



Admissions Policy

Reviewed: Autumn Term 2023

Review due: **Spring Term 2029**

Holy Infant & St Anthony R.C. Primary School

Admission Policy and arrangements

Holy Infant & St. Anthony RC Primary School is a Catholic School in the trusteeship of the Diocese of Salford. It is maintained by Bolton Local Authority and is a Voluntary Aided School. The Governing Board is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for taking all decisions on applications for admissions. Bolton Local Authority undertakes the co-ordination of admissions arrangements.

For the school's year commencing September, the Governing Board has determined that the number of children to be admitted to the Reception Class will be 30.

The school's role is to participate in the mission of the Catholic Church by providing a curriculum, including Catholic religious education and worship, which will help children to grow in their understanding of the Good News and in the practice of their faith. The school will help the children develop fully as human beings and prepare them to undertake their responsibilities as Catholics in society. The school requires all parents applying for a place here to understand and respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the rights of parents who are not of the Catholic faith to apply for a place within our school.

The Governing Board will determine admissions to the school.

If there are fewer than 30 applications, all applicants will be offered places.

If there are more applications than the number of places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be applied:

1. Baptised Catholic Looked After Children and baptised Catholic previously looked After Children, this includes Looked After Children from overseas
2. Children with an exceptional social, medical, educational or religious need which can be best met, or only met at this school;*
3. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
4. Baptised Catholic children resident in the parish of Holy Infant & St Anthony (A map of Parish boundary can be accessed through either the school or the church).
5. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children, including from overseas.
6. Baptised Catholic Children of members of all staff, who have been employed at the school for two or more years at the time the application is made.
7. Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
8. Other Baptised Catholic Children.
9. All remaining applicants.

**Exceptional needs of this kind will occur very rarely. It is strongly recommended that a written application is submitted in advance of the normal admissions timetable.*

If it is not possible to offer places for all applications within any criterion above, priority will be given to those living closest to the school which is measured "as the crow flies" as distance from home to school by the local authority. In the event of distances being the same for two or more applicants, places will be allocated by the method used by the local authority which is "random allocation".

Notes for Applicants:

- a. All applications will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is **15th January**. Applications received after this date will be **treated as a late application** and will not be considered until **after** the main allocation of places has taken place. BMBC will confirm places on **16th April**.
- b. A **Looked After Child** is a child who is (a) in the care of a Local Authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their Social Services functions (under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). A previously Looked After Child is one who immediately moved on from that **status** after becoming subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. This policy includes previously Looked After Children from overseas.
- c. For a child to be considered as a Catholic evidence of a Catholic Baptism or reception into the Catholic Church is required. Written evidence of reception into the Catholic Church can be obtained by referring to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the Church in which the Rite of Reception took place. If, for example, a child has been baptised in the Church of England and the parents are subsequently admitted to the Catholic Church through the RCIA programme, the child must also be admitted to the Church by the Rite of Reception.

The Governing Board will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of 'Baptised Catholics'. A Certificate of Reception is to include full name, date of birth, date of reception and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of reception.

Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to the parish priest who, after consulting with the Salford Diocesan authority will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

- d. Home Address is considered to be the address where the child normally lives. Where care is split and a child moves between two addresses, the household in receipt of the child benefit would normally be the address used but the admission authority body reserves the right to request other evidence as fit the individual circumstance. Applicants should not state the address of another relative or person who has daily care of the child.
- e. 'Sibling' is defined in these arrangements as full, half or step brothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit. This does not include cousins or other family relationships.
- f. A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the Admission Criteria. The waiting list does not consider the date the application was received or the length of time a child's name has been on the waiting list. This means that a child's position on the list may change if another applicant is refused a place and their child has higher priority in the admissions criteria.

The waiting list will only be maintained for the statutory period (until 31 December). After 31 December, parents wishing their child continue to be considered for a school place will need to reapply using the procedure for 'In Year' admissions.

- g. For 'In Year' applications received outside the normal admissions round, if places are available they will be offered to those who apply. If there are places available but more applicants than places then the published oversubscription criteria will be applied. For 'In Year' admissions, waiting lists will be held for one term:

Term 1: 1 September to 31 December

Term 2: 1 January to 12 April

Term 3: 13 April to 31 August

After a waiting list ends on 31 December, 12 April or 31 August, parents wishing their child continue to be considered for a school place in the next school term will need to reapply.

- h. If an application for admission has been turned down by the Governing Board, parents may appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Parents must be allowed at least twenty school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful, to submit the appeal. Upon receipt of the appeal, 20 school days will be permitted for the additional evidence provided and the reason for the appeal to be considered. Parents will be given at least 10 school days' notice of their appeal hearing. Decision letters regarding the appeal will be sent within 5 school days of the hearing wherever possible. Parents must give reasons for appealing in writing and the decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on the Governors.
- i. The Governing Board reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to the application.
- j. It is the duty of governors to comply with regulations on class size limits for children aged between rising five and seven. The Governing Board may exceed the regulations for twins and children from multiple births where one of the children is the 30th child admitted. This also applies to in-year applicants who are Looked After/previously Looked After Children of UK service personnel or children who move into the area for whom there is no other school available within a reasonable distance.
- k. If a child is a "summer born child", parents may request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred to later in the school year. However, the child must start school before the end of that school year. If a parent wishes their child to be educated out of their normal school year (kept back a year), they must discuss this with the school before applying. However, the final decision on this rests with the Head Teacher.
- l. Parents may request that their child attend school part-time until he/she reaches his/her fifth birthday.