Mount Carmel Roman Catholic High School

Wordsworth Road, Accrington BB5 0LU
01254 233458
11-16 Mixed Comprehensive

Head: Ms C Farrelly
Number on Roll October 2026: 806
Admission number: 162

ADMISSION POLICY FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2027/2028

The governing body of Mount Carmel RC High School will be using an equal preference model when considering admission to their school. This means that all applications will be considered equally against the schools published admissions policy and when considering admission, the school will not be aware if the application made is a first, second or third preference. For the school year commencing September 2027 the Governing Body has set its planned admissions number at 162.

The governing body will inform the Local Authority of the children who are to be offered admission. The LA will ensure that no child is offered admission of more than one school. If any children can be offered places at more than one school, the LA will offer the place at the school which is the highest ranked. For example, if a child can be offered a place at the 1st and 2nd preference school, a place will only be offered at the 1st preference school.

In order to maximise the chance of gaining admission at the school of your choice, parents/carers are advised to indicate the school they would like their child to most attend as their 1st preference.

The Governors recognise that the first responsibility of the school is to serve the Catholic community for which it has been established. This is focused on designated parish communities and the Catholic primary schools that are partners in providing those communities. The governors also wish to serve primary schools in the 'Oswaldtwistle & Church Cluster' which partner with Mount Carmel RC High School as well as families whose children attend other Christian faith primary schools. In establishing their admission criteria, the Governors have also taken full account of the Code of Practice produced by the DfE.

All preferences listed on the Local Authority Application Form will be considered on an equal basis with the following set of admissions criteria used to form a priority order if there are more applications for admission that the school has places available. In the criteria the following meanings will apply:

(a) Sibling includes half and step brothers and sisters and fostered and adopted children living in the same household. The children of partners living in the same household will be treated as siblings provided both partners confirm in writing that they are so treated by all in the household;

(b) Home (or place where the pupil lives) where a pupil has more than one home will be where the pupil lives for the majority of the weekdays during school terms; if there is any doubt about this, then the address of the Child Benefit recipient will be used. Parents may be asked to show evidence of the claim that is being made for the address used.

(c) Where a move into a Parish is proposed the Governors will require written confirmation of the position from a solicitor or proposed landlord;

(d) 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.

THE ADMISSION CRITERIA

When the school receives more applications than there are places available, the governing body will offer places using the following priority order:

1. Looked after children or a child who was previously looked after, but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement order, or special guardianship order or those children who appear to the school to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

2. a) Baptised Catholic pupils *(refer to box a)*
   b) other pupils who attend a partner Catholic school *(refer to box b)*
3. pupils attending one of the 'Oswaldtwistle & Church Cluster' schools *(refer to box c)*
4. pupils who attend a Christian faith primary school *(refer to box d)*
5. a pupil who has a sibling who would be concurrently on roll at the school
6. any other pupil

a. BAPTISED CATHOLIC PUPILS
Send a copy of the pupil's baptismal certificate to Mount Carmel R.C. High School, Wordsworth Road, Accrington BB5 0LU in an envelope marked 'pupil admissions', or hand in to the school office.

b. PARTNER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
- St Anne's & St Joseph's Accrington
- St Mary's Clayton-Le-Moors
- St Mary's Oswaldtwistle
- St Oswald's Accrington
- Sacred Heart Accrington

c. 'OSWALDTWISTLE & CHURCH CLUSTER' SCHOOLS
- St Andrew's CE Primary
- Green Haworth CE Primary
- Hippings Methodist Primary
- Knuzden St Oswald's CE Primary
- Moor End
- St Nicholas CE Primary
- St Paul's CE Primary
- St Peter's CE Primary
- West End

d. CHRISTIAN FAITH PRIMARY SCHOOLS
- All Saints' CE Primary
- Altham St James CE Primary
- Baxenden St John's CE Primary
- Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary
- St John's with St Augustine's CE Primary
- St Mary Magdalen's CE Primary
- Other Christian faith schools

TIE BREAK
Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category, then the distance between the Ordnance Survey address points for the school and the home measured in a straight line will be used as the final determining factor, nearer addresses having priority over more distant ones. This address point is within the body of the property and usually located at its centre. Where the cut-off point is for addresses within the same building, then the single measure between address points will apply and the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s).

TRANSPORT
There is no school bus service, however pupils can use public bus routes AO1 and AO4.

Notes
a) All applicants will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admission which will be indicated in the ADM2 booklet.

b) If an application for admission has been turned down by the Governing Body, parents can appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. This appeal must be sent in writing to the Clerk to the Governors at the school within 20 days of refusal. The parents must give their reasons for appealing in writing and the decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on all parties.

c) Late Applications: 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.

d) Any applicant wishing to be placed on a waiting list, once the published planned admissions number has been reached, must be fully aware that the following will apply in all cases.

   Offers will be determined with strict regard to the published admissions policy and not on a "first come, first served basis". A waiting list will be maintained until 31 December, and priority will be in accordance with the published Admission Policy. Where there are twins wanting admission and there is only a single place left within the admission number, then the Governing Body will exercise as much flexibility as possible. If places for twins or all triplets, etc., cannot be offered, the family will be advised accordingly. This may also apply to siblings who are in the same year group. If only a single place can be offered for twins, then the Local Authority's system for a random draw will decide which pupil receives an offer.

It sometimes happens that a child needs to change school other than at the "normal" time; such admissions are known as in-year admissions. In-year applications can now be made direct to the school. If you wish to visit the school before submitting an application, then please contact us. In-year admission is the process of applying for a school place during the school year. Any applications for the intake made after the start of the autumn term will be treated as an in-year application.
The in-year admission process is managed by the school. Parents are required to complete the in-year application form, which is available from the school website.
Where a place cannot be secured, parents will be offered a legal right of appeal to an independent appeal panel which is managed by the Clerk to the Governing Body. The form for an appeal is available on the school website.

The Governing Body reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to baptism, sibling connections or place of residence.

Policy Determined by the Governing Body: December 2025