



St. John's C. of E.

Blackpool's First Free School 1817

Admission Policy 2025 - 2026

Last updated: January 2024

St. John's C.E. Primary School

Admissions Policy 2025/26

Making an application

Applications for admission to the school for September 2025 should be made on-line at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Education-and-schools/School-admissions/School-admissions.aspx> between 1st September 2024 and 15th January 2025. It is not normally possible to change the order of your preferences for schools after the closing date.

Parents **must** complete the Local Authority form, stating three preferences. For families who are unable to apply online, application forms can be requested from Blackpool School Admissions team on 01253 476637 schoolaccess@blackpool.gov.uk

Parents who wish their application to this Church school to be considered against the faith criteria **must** also complete the supplementary form. 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 Board will have no information upon which to assess the worship attendance.

The Supplementary Information Form (Appendix 1) must be completed at the time of application and is available from the school and on the school website.

The Supplementary Information Form must be returned directly to the school by 15th January 2025 if parents wish their application to be considered against faith criteria

For parents applying online emails informing parents of whether or not their child has been allocated a place will be sent out by the Local Authority by or on 16th April 2025. Parents of children not admitted will be informed of the reason and offered an alternative place by the Authority. Parents applying by hard copy forms will be informed by letter.

Admission procedures

Arrangements for admission have been agreed following consultation between the Governing Board, the Diocesan Board of Education, Local Authorities and other admissions authorities in the area.

The number of places available for admission to the Reception class in the year 2025 will be a maximum of 30.

The Governing Board will not place any restrictions on admissions to the reception class unless the number of children for whom admission is sought exceeds their admission number. By law, no infant class may contain more than thirty children. 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. In the event that there are more applicants than places, after admitting all children with a Statement of Educational Need, Educational, Health and Care Plan naming the school, the Governing Board will allocate places using the criteria below, which are listed in order of priority.

1. Children in public care and previously looked after children.

This means a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately

after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order, including those 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 (please see definitions below). A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to the school.

An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who are adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individual's to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians). A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

2. Children with special medical or social circumstances affecting the child 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 St. John's CE Primary School is the most suitable school and the difficulties which would be caused if the child had to attend another school. Alternatively, the school should be named in an education and health care plan or statement. Parents must submit this evidence to the school by 15th January 2025, if they wish their application to be considered under this criterion.

3. Children who have an elder sibling (not in Year 6) on role at the time of application and on the date of admission of the younger child.

Siblings include step, half, foster, adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address.

4. Children with a parent/guardian who worships in a church in membership of Churches Together in England.

"Parental worshipping" is normally taken to mean a minimum of monthly attendance at church at public worship for over at least one year. The date on which this is judged is taken as that on 1st September in the year of application for admission to the school.

The governors will request confirmation of this from the relevant member of the clergy or church officer.

The list of Churches can be found on the *Churches Together in England* website at cte.org.uk, and is taken as that on 1st September in the year of application for admission to the school.

The list must not include groups outside the main stream. Churches in membership of the equivalent bodies in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are accepted.

5. Children with a parent/guardian who worships in a non-Christian faith centre in membership of the UK Interfaith network.

Children with a parent/guardian worshipping in a non-Christian faith which is in membership of the UK Interfaith Network. The major world faiths are those in membership of the UK Interfaith Network; in addition to Christians, it includes Buddhists, Baha'is, Hindus, Jains, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, and Zoroastrians. The parent must meet the normal religious obligations of the faith. The governors will request confirmation of this from the relevant member of the clergy or worship leader.

6. Children whose parents live within the ecclesiastical parishes of St. John's, St Thomas' and Christchurch with All Saints. A map of the ecclesiastical parishes is available from the school office.

A map showing the boundaries is available at the school office. Temporary addresses will not necessarily be accepted when allocating place under this criteria. Please note that proof of address may be requested

7. Other children

Where there are more applicants for the available places within any category, then distance to home (Ordnance Survey address points for both the home and the school measured in a straight line) will be used as the final determining factor, nearer addresses having priority over more distant ones. In the event of equal distance, a random allocation will be used to determine who takes priority for a place. Temporary addresses will not necessarily be accepted when allocating place under distance criteria. Please note that proof of address may be requested.

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 two addresses have the same distance, or the cut-off point is for addresses within the same building, then the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s).

Admissions application information for September 2024

Last year there were 56 applications for 30 places before the closing date. The Admissions Committee applied the criteria and offered places to:

- children under criterion 1; **2** (*children in care*)
- children under criterion 2; **0** (*children with medical or social circumstances*)
- children under criterion 3; **12** (*sibling*)
- children under criterion 4; **3** (*church worship*)
- children under criterion 5; **0** (*worship in a non-Christian faith*)
- children under criterion 6; **13** (*living in the ecclesiastical parish*)
- children under criterion 7; **0** (*living outside the ecclesiastical parish*)

There were many children who fell into criterion 6 and 7 so the tie break of distance was applied. The distance from school of the 30th successful applicant was 0.397 miles. Details relating to appeals for places will be available from school in October 2024.

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 offered a place, 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

Waiting List

Where we have more applications than places for reception, the admissions criteria will be used. Children who are not admitted will have their names placed on our waiting list. The names 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 to the school 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 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.

The waiting list will operate until 31st December 2025.

Address of pupil

The address used on the school admission form must be the current one at the time of application, i.e. the family's main residence. If the address changes subsequently, parents should notify the school immediately. Where parents live at different addresses, and there is shared parenting, the address used will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings. 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 e.g. official document or letter, 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 e.g. the child's GP, Council Tax Office, utilities provider. For children of UK Service personnel and other Crown Servants returning to the area, proof of the posting is all that is required.

Non-routine or in-year admissions

It sometimes happens that a pupil needs to change school other than at the "normal" time; such admissions are known as non-routine or in-year admissions. Parents wishing their child to attend this school should arrange to visit the school. All parents requesting a school place, either because they are new to Blackpool, or because they are wishing to transfer schools within Blackpool, will be required to complete a Local Authority Application Form, allowing them to express up to 3 preferences. The admission of all students to Blackpool schools will be co-ordinated by the Schools Admission Team.

Parents will always be given information about their right of appeal. 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 the school within the same school year unless there has been relevant, significant and material change in the family circumstances.

Fair Access Protocol (FAP)

Blackpool Council has a fair access protocol that operates for in-year admission requests (outside of the annual intake process). This aims to ensure that unplaced and vulnerable children receive an offer of a school place or alternative provision as quickly as possible. Details of the fair access protocol are on the council's website.

Appeals for routine admissions

Where the Governing Board is unable to offer a place because the school is over-subscribed, parents have the right to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, as amended by the Education Act, 2002. **Parents should notify the clerk to the Governing Board at the school by 16th May 2025.** Parents will have the opportunity to submit their case to the 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. Where possible, the appeals will be heard in person although some are now heard through a digital format.**

Appeals which are received after the deadline will be slotted into the schedule where this is possible. There is no guarantee that this will happen and late appeals may be heard after the stipulated date at a second round of hearings. The schedule is subject to change depending upon the availability of appeal panel members, clerks, venues and the number of appeals for each school (which will vary year on year).

Please note that this right of appeal against the governors' decision does not prevent you from making an appeal in respect of any other school. When the Admission Appeals Panel meets to consider the appeal their decision is final and binding both on the parent and the school.

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 in the catchment area or of involvement in a place of worship), 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 then be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

Deferred admission

If your child is due to start school during the next academic year, it is important that you apply for a place for September. If your child's fifth birthday is between the months of September and December, then, if you wish it, admission may be deferred until January; if it is between January and April, then admission may be deferred until the start of the summer term.

St John's CE Primary School follows our Local Authority Admissions Team's guidance and procedures for requests for delayed or deferred entry (see Appendix 2).

Please note however, that as a school, we do feel that in almost all cases it is in your child's best interest to start in September so they settle in and become part of their class very early.

Multiple Births

Where there are twins or triplets wanting admission and there is only a single place left within the admission number, then the Governing Board will exercise as much flexibility as possible within the requirements of infant class sizes. In exceptional circumstances we are now able to offer places for both twins or all triplets even when this means breaching infant class size limits. This may also apply to children who are siblings within the same year group.

**Supplementary Information Form
Admission to primary school, 2025**

St John's Church of England Primary School

Name of child:

Surname **Forenames**

Date of birth

Name of parent/guardian

Address

.....

.....

Post code

Contact telephone number

If you are applying to this school on faith grounds, please complete the following sections:

Place of worship one of parents / guardians regularly attends:

Name of place of worship

Address

.....

Name of vicar / priest / minister / faith leader / church officer:

.....

Address

.....

.....

Post code **Telephone**

Your faith leader will be contacted in order to provide the information.

Return this form to the school before 15th January 2025.

This form is for use of the School; it will be sent to the appropriate faith leader, to be returned direct to the school.

**Clergy / Faith Leader Reference Form
Admission to primary school, 2025**

St John's Church of England Primary School

Name of child:

Surname **Forenames**

Date of birth

Name of parent/guardian

Address

Post code **Contact Telephone**

This parent has given your name as a reference for his/her commitment to the church/place of worship.

For parents who worship at churches in membership of Churches Together, Evangelical Alliance, Northwest Gospel Partnership, our criteria require the parent to have attended their place of worship at least once a month for the 12 months prior to 1st September 2024.

For parents who worship in a non-Christian faith centre in membership of the UK Interfaith network, our criteria require the parent to meet the normal religious obligations of the faith*

Has this been the pattern for this parent? YES / NO

If NO, has your church building / place of worship been closed for fully-accessible and non-restricted worship during the qualifying period? YES / NO

If YES, please give the dates of when fully-accessible and non-restricted worship was not possible in the church building / place of worship:

Signed

Name Date:

Position

Church / Place of Worship.

This church / place of worship is a part of (please tick)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Churches Together in England | <input type="checkbox"/> non-Christian faith centre in membership of the UK Interfaith network. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelical Alliance | <input type="checkbox"/> North West Partnership |

Please return this form to By

Deferred admission and part-time provision

If your child is due to start school during the next academic year, it is important that you apply for a place for September. If your child's fifth birthday is between the months of September and December, then, if you wish it, admission may be deferred until January; if it is between January and April, then admission may be deferred until the start of the summer term though it is likely to be in your child's interest to start no later than January. You may also request that your child attend school part time until he/she reaches his/her fifth birthday.

Admission of children outside of their normal age group

Parent(s)/carer(s) may seek a place for their child outside of the normal age group, for example, if a child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parent/carer of a summer born child (i.e. a child born between 1 April and 31 August) may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted outside of their normal age group – to reception rather than year1.

Children seeking admission to reception in the September after their fifth birthday

Parent(s)/carer(s) will need to submit a normal Common Application Form (CAF) to the Local Authority (in writing or online) for admission into the normal age group at the same time as they submit a written request to the Governing Body for their child to be admitted out of the normal age group.

Please note: This Governing Body will not honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission out of the normal age group. Parent(s)/carer(s), therefore, should consider whether to request admission out of the normal year group at all their preference schools, rather than just their first preference school.

The Governing Body will make a decision on the request before the Primary national offer date if at all possible.

If the request is agreed, the parent(s)/carer(s) must make a new application for the next main admission round the following year, and their current application for the normal age group should be withdrawn before a place is offered. The following year the new application will be considered on the base of the determined admission arrangements only, including the application of oversubscription criteria where applicable. The application will not be given lower priority on the basis that the child is being admitted out of their normal age group.

If their request for admission outside their normal age group is refused, parent(s)/carer(s) must decide whether to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group that they receive from the Local Authority, or to refuse it and make an in-year application to the Governing Body for admission to year one for the September following their child's fifth birthday.

More information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission>

Making the decision

Parent(s)/carer(s) seeking admission of their child outside their normal age group must send their written request to the Governing Body. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/carer(s) to

provide the Governing Body with all relevant information relating to this request, including the parent(s)/carer(s) views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of the medical professional; whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely; and whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group.

The Governing Body is required to take into account the views of the Head Teacher on the application as well as the information from the parent(s)/carer(s). The Governing Body will make their decision on the basis of the circumstances of each individual case, and in the best interests of the child concerned.

The Governing Body will then inform the parent(s)/carer(s) of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to and will provide the reasons for their decision.

Parent(s)/carer(s) have a statutory right to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. As the purpose of the appeals process is to consider whether a child should be admitted to a particular school, the right of appeal does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred year group. However, they may make a complaint about an admission authority's decision not to admit their child outside their normal school age group.