

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2016-17



Seeking Growth Together

Admission Policy

St John Vianney's is a Catholic School in which the practice of the Catholic faith is fundamental to the whole life of the school, and the teachings, liturgy, prayers, ceremonies and religious instruction to that faith are observed.

1. St John Vianney is a Catholic Primary school situated in the Diocese of Lancaster and is maintained by the Blackpool Council.
2. The 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.
3. The School serves in the first instance Catholic children from the Parishes of St John Vianney and St Monica.
4. The Governing Body has set the planned admissions number for September at 60. The Children's Services Authority and other parties required by law have been consulted on this. The Governors are required to admit children only to their relevant year groups.
5. No more than 30 children will be admitted to any one Reception Class.
6. Information relating to admissions in September 2017 will be available from the school in May 2017.
7. During the Autumn term the school will forward a copy of the pack produced by Blackpool Council, 'Admission to Primary School' to each of the applicants registered with them and parents/carers should complete the form enclosed in the pack and return it to the **School Admissions Team** no later than **15th January 2016** the closing date for applications as confirmation that they are seeking a place for their child/ren.
8. Children who are admitted will normally enter reception Year in September 2016.
9. Parents/carers will be informed of whether their child has been offered a place in writing on National Offer day Thursday 16th April. If a place has been offered, parents/carers must write to the school confirming their intention to accept the place by the date specified in the formal offer letter.
10. 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.
A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the Admission Criteria. Parents may contact the school to ascertain their child's position on the waiting list. This list will cease to operate at the start of the autumn term.

An exception to these criteria may be made in the case of children/immediate family members with strong specific educational, medical, social or emotional needs whose application is directly relevant to St John Vianney School and supported by appropriate evidence (e.g. consultant's medical report).

As required by law, all children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school will be admitted before the application of the oversubscription criteria.

The Governors operate an equal preference criteria.

The Governors control the admission to the school. The Admissions Committee has been delegated by them; to admit children in accordance with the following areas of priority.

Admission Criteria

In each category Looked After Children will be given priority*

*Children who are in the care of the Local Authority; this includes any "looked after child" and any child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.

Category 1. Baptised Roman Catholic children with siblings in the school whose parent(s) are Catholics living in the parishes of St John Vianney or St Monicas.

This will include children baptised in the Church of another Christian denomination, with siblings in the school whose parent(s) have been received into the Roman Catholic Church and who are themselves practising Catholics living in the parishes of St John Vianney and St Monica.

Category 2. Baptised Roman Catholic children whose parent(s) are Catholics living in the parishes of St John Vianney or St Monica. This will include children baptised in the church of another Christian denomination, whose parents have been received into the Roman Catholic Church and who are themselves practising Catholics living in the parishes of St John Vianney and St Monicas.

Category 3. Baptised Roman Catholic children with siblings in the school whose parent(s) are Catholics living in the neighbouring parishes. This will include children baptised in the church of another Christian denomination, with siblings in the school at the time of admission whose parent(s) have been received into the Roman Catholic Church and who are themselves practising Catholics living in neighbouring parishes.

Category 4. Baptised Roman Catholic children whose parent(s) are Catholics living in the neighbouring parishes. This will include children baptised in the church of another Christian denomination, whose parents have been received into the Roman Catholic Church and who are themselves practising Catholics living in neighbouring parishes.

Category 5. Children not of the Roman Catholic faith but baptised into the Church of another denomination with siblings in the school seeking an education within the Catholic Ethos of St John Vianney School.

Category 6. Children not of the Roman Catholic faith but baptised into the Church of another denomination whose parent(s) are seeking an education within the Catholic Ethos of St John Vianney School.

Category 7. Non Baptised children with siblings in the school whose parent(s) are seeking an education within the Catholic Ethos of St John Vianney school.

Category 8. Non Baptised children whose parent(s) are seeking an education within the Catholic Ethos of St John Vianney school.

The Governors control the admission to the school; the Admission Committee has been delegated by them; to admit children in accordance with the areas of priority as defined in the Admission Criteria document.

Tie breaker for 1 –2: straight line distance to the Church, either St John Vianney or St Monica's.

Tie breaker

for 3-8: straight line distance to school. (The distance from the applicant's home to the school is taken as a straight line between the school and the Ordnance Survey address point of the applicant's home. The Ordnance Survey address point is a point within the boundary of the property and is usually located at its centre. Distances are measured automatically using the Council's Geographic Information System)

For the purposes of the admission criteria neighbouring parishes will be considered to be St Kentigern's, St Cuthbert's, Our Lady of the Assumption, Christ The King, Holy Family and the parish of The Sacred Heart, Blackpool.

Verification of the child's home address will be sought through the presentation of a Child benefit Book or letter from Child Benefit Agency.

The term 'siblings' will include stepbrothers, stepsisters, half brothers, and half sisters.

Twins, etc: Where there are twins, etc 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 within the requirements of infant class sizes. In exceptional circumstances we are now able to offer places for both twins and 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.

'Parents' will be considered to be the natural birth parent/s, legal foster or adoptive parent/s.

The Admission Committee will meet to consider the applications.

Parents will be notified during the Spring term.

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. Parents wishing their child to attend this school should arrange to visit the school. They will be required to complete a common application form, provided by the Local Authority, allowing them to express up to three preferences. The admission of all students to Blackpool schools will be co-ordinated by the Schools Admissions Team. If there is no place, then the School Admissions Team will provide information about how to appeal against the decision. 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 change in the family circumstances.