

**ST KENTIGERN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BLACKPOOL
PROPOSED ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR SEPTEMBER 2012 TO AUGUST 2013**

INTRODUCTION

St Kentigern's is a Catholic Primary School provided by the Diocese of Lancaster and maintained by Blackpool Local Authority as a Voluntary Aided primary school.

The Governing Body is the admissions authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applicants for admission. It operates a system of Equal Preference under which it considers all preferences equally according to its policy.

The Governors welcome applications from Catholic and non-Catholic parents who would like their children educated within the aims and ethos of St Kentigern's Catholic School.

St Kentigern's is a Catholic Primary School in which the Catholic Faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church are important aspects of school life and influence the school curriculum.

We ask 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.

The Governing Body is responsible for admissions within the requirements of the law. In doing so, the Governing Body has regard for:

- a. The advice of the Diocesan Trustees on the nature and purpose of Catholic schools.
- b. The Governing Body's responsibility towards the school and the Catholic Community serves.
- c. The Catholic character of the school and Mission Statement.

It is the duty of the Governors to comply with class size limits at Key Stage One. This means that the school cannot operate classes in Key Stage One of more than 30 children. No more than 30 children will be admitted to any one reception or infant class.

For September 2011, the Admission Number for St Kentigern's Catholic Primary was 30. A total of 93 applications were received by the closing date.

The Governing Body has set the planned admissions number for September 2012 at 30. The Local Authority and other parties required by law have been consulted on this.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSION IN SEPTEMBER 2012

1. Applications for a place at the school should be made on the Local Authority common application form or online and returned to the Local Authority no later than Sunday 15th January 2012.
2. Parents must complete the common application form available from the Local Authority. Parents who wish their applications to this Catholic School to be considered against the priority faith criteria should also complete the Schools Supplementary Information Form. If the school is oversubscribed, failure to complete the supplementary 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.

The supplementary information form should be returned to the school by Sunday 15th January 2012

3. Each Roman Catholic applicant will be required to produce a baptismal certificate or other evidence of baptism
4. The admissions committee of the Governing Body will consider all applications at the same time after the given closing date.
5. Parents or guardians will be informed of the outcome of their application in writing by the Local Authority on Monday 23rd April 2012
6. As required by law, all children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school will be admitted before the application of the oversubscription criteria.

OVERSCRIPTION CRITERIA

The Governors will admit up to 30 children in September 2012. If the number of applications for admission exceeds the places available, children will be admitted subject to the following criteria which will be used to form a priority order.

- A. Baptised Catholic children in public care.
- B. Baptised Catholic children who attend weekly Mass at St Kentigern's.
- C. Baptised Catholic children who worship weekly and live in the parish of St Kentigern's with a sibling in the school at the time of expected admission.
- D. Baptised Catholic children who worship weekly and live in the parish of St Kentigern's.
- E. Other Baptised Catholic children with a sibling in the school at the time of expected admission.
- F. Other Baptised Catholic children who live in the parish of St Kentigern's
- G. Other Baptised Catholic children
- H. Other children whose parents wish them to be educated within the aims and values of a Catholic school.
- I. Other children in public care.
- J. Other children

Where there are more preferences for St Kentigern's than there are places available, the Governing Body employs its oversubscription criteria to objectively determine which children should be offered a place at that particular school.

In the event of the admission number being reached within any one of the oversubscription criteria in the order listed above, the distance criteria will be used as a "tie breaker". The distance between an applicant's home and school is measured as a straight line from the Ordnance Survey address point of the home address to the main entrance of the school. The Ordnance Survey address point is the point within the boundary of the property and is usually located at its centre. Distances are measured using the Councils' Geographic Information System. In the event of equal distance, a random allocation will be used to determine who takes priority for a place.

Admission after September

Parents requesting a place at this school in any year group, either because they are new to Blackpool, or because they are wishing to transfer from another Blackpool school will be required to complete a common application form, allowing them to express up to three preferences.

The admission of all students to Blackpool schools will be co-ordinated by the School Admissions Team, in line with recent changes in legislation.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Children in Public Care

This means a child who is looked after by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. This is a child in public care who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority.

Siblings

Sibling refers to full brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters. Stepchildren or foster children who live at the same address are also classed as sibling.

Address of Pupil

The address used on the school's admission form must be the current one at the time of application. If the address changes subsequently, the parents should notify the school. In some cases, for example, where shared parental living arrangements are in place, a child's address may be difficult to determine. In these circumstances, the address used for child benefit purposes, ie, the address of the parent claiming the child benefit, will be used.

If you are moving house and applying for the school and it is not oversubscribed, using your new address may not be a problem. In the event of oversubscription it may be possible to consider your application on the basis of an address you are intending to move to. You must be resident at a specific address and not just stated intention to move to an area. You must provide evidence that you have exchanged contracts on a house or have an offer of tenancy on a property in which you intend to live and which will be in place when your child would start at the school. This evidence must be submitted as soon as possible and no later than the deadline of 15th January 2012. Further evidence, eg utility bills, will also need to be submitted by this date.

Multiple Births

Where there are twins or multiple birth children wanting admission and there is only one single place or insufficient places available to admit 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 both 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 then the Governing Body, as admission authority, will use a random draw system to decide which pupil receives an offer.

If only one place can be offered then the parents will be advised to go to appeal for the other child/children.

Late Applications

Applications received after the closing date of 15th January 2012 will be treated as late applications. Only in exceptional circumstances, and where appropriate evidence is provided, will applications received after the closing date (but before offers of places have been made) be considered alongside those received on time.

Waiting List

A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the admissions criteria. Parents/guardians are invited to contact the school if they wish to be informed of their child's position on the waiting list.

Appeal Arrangement

If an application for admission has been turned down by the Governing Body parents can appeal to an independent appeals panel. This appeal should be sent in writing to the clerk of the governors at the school within 14 days of notification of refusal. The date of notification will be considered to be 2 working days after posting by first class post of the refusal to offer a place. The parents must be given their reasons for appealing in writing. The decision of the appeal panel is binding on the parents and the Governing Body.