



## 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 2012 ADMISSIONS NUMBER: 210

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

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

As required by the Education and Inspection Act 2006 and the Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006, St. Mary's Catholic College gives the highest priority to Looked After Children.

A Looked After Child is a child in the care of the Local Authority or provided with accommodation by the Authority (as defined in Section 22 of the Children's Act 1989) at the time of application and allocation.

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

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

- \*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.**
- 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.**
- Catholic pupils attending the schools named in 2.**
- Catholic pupils attending other Catholic Primary Schools.**
- Catholic pupils attending non-Catholic Primary Schools.**
- 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.**
- 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.**
- People of faith attending the Primary Schools named in 7.**

9. **People of faith attending other Catholic Primary Schools.**
10. **People of faith who have siblings, already attending St. Mary's Catholic College, who attend non-Catholic Primary Schools.**
11. **People of faith attending non-Catholic Primary Schools.**
12. **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.**
13. **Other pupils attending the Primary Schools named in 11.**
14. **Other pupils attending other Catholic Primary Schools.**
15. **Other siblings of students, already attending St. Mary's Catholic College, who attend non-Catholic Primary Schools.**
16. **Other pupils attending non-Catholic Primary Schools.**

If the number of children in any of the categories 1-16 is greater than the places available, applications will be further ranked as follows:

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. Children living nearest the College as measured by a straight line distance from the main entrance of the College to the Ordnance Survey point of the applicant's address. 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.

\* For admission to this Catholic school a baptised Catholic is

- One who has been baptised into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various ritual Churches in communion with the See of Rome (Proof of baptism with a copy of a baptismal certificate or details of the date and place of baptism may be requested).
- A child, baptised in another Christian Faith who has been received into full communion with the Roman Catholic faith. (Proof of baptism and reception from the Register of Receptions or Baptismal Register will be required)
- A child who, with his or her family, is enrolled in a recognised course of preparation leading to Catholic baptism (Proof of enrolment with details of the place and date of enrolment from the appropriate parish records will be required).
- One who is a member of the Eastern Christian Churches and the Orthodox Churches. (Proof of baptism with a copy of a baptismal certificate, details of the date and place of baptism or certificate of reception will be required).

\*\* 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

\*\*\*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.

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.

### **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 parents will be advised a random draw will take place. If insufficient places can be offered then the parents will be advised to go to appeal for the other child/children.

### **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 have 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 closing date stated by Blackpool Local Authority, as part of the common admission process. Further evidence, eg utility bills, may also need to be submitted.

### **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, for example, 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.