

Consultation on proposed changes to St Mark's CE Primary School's Admission Policy for 2026-27

The Wings' CE Academy Trust is consulting on proposed changes to St Mark's CE Primary School's admission policy for 2026-27.

The Trust is proposing to amend the school's admission arrangements in line with the Church of England criteria for church attendance. This relates specifically to notes (e) and (f) below.

The school's full proposed arrangements are below. If you have any questions about the school's proposed admission arrangements, please contact the Trust on 01942 883971.

Proposed Admissions Policy 2026-27

St Mark's CE Primary School

The Governing Body are the admissions authority for St Mark's CE Primary School with the process of awarding places delegated to the Admissions Committee. The policy has been written in consultation with the Local Authority and Diocesan Board of Education.

St Mark's CE Primary School will admit children up to the maximum Standard Number of 30. If 30 or fewer children apply for admission to the reception year, all will be offered a place. If more than 30 applications are received, the following admission criteria will be applied in the order of priority shown once places have first been allocated to pupils who have a statement of special educational needs or an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) which names St Mark's CE Primary School.

1.	Children in public care and previously looked after children see note (a)
2.	Children whose medical circumstances mean that their needs can only be met at this school. see note (b)
3.	Brother or sister to pupils who will be in attendance at the school at the time of admission. see note (c)
4.	Children whose social circumstances mean that their needs can only be met at this school. see note (d)
5	Child participation in worship in an Anglican Church, i.e. a Church of England Church see note (e)
6.	Child participation in worship at another Christian church. see note (f)
7.	Any other children, with priority given to those living nearest to the school see note (g)

Where there are more applications in any category than the available places, the places will be allocated to those having the highest scores. In all categories, where necessary the tie-breaker will be used, giving priority to those living nearest to the school. (See note (h) below).

NOTES:

(a)

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. '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.

(b)

Where admission is sought under exceptional medical circumstances criteria, professional supporting evidence e.g. from a doctor or psychologist is essential. Such evidence must set out the particular reasons why the school is the most suitable for the child and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school.

(c)

Siblings of pupils attending the school at the time of admission. 'Sibling' means a natural brother or sister, a half brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, a step brother or sister, or other child living in the same household who, in any of these cases, will be living with them at the same address at the date of their entry to the school

(d)

Where admission is sought under exceptional social circumstances criteria, professional supporting evidence e.g. from a doctor, psychologist or social worker is essential. Such evidence must set out the particular reasons why the school is the most suitable for the child and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school.

(e)

Regular attendance at public worship in an Anglican Church, i.e. a Church of England Church Attendance will be established by information provided on the Supplementary Information Form completed by a member of the clergy or other designated church officer. For the purposes of these admission arrangements 'regular' means attendance at least eight times in the twelve months immediately prior to the closing date for application.

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church or relevant place of worship has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or relevant place of worship or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

If you are applying for a place under the church connection criteria, evidence of your attendance must be verified by getting your Vicar, Priest, Minister, Church Warden/Deputy Church Warden, Elder or Sunday School Leader to complete the School's Supplementary Form.

(f) Child participation in worship at another Christian church.

Attendance at public worship will be established by information provided on the Supplementary Information Form, including verification by the relevant Minister/Faith Leader or their designated officer. For the purposes of these admission arrangements 'regular' means attendance at least eight times in the twelve months immediately prior to the closing date for application.

For the purposes of these admission arrangements 'other Christian church' means a church which is Designated under the Ecumenical Relations Measure 2018, nationally by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, or locally by the diocesan bishop, or which is a member of Churches Together in England or affiliated to the Evangelical Alliance or a Partner Church of Affinity. The list of nationally Designated churches can be found at https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/list_of_designated_churches_3_o ct 18.pdf.

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church or relevant place of worship has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or relevant place of worship or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

If you are applying for a place under the church connection criteria, evidence of your attendance must be verified by getting your Vicar, Priest, Minister, Church Warden/Deputy Church Warden, Elder or Sunday School Leader to complete the School's Supplementary Form.

(g) Tie-Breaker

Living nearest to the school refers to the distance, measured by the LA, from the child's normal home address to the school's front entrance, nearer addresses having priority over more distant ones. When considering your child's application, we will use the permanent home address we have for you at the closing date for applications.

If parents are separated and the child spends time at each parent's address, the address we use for admission to school is that of the main carer. We use the address of the parent who gets the Child Benefit for this.

In cases where there are two or more children with the same measurement (for example if more than one child lives in a block of flats), or where to admit another child would breach the infant class size regulations, a fair draw will pick who will be offered a place. This process will be supervised by someone independent of the school. If we offer the last place available to one of twins (or triplets and so on) our policy is to admit the other twin or triplet too.

(h) Deferred Entry

Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to the school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year. Where entry is deferred, the place will be held open and not offered to another child. Parents cannot defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted.

(i) Part-Time Attendance

Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

It should be noted that Baptism is not a criteria for admission nor is the length of time that a child's name has been registered at the school.

COMPLETION OF FORMS

Please note that all applications must be made on the Local Authority application form.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

Where the governors are unable to offer a place because the school is oversubscribed, parents/carers 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 governors at the school within 20 school days of receiving the letter refusing a place. Parents/Carers 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.

Letters of appeal should be addressed to:

The Clerk to the Governors
St Mark's CE Primary School
Alexandra Street
Wigan
WN5 9DS

Late applications

Late applications (those received after the closing date) will only be considered after those received by the closing date. The only exception to this is applications for looked after children that are received by 15 February will be included with on time applications.

WAITING LIST

Should the school be oversubscribed a waiting list system will be in operation until the end of the Autumn Term 2026. Places may become available after the official offer date.

To decide which children have these places, we will:

- Put all children who were refused a place on the waiting list.
- Keep the list in priority order according to the oversubscription criteria.
- Offer places that become available to the next child on the waiting list.

ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, to a higher year group if the child is gifted and talented or to a lower year group if the child has experienced problems such as ill health.

The parents of a summer born child (born 1st April and 30th August) may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their 5th birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.

A decision is made on the basis of the circumstances of each case.

The process is as follows: -

Stage 1 - request

Parents make a formal request to the Local Authority School Organisation Team in writing with any supporting evidence that they wish to be considered.

- A request for early entry into Year 7 should be made before 31st October in the previous academic year in order for sufficient time for the case to be considered prior to the offer of school places on 1st March.
- A request for delayed entry to reception class should be made at the same time as applying for a place for normal entry (i.e. by the closing date of 15th January) in order to give sufficient time for the case to be considered prior to the offer of school places on 16th April.
- A request for in year admission outside of the normal age group should be made on the normal in year transfer form.

We do not accept requests for early entry into reception class for children who will not be of statutory school age.

Stage 2 - decision

Requests for voluntary-aided, foundation and academy schools will be referred to the school to be considered.

Requests for community and voluntary controlled schools will be considered by the Local Authority. We will look at the following factors, but these are not exhaustive:

- Parent's views.
- The needs of the child and the possible impact on them of being educated out of year group.
- The child's medical history and views of medical professionals if appropriate.
- In the case of children born prematurely the fact that they may have naturally fallen into the lower age group if they had been born on their expected birth date.
- Whether delayed academic, social, emotional or physical development is adversely affecting their readiness for school
- Any other information which the parent requests the Local Authority to consider

Stage 3 - outcome

Parents are notified of the decision in writing by the School Organisation Team.

Request Agreed:

If the request is agreed the application will be considered for the year group requested and ranked alongside any other applications. There is no guarantee that a place will be offered at the preferred school. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. The right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but not in the preferred year group.

Where a child has been educated out of their normal age group, the parent may again request admission out of the normal age group when they transfer to secondary school. It will be for the admission authority of that school to decide whether to admit the child out of their normal age group.

Request Refused:

There is no statutory right of appeal against the refusal of a request for admission outside the normal age group. However, if the parents are dissatisfied, they have the right to complain through the council's complaints procedure for decisions made by the local authority or under the schools complains procedure where the decision has been made by the school.

ST MARK'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
ALEXANDRA STREET, NEWTOWN, WIGAN, WN5 9DX
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM
2026/2027



Please complete and sign **Part A** of this form and, if you are a member of a church, take it to the priest or minister of that church, who will complete **Part B** for you.

Completed forms should be returned as detailed in the Booklet for Parents 'Admissions to Primary Schools 2026-2027'.

PART A

Full Name of Child:	
Child's Date of Birth:	
Parent/ Carer Name:	
Address:	
Telephone (inc. STD Code):	
Name(s) of any brothers/sisters currently attending St Mark's CE Primary School and who will be in attendance at the time of admission:	

Please state any medical circumstances which can only be met at St Mark's CE Primary School. This must include professional supporting evidence from a doctor or psychologist.

Please state any social circumstances which can only be met by St Mark's CE Primary School. This must include professional supporting evidence e.g. from a doctor, psychologist or social worker.

Signature of Parent/Carer: _____

Date: _____

PART B

If you attend a church, please ask one of the following people to complete and sign Part B of the form: Vicar, Priest, Minister, Church Warden/Deputy Church Warden, Elder or Sunday School Leader.

Denomination and name of Church/place of worship child attends.	
Name of Sunday School child attends.	

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church or relevant place of worship has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or relevant place of worship or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

Has the child/family attended at least 8 times in last 12 months immediately prior to the closing date for application.	
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Name of Priest/Vicar/Minister/Elder/
Sunday School Leader:

Name of Church/Sunday School:

Telephone Number:

Signed:
