



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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DRAFT ADMISSION POLICY 2026-27

Holy Family Catholic Primary School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and articles of association, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with these admission arrangements.

The Holy Family Local Governing Body, operating under the Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust (BEBCMAT), is the admission authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round. The admission authority has set the school's Published Admissions Number ("PAN") at 30 pupils to be admitted to the reception year in the school year which begins in September, 2026

Applications for a place at the school should be made online through Blackpool Council's website-Blackpool Primary School Admissions. If you would prefer to apply using a paper application form, email schoolaccess@blackpool.gov.uk or telephone 01253 476637. Parents who wish their application to Holy Family to be considered against the faith criteria should also complete the supplementary form and return it to the school no later than xx **January 2026**. Each Catholic applicant will be required to produce a baptismal certificate or other evidence of baptism.

If the school is oversubscribed, a 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 your faith criteria. Parents or carers will be informed of whether their child has been offered a place by the Authority in **April 2026**.

The admission authority will, where logistically possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked

For unsuccessful applications the letter will give the reason for the decision and will tell parents of their right to appeal. Guidance on how to appeal will also be included. Children who are admitted will normally enter the school at the start of the Autumn term.

Admissions (over-subscription) criteria

As required by law, all children with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school will be admitted before the application of the oversubscription criteria.

The Local Governing Body will admit 30 children in September 2026. If the number of applications for admission exceeds the places available, children will be admitted in the order of priority A-G set out below.

- A Baptised Catholic looked after and previously looked after children
- B Baptised Catholic children living in the parishes of Holy Family or Sacred Heart.
- C Other baptised Catholic children.
- D Other looked after and previously looked after children.
- E Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church.
- F Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader.
- G Other children

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

1. Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school, the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.
2. The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

TIE BREAK

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

Children living nearest the pre-defined centre point of the two parishes (Gynn Square roundabout) measured in a straight line (using the local authority's computerised measuring system) from this central point on a local street map to the child's front door.

Late Applications

Applications received after the closing date 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.

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 may contact the school to ascertain child's position on the waiting list.

The address used on the school admission form must be the current one at the time of application. Where the parents live at different addresses the one where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings will be used. Parents may be asked to provide evidence. Where there is a dispute over the current address the Governors reserve the right to make enquiries of a third party e.g. the child's General Practitioner.

In Year/Mid year/Non Routine/Casual Admissions

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the normal admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. Application forms are available from the school office.

If there are no places available, the child will be added to the waiting list (see above).

Fair Access Protocol

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the admission authority is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where exceptional circumstances exist, even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the PAN (subject to the infant class size exceptions).

The admission authority reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place or, where a child is already attending the school the place itself, where it is satisfied that the offer or place was obtained by deception.

EXPLANATORY NOTES (These notes are part of the policy)

EHCP

An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.

Public Care

A child in public care means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making an application to the school.

A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted, or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Baptised Catholic

Please note this is not a change in our admission policy, it is a definition for the purpose of clarification. 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 will be required)

Children of other Christian denominations

Children of other Christian denominations means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All members of Churches Together in England and CYTÛN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis. **(Proof of baptism and a faith reference 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).

***Children in public care**

This means a child (or adopted child who has previously been in care) 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 who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority.

****A Sibling**

A 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.