



ADMISSIONS POLICY

St Mary's Catholic College, Blackpool is an 11-18 voluntary aided comprehensive college

Headteacher: Mr S P Tierney B.Sc. (Hons)

Chairman of Governors: Mr B Leyland



ADMISSIONS TO ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE - SEPTEMBER 2011 ADMISSIONS NUMBER: 210

The Governors are responsible for determining the admission arrangements and numbers in consultation with the Local Authority. The Governors operate an Equal Preference Admissions scheme.

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

Admission to St. Mary's Catholic College is in accordance with the following criteria:

1. *Catholic children in the care of the local education authority or provided with accommodation by that authority as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.
2. Catholic **siblings of Catholic students, already attending St. Mary's Catholic College, who attend the following Primary Schools:
St. John Vianney, St. Kentigern, Holy Family, St. Bernadette, Christ the King, Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Cuthbert, St. Mary's, Great Eccleston, St. John's, Poulton, St. Teresa's, Cleveleys.
3. Catholic pupils attending the schools named in 2.
4. Catholic pupils attending other Catholic Primary Schools.
5. Catholic pupils attending non-Catholic Primary Schools.
6. Other children in the care of the local education authority or provided with accommodation by that authority as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.
7. People of faith*** who have siblings, already attending St. Mary's Catholic College, who attend the following Primary Schools:
St. John Vianney, St. Kentigern, Holy Family, St. Bernadette, Christ the King, Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Cuthbert, St. Mary's Great Eccleston, St. John's, Poulton, St. Teresa's, Cleveleys.
8. People of faith attending the Primary Schools named in 7.
9. People of faith who have siblings, already attending St. Mary's Catholic College, who attend non-Catholic Primary Schools.
10. People of faith attending non-Catholic Primary Schools.
11. Other siblings of students, already attending St. Mary's Catholic College, who attend the following Primary Schools:
St. John Vianney, St. Kentigern, Holy Family, St. Bernadette, Christ the King, Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Cuthbert, St. Mary's Great Eccleston, St. John's, Poulton, St. Teresa's, Cleveleys.

12. Other pupils attending the Primary Schools named in 11.

13. Other siblings of students, already attending St. Mary's Catholic College, who attend non-Catholic Primary Schools.

14. Other students attending non-Catholic Primary Schools.

Where there are more students seeking admission than places available, within a stated criterion, the Governors will apply the following tiebreakers in order of priority:

1. Children or their parents with exceptional and specific educational, medical, social or emotional needs relevant to the College, whose application is supported by appropriate written evidence.
2. 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 a point within the boundary of the property and is usually located at its centre. Distances are measured using the Council's Geographic Information System.

The College will maintain a waiting list of unsuccessful applicants from parents of Year 6 pupils. The order of pupils on the waiting list will be determined using the criteria above. Pupils will be admitted from the waiting list up to the College's published Admission Number. Parents will be notified whether there is a place for their child in the final full college week.

*Catholic is defined as a person who has been accepted into the Catholic Church through the Rite of Baptism. Parents may be required to provide a Baptism Certificate.

**Sibling is defined as a full, half or step brother or sister who is resident at the same address at the time of application and is currently on the roll of St. Mary's Catholic College at the time of application.

***People of faith are defined as those who can provide proof of active membership of a Faith Community, e.g. a letter from a minister/pastor or baptismal certificate. The letter/baptismal certificate must be submitted with the application form. Alternatively, the term is defined as those making a positive choice and commitment for their child to be educated within the Mission of St. Mary's Catholic College and the values of a Christian education. Parents must provide their supporting statement on either the application form or in a separate letter submitted with the application form.

Where "shared parenting" occurs the any determination, including the straight line distance, will be taken from the residence that the child spends greatest time in during the week in term time. This must be clearly stated on the application form.

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 priority will be given according to birth order with the eldest/elder child(ren) having priority. If insufficient places can be offered then the parents will be advised to go to appeal for the other child/children.

Applications received after the closing date stated by Blackpool Local Authority, as part of the common admission process, will be treated as late applications. Late applications received through the common admissions process and forwarded to the College Governors prior to their Admissions Meeting and determinations will be considered equally. However, late applications received by the College Governors after the Governors' Admission Meeting will not be considered.