

St. George's School, A Church of England Academy

Admission Arrangements for September 2025

Making an Application

Applications for admission to the Academy for September 2025 should be made online at

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Education-and-schools> or on the Common Application Form between 5th September until 31st October 2024.

It is not normally possible to change the order of preferences for schools after the closing date.

Parents/Carers must complete the Local Authority form, stating three preferences. Parents/Carers who wish their application to this Church Academy to be considered against faith criteria should also complete the Supplementary Information Form (SIF). If the Academy is oversubscribed, a failure to complete the Supplementary Information Form may result in the application for a place in this Academy being considered against lower priority criteria, as the Governing Board will have no information upon which to assess the church attendance.

The Supplementary Information Form is available from the Academy (SIF): www.stgeorgesblackpool.com

Confirmation informing parents of whether or not their child has been allocated a place will be sent out by the Local Authority, on behalf of the Academy, circa 1st March 2025. Parents/Carers of children not admitted will be advised of the appeals process and offered a place at another school by the Local Authority.

Admission procedures

Arrangements for admission have been agreed following consultation between Cidari Multi Academy Trust, the Governing Board, the Diocesan Board of Education, Blackpool Local Authority and Lancashire County Council.

The number of admission places available in year 7 in the year 2025 will be a maximum of 210.

The Governing Board 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 Board operates a system of equal preferences under which they consider all preferences equally and the Local Authority notifies parents of the result on behalf of the Academy.

Educational Health and Care Plan

As required by law, all children with an Educational Health and Care Plan, naming St George's school as a preference, will be automatically admitted to the Academy.

Oversubscription Criteria

In the event that there are more applicants than places, the Governing Board will allocate places using the following criteria:

1. Children in public care and previously looked after children. This includes any "looked after child", "previously looked after children" and any child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order, without regard to their faith. 'Looked after' means that the child was

(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. This criteria also includes looked after children and all previously looked after children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

2. Children with serious medical or social circumstances affecting the child, including a statement of special educational need or education and health care plan, where these needs can ONLY be met at this school, then the Governing Board believes that these children must be the next priority. Proof that St George's school is the ONLY suitable school is required from an appropriate professional or the school should be named on a statement of educational need or education and health care plan. A statement from a GP stating that she/he believes that this school is the only suitable one is insufficient: such a statement needs to provide the reasons and be supported by further professional endorsements

3. Faith places, the Governing Board will allocate a maximum of 30 places within this category.

(a) Children with a Parent/Carer who regularly attends a church service at St Wilfrid's, Mereside; St Christopher's and St Nicholas', Blackpool; St Paul's, Marton, or St John's, Blackpool.

(b) Children with a Parent/Carer who regularly attends a church service in churches that are a member of Churches Together in Britain & Ireland within the Blackpool Authority area.

The list of Churches Together in England and members of the Free Churches Group can be found on the website www.cte.org.uk and is taken as that on 1st September in the year of application. Members of the Evangelical Alliance can be found on the website www.eauk.org.

(c) Children with a Parent/Carer who regularly attends a church service at any church in membership of Churches Together in Britain & Ireland 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) and St Cuthbert's (Lytham).

Parental church service attendance is taken to mean a minimum of once a month over 1 year before the time of application on 5th September 2024. The Governing Board will request confirmation of this from the relevant member of the clergy or church officer.

(d) Children with a Parent/Carer attending a non-Christian faith service which is in membership of the UK Interfaith network.

The major world faiths are those in membership of the UK Interfaith network and includes Buddhists, Baha'is, Hindus, Jains, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Zoroastrians. *Membership of the UK Interfaith Network can be located at www.interfaith.org.uk*

4. Children attending the following Church of England Primary Schools:
All children attending Baines Endowed Academy, St Nicholas' Church of England Primary School, Staining Church Of England Primary School, Heyhouses Endowed, St Annes on Sea St Thomas', Lytham Church of England Primary, Weeton St Michael's, Kirkham St Michael's, Ribby with Wrea Endowed, Medlar with Wesham, Staining Church of England, Treales Church of England, stating a preference for St George's school, will be admitted to the Academy.

5. Staff Children

Children of staff who have been employed in the school or Trust the whole of the two years prior to the closing date for applications, or where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. This applies to all staff, full and part time, who are employed by the Governing Board.

6. Community places

Children whose Parent/Carer lives within the three Ecclesiastical parishes of:

- St. Christopher's and St. Nicholas', Blackpool
- The Ecclesiastical parish previously designated as St. Wilfrid's, Mereside
- St. Paul's, Marton

(A map showing the parish boundaries is available at St. George's)

7. Community Children living outside the three parishes who have a sibling attending the Academy on the date of application and on the date of admission. Siblings include step, half, foster, adopted brothers or sisters living at the same address.

8. Community Children living outside the parishes who have spent the whole of year 5 in primary education in any other Church of England Primary.

9. Other Community children

Tie Break

In the event of the admission number being reached within any one of the oversubscription criteria in the order listed above, the distance criteria will be used as a tie breaker. 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 school. 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. In the event of equal distance, a random allocation will be used to determine who takes priority for a place. This will be carried out by someone independent of the Academy and Parents/Carers will be invited to attend.

Multiple Births

Where there are twins or multiple birth children wanting admission and there is only one single place or insufficient places available to admit within the admission number, then the Governing Board will exercise as much flexibility as possible. In exceptional circumstances we are able to offer places for both twins and triplets. This may also apply to children who are siblings within the same year group.

Waiting List

Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category, the oversubscription 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 Academy will be slotted into the order according to the extent to which they meet the criteria. Thus it is possible for 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.

This waiting list will operate until 31 December of the relevant year.

Previous years allocations

The number of places allocated in 2019/20 , 2020/21 , 2021/22,2022/23 and 2023/24 preferences for 210 admission places were:

2019/20 – 214

2020/21 – 216

2021/22 – 214

2022/23 – 214

2023/24 – 225

Address of Pupil

The address used on the Academy's admission form must be the current one at the time of application. If the address changes subsequently, the parents should notify the Academy. Where the parents live at different addresses, the address the child lives at, at the time of allocation will be the one used. This will be the one used on the application. 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. For children of UK Service personnel and other Crown Servants returning to the area, proof of the posting 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. In order to obtain a school place in mid-year, it is necessary to fill in the Local Authority's Common Application Form, stating three preferences. If you wish to visit the Academy before stating your preferences, please contact us.

The form must be returned to the Local Authority Admissions Office. If you wish to apply to this Academy on the grounds of your faith commitment then you must complete the Supplementary Information Form available from and returnable to the Academy. The Local Authority will consider your three preferences equally in liaison with other admissions authorities. The offer of a place can only be made by the Local Authority, on behalf of the

Academy.

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 cannot re-appeal for a place at a school within the same school year unless there has been relevant, significant and material changes in the family circumstances.

Appeals

Where the Governors are unable to offer a place because the Academy is oversubscribed, Parents/Carers have the right to appeal to an independent Admissions Appeal Panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, as amended by the Education Act, 2002.

Parents/Carers should notify the Academy within 14 days of receiving the letter refusing a place. Parents/Carers will have the opportunity to submit their case to the Independent Admissions Appeal 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 Board 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), which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, then the Governing Board 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.