sup>2</sup> This is for admission to the school at the start of the school year in September and not for applications made in-year.

## **Late Applications**

Applications for school places which are received late will not necessarily be dealt with at the same time as those received by the set deadline. The reasons for a late application may be requested and where these are not exceptional the relevant admission criteria will be initially applied to all others received on time. The late application will be dealt with after this process.

Application forms received after the published closing date, will only be considered at that time if the following conditions apply:

- (a) If the number of preferences received for the school is below the published admission number or;
- (b) There are extenuating circumstances justifying a late application.

These may include:

- (a) Parents moving into the County after the closing date;
- (b) Parent/carer illness which required hospitalisation for the major part of the period between the publication of the composite prospectus and the closing date for applications.

**Late applications will be administered in accordance with your home Local Authority Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.**

## **Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group**

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Any such request should be made in writing to Mrs M Henshaw, Headteacher at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic High School, Glenburn Road, Skelmersdale, WN8 6JW at the same time as the admission application is made. The admission authority will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the head teacher, including the head teacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the admission authority will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals, including relevant Department for Education, as appropriate.

## **Waiting Lists**

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful applicants will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and **not** in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year. The waiting list will be held open until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2027.

**Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.**

### **In-Year Applications**

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the normal admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. Application should be made to Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic High School by contacting Mr G Diamond, Assistant Headteacher [Admissions | Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic High School](#)

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out above, will be applied.

If there are no places available, the child will be added to the waiting list (see above). You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

### **Fair Access Protocol**

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the admission authority is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol. The admission authority has this power, even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the PAN.

**Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)**

1. An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.
2. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making an application to the school.  
A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
3. 'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic.  
For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest who, after consulting with the Diocese, 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.
4. 'Eastern Christian Church' **not** in full communion with Rome includes Orthodox Churches and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.
5. "children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities" means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.  
All members of Churches Together in England and CYTŪN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis. A Certificate of Baptism or equivalent would be required.
6. "children of other faiths" means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian Ecclesial Communities' at 6 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:
  - A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
  - A religion which does not involve belief in a God.Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.
7. 'brother or sister' includes all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and

8. A 'parent' means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.
9. To demonstrate an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can be most appropriately met at this school, the admission authority will require compelling written evidence from an appropriate professional, such as a social worker, doctor or priest. (Please see Guidance Handbook for further information).
10. For the purposes of this policy, parish boundaries can be confirmed on an individual basis from the School Office.
11. A child's "home address" refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form ("CAF"). Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.



## ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL SUPPLEMENTARY FAITH REQUEST FORM

This form should be completed by the parent/carer and  
**RETURNED TO: Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic High School, Glenburn Road,  
 Skelmersdale, WN8 6JW, or email [admissions@olqp.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@olqp.lancs.sch.uk)**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Name of school applied for | Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic High School |
| Name of child              |  |
| Address of child           |  |

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Is this child a baptised Catholic?   | YES / NO                    |
| If yes, please state parish of baptism and date  | Parish:<br>Date of Baptism: |
| In which parish do you now live (see Note 1)   |                             |
| 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 secondary school and your child was baptised in one of the parishes 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 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.

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| Minister of Religion/Faith Leader        |  |
| Minister/Leader (Print Name)             |  |
| Position held                            |  |
| Minister/Faith Leader's Signature & Date |  |