

St George's School
A Church of England Business & Enterprise College

Admissions for Year 7 in 2012

St. George's School, A Church of England Business and Enterprise College welcomes children from all faiths and no faith. The Governors of the College are committed to developing an inclusive school that reflects the diversity of the local community. While welcoming all applications, the Governors have an expectation that all pupils will attend religious education lessons and take part in the Christian worship of the College.

Applications for admission to the College for September 2011 should be made on the Common Application Form enclosed with the Local Authority's brochure between 5th September 2011 and Monday, 31st October 2011. It is not normally possible to change the order of your preferences for schools after the closing date.

Parents must complete the Local Authority Application Form. Parents who wish their application to this Church College to be considered against the Faith criteria should also complete the questions on the common application form about their faith reference. If the school is oversubscribed, a failure to complete these supplementary questions may result in your application for a place in this College being considered against lower priority criteria as the Governing Body will have no information upon which to assess the worship attendance.

Applications may also be made on-line by using the Common Application Form with the supplementary questions.

Letters informing parents of whether or not their child has been allocated a place will be sent out by the Local Authority on Thursday 1st March 2012. Parents of children not admitted will be informed of the reason and offered an alternative place by the Authority.

The Governing Body is responsible for the admission of pupils to St. George's School and will admit 190 pupils to Year 7 in September 2012.

Out of the 190 places the Governing Body intends to allocate 170 "Open Places" for the local community (i.e. for those who live closest to the College); 20 "Foundation Places" (for practising Christians within Blackpool Authority and for practising Christians in named parishes within Lancashire Authority) Parents living outside Blackpool may apply for Foundation places. If Foundation Places are undersubscribed, places will be allocated to applicants for Open Places. This arrangement follows consultation between the Governing Body, the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education, the Local Education and other admissions authorities in the area.

The Governing Body will not place any restrictions on admissions to Year 7 unless the number of children for whom admission is sought exceeds their admission number.

The Governing Body operates a system of equal preferences under which they consider all preferences equally and the Local Authority co-ordinates the allocation Process according to its policy. In the event that the school is oversubscribed, after admitting all children with a Statement of Educational Need naming the school, the Governing Body will allocate places using the following criteria, which are listed in order of priority.

Wherever they live the Governing Body will apply the following Criteria:-

- Children in Public Care
- Children with special medical or social circumstances affecting the child where these needs can only be met at this school. *Please note, supporting evidence from a professional, e.g. doctor, psychologist, social worker, is essential if admission is to be made under the criterion for special medical or social circumstances, and such evidence must set out the particular reasons why the school in question is the most suitable school and the difficulties which would be caused if the child had to attend another school.*

Open Places (170)

1. Children whose parents live within the three ecclesiastical parishes of:-

St Wilfrid's, Mereside
Blackpool St Christopher's & St Nicholas'
St Paul's, Marton

and all children educated at Baines Endowed & St Nicholas' Church of England Primary Schools.

A map showing the boundaries is available in school.

2. Children who have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission.

Siblings include step, half, foster, adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address.

3. Children living outside the three parishes who will have spent their last two years of primary education in a Church of England Primary School.

4. Other children

Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category, then the distance from the home to school will be used as the final determining factor. 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. Where there is more than one application from a postal address contained within a block of flats, priority will be given to the applicant residing in the lower storey flat. Distances are measured using the Council's Geographic Information System.

Foundation Places (20)

The Governing Body has designated 20 places each year as Foundation places, to be offered to:

- (i) pupils whose families are faithful and regular worshippers in an Anglican or Methodist Church within the Deanery of Blackpool.
- (ii) pupils whose families live within and are faithful and regular worshippers at any church in membership of Churches Together in England in one of the following Church of England parishes: St Luke's, Staining, Heyhouses (St. Annes), St Margaret of Antioch (St Annes), St Thomas (St Annes), St Nicholas (Ribby with Wrea), St Michael (Weeton), St Paul's (Ansdell), St John's (Lytham) & St Cuthbert's (Lytham).

Parents must complete the Local Authority Common Application Form. Parents who wish their application to the College to be considered against the faith criteria should also complete the Supplementary Form. This is obtainable through the College website:

www.st-george.blackpool.sch.uk

If the College is oversubscribed, a failure to complete the Supplementary Form may result in your application for a place being considered against lower priority criteria as the Governing Body will have no information upon which to assess the worship attendance. If there are more than 20 applicants, places will be allocated according to the following criteria. These are stated in order of priority:

1. Children with a parent/guardian who are regular worshippers at St Wilfrid's, Mereside, St Christopher's & St Nicholas', or St Paul's, Marton, and St John's Blackpool.
2. Children whose parents are regular worshippers in an Anglican or Methodist Church within the Deanery of Blackpool.
3. Children whose families live within and are faithful and regular worshippers at any church in membership of Churches Together in England in one of the following Church of England parishes: St Luke's, Staining, Heyhouses (St. Annes), St Margaret of Antioch (St Annes), St Thomas

(St.Annes), St Nicholas (Ribby with Wrea), St Michael (Weeton), St Paul's (Ansdell), St John's (Lytham) & St Cuthbert's (Lytham).

4. Children with a parent/guardian worshipping in a non-Christian faith which is in membership of the UK Interfaith network.

The major world faiths are those in membership of the UK Interfaith network; in addition to Christians, it includes Buddhists, Baha'is, Hindus, Jains, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Zoroastrians.

5. Children who have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission.

Siblings include step, half, foster, adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address.

Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category, then the distance from the home to school will be used as the final determining factor. 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 College. 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.

If there are fewer than 20 qualified applicants for Foundation places, any unfilled places will become additional Open places. If Open applicants are successful in gaining a Foundation place, their name will be removed from the list of Open Candidates.

Notes for Open and Foundation places

1. **Professional supporting evidence, e.g. a doctor, psychologist, social worker, is essential if admission is to be made under Criterion 1 for Special Medical or Social Circumstances. Such evidence must set out the particular reasons why the College is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school.**
2. Worshipping is normally taken to mean a monthly parental attendance at church for a minimum of a year. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is taken on the 1st September in the year prior to admission to the College.
3. "Brother or sister" includes step, half, foster and adopted siblings living at the same address.

Admissions Information:

In 2011 there were 216 first preferences for 190 places.

Late applications for admission:

Where there are extenuating circumstances for an application being received after the last date for applications, and it is before the Governors have established their list of pupils to be admitted, then it will be considered alongside all the others.

Otherwise, applications which are received after the last date will be considered after all the others, and placed on the waiting list in order according to the criteria.

Waiting List:

Where we have more applications than places, the admissions criteria will be used. Children who are not admitted will have their name placed on a waiting list. The names on this waiting list will be in the order resulting from the application of the admissions criteria. Since the date of application cannot be a criterion for the order of names on the waiting list, late applicants for the College will be slotted into the order according to the extent to which they meet the criteria. Thus it is possible that a child who moves into the area later to have a higher priority than one who has been on the waiting list for some time. If a place becomes available within the admission number, the child whose name is at the top of the list will be offered a place. This is not dependent on whether an appeal has been submitted.

The waiting list will operate for the full Autumn Term.

Address of Pupil:

The address used on the College's admission form must be the current one at the time of application. If the address changes subsequently, the parents should notify the College. Where the parents live at different addresses, the current-at-the-time-of-application, normal address of the child will be the one used. This will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday morning. Parents may be asked to show evidence of the claim that is being made for the address, e.g. identity cards of various sorts showing the child's address as the one claimed. Where there is dispute about the correct address to use, the Governors reserve the right to make enquiries of any relevant third parties, e.g. the child's GP. For children of UK Service personnel and other Crown Servants returning to the area proof of the posting is all that is required.

Non-routine Admissions:

It sometimes happens that a child needs to change school other than at the "normal" time; such admissions are known as non-routine admissions. Parents wishing their child to attend St.George's School should arrange to visit the school and discuss an application for admission.

If there is no place in the year group, then the admissions committee will consider the application and information about how to appeal against the refusal will be provided. Appeals for children moving into the area will not be considered until there is evidence of a permanent address, e.g. exchange of contracts or tenancy agreement with rent book.

Please note that you can only appeal once for a place at a school within the same school year unless there has been relevant, significant and material change in the family circumstances.

Appeals:

Where the Governors are unable to offer a place because the College is over subscribed, parents have the right to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, as amended by the Education Act, 2002. **Parents should notify the Clerk to the Governors Admissions Panel at the College within 14 days of receiving the letter refusing a place.** Parents will have the opportunity to submit their case to the panel in writing and also to attend in order to present their case. You will normally receive 14 days' notice of the place and time of the hearing.

Fraudulent Applications:

Where the Governing Body discovers that a child has been awarded a place as the result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent (for example a false claim to residence in the catchment area or of involvement in a place of worship) which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, then the Governing Body is required to withdraw the offer of the place. The application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.