



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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ADMISSION POLICY 2025-26

Holy Family is a Catholic school situated in the Diocese of Lancaster and part of the Blessed Edward Bamber Multi Academy Trust. The Local Governing Body is responsible for admissions within the requirements of the law. In doing so, the Governing Body has a regard for:

- (a) the advice of the Diocesan Trustees on the nature and purpose of Catholic schools;
- (b) the Governing Body's responsibility towards the school and the Catholic community it serves;
- (c) the Catholic character of the school and its Mission Statement.

The Governing Body has set the planned admissions number for 2025-26 at 30. The Local Authority and other parties required by law have been consulted on this.

No more than 30 children will be admitted to any one Reception (EYFS) or Key Stage One class.

The Governors welcome applications from Catholic and non-Catholic parents who would like their children educated within the aims and ethos of Holy Family Catholic School.

Holy Family is a Catholic Primary School in which the Catholic faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church are essential 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.

Applications for a place at the school should be made online through Blackpool Council's website-Blackpool C Primary School Admissions. If you would prefer to apply using a paper application form, email schoolaccess@blackpool.gov.uk or telephone 01253 476637.

Those wanting a place at Holy Family must apply for a place via the Blackpool schools' admission online system between September 2024 and January 2025. Parents who wish their application to this church school to be considered against the faith criteria should also complete the supplementary form and return it to the school no later than **15th January 2025**. Each Catholic applicant will be required to produce a baptismal certificate or other evidence of baptism. (Please see '**Baptised Catholic**' in the Explanatory Notes)

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

guardians will be informed of whether their child has been offered a place by the Authority in **April 2025**.

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 Governing Body will admit 30 children in September 2025. 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 children in public care*.
- B Baptised Catholic children who regularly attend Sunday Mass (which includes Saturday evenings) in the Parishes of Holy Family or Sacred Heart.
- C Baptised Catholic children living in the parish of Holy Family or Sacred Heart.
- D Other baptised Catholic children.
- E Children in public care who are not Catholic.
- F Children with exceptional medical and/or social needs where these needs can only be met at this school. Professional supporting evidence from e.g. a 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 this school is the most suitable school for those difficulties.
- G Other children

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 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 waiting list will cease to operate at the start of the Spring Term.

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.

Holy Family operates an equal preference policy.

In Year/Mid year/Non Routine/Casual Admissions

All parents requesting a school place, either because they are new to Blackpool LA or because they are wishing to transfer schools within Blackpool during the school year will be required to complete the relevant Local Authority Application Form.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(These notes are part of the policy)

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 with a copy of a baptismal certificate or details of the date and place of baptism will OR may be required)

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 OR may 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 OR may 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.