

ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSION POLICY

Introduction

St Bernadette's is a Catholic School provided by the Diocese of Lancaster and maintained by Blackpool Council as a voluntary aided primary school.

The Governing Body is the admissions authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applicants for admission.

The Governors welcome applications from Catholic and non-Catholic parents who wish to have their children educated within the aims and ethos of St Bernadette's Catholic School.

St Bernadette'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 right 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:

- I. The advice of the Diocesan Trustees on the nature and purpose of Catholic schools;**
- II. The Governing Body's responsibility towards the school and the Catholic community it serves;**
- III. The Catholic character of the school and its Mission Statement.**

The Governing Body Admissions Committee is comprised of the following Governors: Fr Steve Pearson (Chair of Governors and Parish Priest), Mr Peter Lavelle (Link Governor) and Mr Sean O'Hare (Headteacher).

It is the duty of the Governing Body 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 2009, the Admission Number for St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School was 30. A total of 57 applications were received by the closing date.

- 15 applicants were admitted under criterion B of the 2009 policy
- 7 were admitted under criterion C
- 3 were admitted under criterion D
- 2 were admitted under criterion F (1)
- 2 were admitted under criterion F

NB. The figures for 2010 are not yet available

The Governing body has set the planned admissions number for September 2011 at 30. The Local Authority and other parties required by law have been consulted on this.

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ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSION IN SEPTEMBER 2011

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 Friday 14th January 2011.**
2. Parents must complete the common application form available from the Local Authority. Parents who wish their application to this Catholic school to be considered against the priority faith criteria should also complete **St Bernadette's School's 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.
3. **The Supplementary Information Form should be returned to the school by Friday 14th January 2011.**
4. Each Catholic applicant will be required to produce a baptismal certificate or other evidence of baptism.
5. The admissions committee of the Governing Body will consider all applications at the same time after the given closing date.
6. Parents or guardians will be informed of the outcome of their application in writing by the School and Local Authority **on Tuesday 26th April 2011.**
7. As required by law, all children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school will be admitted before the application of the over- subscription criteria.

ADMISSIONS (OVER-SUBSCRIPTION) CRITERIA

The Governors will admit up to 30 children in September 2011. If the number of applications for admission exceeds the places available, children will be admitted in the order of priority A – F set out below:

- A. **Baptised Catholic children in public care.**
- B. **Baptised* Catholic children worshipping at St Bernadette's Church and with a sibling in the school at the time of expected admission.**
- C. **Other baptised Catholic children worshipping at St Bernadette's Church.**
- D. **Other baptised Catholic children living in St Bernadette's Parish and with a sibling in school at the time of expected admission.**
- E. **Other baptised Catholic children living in St Bernadette's Parish.**
- F. **Other baptised Catholic children with a sibling in school at the time of expected admission.**
- G. **Other baptised Catholic children.**
- H. **Other children who are in public care.**
- I. **Other children whose parents wish them to be educated within the aims and values of a Catholic school.**

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In the event of over-subscription in any of the above criteria, places will be allocated according to the following tie-breaker criterion:

Applicants living nearest to the school. (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 Councils' Geographic Information System.)

EXPLANATORY NOTES (These notes are part of the policy)

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 that 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, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. Stepchildren or foster children who live at the same address are also classed as siblings

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 a stated intention to move to an area. You must provide evidence that you have exchanged contracts on a house or have an offer of a 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 **Friday 14th January 2011**. Further evidence, eg utility bills, will also need to be submitted by **Friday 14th January 2011**.

Multiple Births

Where there are twins or multiple birth children wanting admission and there is only one single place left 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 the twins or the 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.

Late Applications

Applications received after the closing date of **Friday 14th January 2011** 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. The waiting list will be closed at the end of the Autumn term.

Fraudulent Applications

Where the Governing Body discovers that a child has been awarded a place as a result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent, e.g. where a false address has been provided, then the Governing Body is required to withdraw the offer of a place. The application will then be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

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Appeal Arrangements

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 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 give their reasons for appealing in writing. The decision of the appeal panel is binding on the parents and on the governing body.