

Consultation on proposed changes to St Catharine's C of E Primary School's Admission Policy for 2026-27

The Governing Board is consulting on proposed changes to its admission policy for 2026-27.

The Governors are proposing to amend their criteria due to the pending closure of Saint Catharine's Church. This will be replaced by attendance at Church Wigan Church of England church.

The school's full proposed arrangements are below. If you have any questions about the school's proposed admission arrangements, please contact Sue Pittendreigh at the school on 01942 733081.

Proposed Admissions Policy 2026-27

St Catharine's C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Sue Pittendreigh
Admission number 30

Introduction

This document sets out the admission arrangements of St Catharine's CofE Primary School. For the purposes of this policy, the Governing Body is the admission authority.

Process

1. Applications for admission to the school should be made using the Local Authority Common Application Form by the national closing date of 15th January.
2. The Local Authority will inform parents of the offer of a place on behalf of the Governing Body on the national offer date 16th April or the next working day.
3. The St Catharine's Cof E Primary School has an admission number of 30 pupils for entry into Reception. The school will accordingly admit at least 30 each year if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 30 or fewer apply. The school will admit any pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school. Priority will then be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below.

Oversubscription Criteria

1. Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

A "Looked After Child" (LAC) 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

A "Previously Looked After Child" (PLAC) is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after.

An "Internationally Adopted Previously Looked After Child (IAPLAC) is a child who appears (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. Regular attendance at public worship at Church Wigan 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 date of application.

3. Attendance at public worship in any other Christian church.

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.

A parent or parents wishing to apply against this criterion must complete a Supplementary Application Form. Attendance at public worship (or its specified equivalent for faith bodies which are not a Christian church where that is provided for in the admissions arrangements) 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 date of application.

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church 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 alternative premises have been available for public worship.

4. Siblings of pupils attending the school at the time of application. '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.

5. Proximity to the school with those living closest to the school having priority calculated by: Measured in a straight line from the child's home address to the school main entrance. The child's home address will be determined by: Where the child sleeps Sunday to Thursday night.

Tie-breaker

Proximity to the school. We will measure the distance by a straight line. All straight line distances are calculated electronically using a geographical information system and with the support of the Local Authority where required

In the event that two or more children live at the same distance from the school (as can happen with families living in blocks of flats), random allocation, where supervised drawing of lots by an independent responsible person of good standing will be used to decide which child(ren) will be allocated the remaining place(s) (in accordance with 1.34 and 1.35 of the School Admissions Code).

Late applications

Applications received after the closing date and before the [Admissions Authority] admission meeting will be placed last in the criteria in which they fall unless the [Admissions Authority] is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which reasonably prevented the application from being submitted on time. Supporting evidence, including that provided by the required Supplementary Information Form, must also be supplied by the closing date for applications, unless it is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which reasonably prevented it being submitted on time. In the absence of such supporting evidence, the allocation of places will be made on the basis of the application alone.

In-Year admissions

From time to time a place becomes available further up the school. The allocation of places is in accordance with the admissions criteria. Preference will be given to children moving into the area from outside the Local Authority area who do not have a school place. Evidence will need to be provided that the child has recently moved in.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range, for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting on their schooling. All such requests will be considered on their merits and either agreed or refused, on that basis. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

The process for requesting such an admission is as follows: With the application, parents should request that the child is admitted to another year group (state which one), and the reasons for that request. Parents will submit any evidence in support of their case with the application, for instance from a medical practitioner, headteacher etc. Some of the evidence a parent might submit could include:

- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and

- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

The school will consider each case on its merits, taking into account the individual circumstances of the request and the child's best interests. We will also ensure the parent is aware of whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed before final offers are made, and the reason for any refusal. Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time. An application from a child who would 'normally' be a year 1 child for a year Reception Class place will be considered alongside applications for Reception Class.

Waiting Lists

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where in any year the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the first term after the beginning of the school year. This will be maintained by the admission authority and it will be open to any parent to ask for their child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves it.

Appeals Procedure

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. Appellants should contact Miss Jolly at St Catharine's CofE Primary School at Scholefield Lane, Scholes, Wigan, Lancashire, WN1 3LP within 20 days of the date of the letter refusing your child a place at the school for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals process is on our website at <https://stcatharinesprimary.co.uk>.

School age

A full-time school place in the Reception class is available for children from the September following their 4th birthday, etc.

Deferred entry for infants

A child is entitled to a full time place in the September following their 4th birthday. Parents have the right to defer their child's entry until later in the school year, or to attend part-time until they reach compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred to the next academic year.

Address definition

The address is the place where the child is permanently resident with his or her parent or parents or legal guardians. Evidence may be requested to show the address, for example: to which any Child Benefit is paid or at which the child is registered with a medical GP together with recent utilities bill, council tax bill or tenancy agreement. This evidence will be used when reaching a decision on the child's home address for admissions purposes (including where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility for each part of the week). Parents should not assume that a place will automatically be allocated to their child.

Enquiries

Should be to Miss Jolly at Saint Catharines CE Primary Scholefield Lane, Scholes, Wigan, Lancashire, WN1 3LP.

St Catharine's C.E. Primary School
Scholefield Lane, Scholes, Wigan, WN1 3LP
Tel: (01942) 733081
Email: enquiries@admin.saintcatharines.wigan.sch.uk
Head Teacher: Mrs S Pittendreigh Deputy Head: Mr M Hillam

Supplementary Church School Admissions Form Child's details

Christian Surname

name:

Date of Birth:

Name of parent/Guardian

Address

Post code

Telephone

Mobile

Details of siblings attending this school at the time of application.

Name of Place of Worship (where a parent or carer attends church with the child eight times in 12 months). Tick Yes Tick No

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Name of vicar/priest/minister/faith leader/church officer (Who will be contacted in order to confirm this information)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Please return this form directly to the office of St Catharine's Primary School