

St Peter's RC Primary School, Blackburn

Admissions Policy 2025/2026

St Peter's is a Roman Catholic Primary School provided by the Diocese of Salford and is maintained by the Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority as a Voluntary Aided School. The Catholic Faith and the Teachings of the Catholic Church have an essential role in school life and influence every aspect of the Curriculum. We ask all parents applying for a place at our school to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply and be considered for a place here.

The school's Governing Body is the admissions authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions. The co-ordination of admissions arrangements is undertaken by the Local Authority. For the school year commencing September 2025 the Governing Body has set its planned admissions number at 60.

Where there are more applicants than places available, after admitting children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan which names the school, the Governing Body will allocate places using the criteria below.

1. Looked After Children and previously looked after children, including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of adoption (a)
2. Baptised Roman Catholic children (b) who have a sibling (c) attending the school at the time of application and admission and are resident in the parish of Oscar Romero and living in the catchment area defined in note (d)
3. All remaining places will be allocated to Baptised Roman Catholic children (b) who are resident in the parish of St Oscar Romero and living in the catchment area defined in note (d). Children who live closer to school in the catchment area will be allocated equally. (d)
4. Baptised Roman Catholic children (b) who have a sibling (c) attending the school at the time of application and admission and are resident in another Catholic parish.
5. Other baptised Roman Catholic children (b) resident in another Catholic parish.
6. Other children who have a sibling (c) attending the school at the time of application and admission.
7. Other children

Notes for oversubscription criteria are listed below:

- a) A looked After Child is a child who is in the care of the Local authority, or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their Social services functions (under 22(1) of the Children act 1989). A previously Looked after child is one who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, child arrangement or special guardianship order. A child is regarded as being 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 of main purpose is to benefit society.
- b) Baptised Roman Catholic means one Baptised in a Roman Catholic Church or a baptised Christian subsequently received into the Roman Catholic Church as evidenced by a letter confirming the reception from a Roman Catholic Priest or children baptised or received into the eastern Churches in Union with Rome (appendix 1). Any applicant seeking consideration under criteria 2 – 5 will be required to produce evidence of Catholic baptism. (A Baptism certificate is obtained from the church of Baptism).
- c) Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living in the same family unit at the same address.

- d) Parent(s)/carer(s) should check carefully whether they are resident within the following catchment area. A map is available on the school website and in school for this purpose.

Blackburn, Saint Oscar Romero

Extinctive Union of St Peter in Chains, Blackburn, of St John Vianney, Blackburn, and of Saints Mary and John, Pleasington.

Schedule 1: Definition of Parish Boundaries

M65 Motorway and westerly by the motorway to the Diocesan boundary and N following the River Roddlesworth to its confluence with the River Darwen and upstream along the River Darwen otherwise the Blackburn with Darwen — Chorley district boundary, to its confluence with the Alum House Brook and north east to Arley Brook otherwise the Blackburn with Darwen — Ribble Valley district boundary to but excluding Arley Farm and southward by the tracks passing by but including Westholme School and across Meins Rd to Billinge End Rd. Eastwards along Billinge End Rd to and along Killards Ln and the track to Under Billinge Ln and by this lane, Lawley Rd and Billinge Ave (both of which are wholly in the parish of the Sacred Heart and St Anne) to and along Buncer Ln to its junction with Wensley Rd then along Wensley Rd, Garden St, Bank Top, Whalley Banks, King St, Astley Gate, Church St and Railway St to Blackburn Station; then south easterly by the railway line to Darwen Bridge and along Great Bolton Street and Bolton Rd to the River Darwen. From the River Darwen along Sandy Ln (both sides in the Sacred Heart parish Darwen) to Bolton Rd and westerly by the M65 to the Diocesan boundary, the Blackburn with Darwen — Chorley district boundary.

Schedule 2: Former boundary between Saint John Vianney and Saint Peter in Chains

From crossing of M65 Motorway and Stockclough Ln, along Stockclough Ln and a track via Fowler Fold, but excluding Lower Whitehalgh Farm to the junction of Horden Rake and Brokenstone Rd, excluding Horden Farm and by a straight line to between 531 and 533 Livesey Branch Rd, then by a beeline to and along Beechwood Dr and Leeds & Liverpool Canal to the point opp. Amberwood Dr.

Former boundary between Saint Peter and Saints Mary and John .

From Leeds and Liverpool Canal (opposite Amberwood Drive), then N to and along St Francis Rd, Preston Old Rd to its junction with an unnamed road N of river Darwen, and by a beeline to the junction of Buncer Ln and Wensley Rd.

Former boundary between Saint John Vianney and Saints Mary and John From Bolton Rd junction with Longshaw Ln, along Bolton Rd to its junction with and N along Aqueduct Rd, then W along Leeds and Liverpool Canal (opposite Amberwood Dr).

If there is an odd number of applications for places the remaining place will be offered to the child who lives nearest to the school for example: if after offering places to children with an Educational Health Care Plan, Category 1 and Category 2, there are 31 places available, 15 will be offered to children living nearest the school in the catchment areas of St. Peter's parish, 15 will be offered to children living nearest the school in Schedule 2 and the remaining place will be offered to the child living nearest to school.

Tie Breaker

If in any category there are more applications than places available, places will be allocated to those living nearest the school. The distance will be measured in a straight line between the front door of the child's home address to the main door of the School building on Hawkins Street, using a computer. If after measuring distances it is still not possible to decide on the child/ren to be offered admission (e.g. 2 children living in the same block of flats or in the same house) the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which of the children can be offered a place. The draw will take place at the Local Authority's offices, and the name(s) will be drawn by a local authority officer who is independent of the admissions process.

Multiple Births / Twins

It is the duty of the Governors to comply with the class size limit at Reception and Key Stage One. This means that the school cannot operate classes in Reception and Key Stage One of more than 30 children. However, the Governing Body of St Peter's RC Primary School may choose to exceed KS1

Class Size regulations for twins and children from multiple births where one of the children is the 30th child admitted and the other(s) are beyond that limit.

Admissions Process

Parents must apply to their home local authority by completing a Common Application Form or by applying online. Blackburn with Darwen's online form is available via the website <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions>.

All applications will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 15th January 2025. Applications received after this date will be treated as a late application and will not be considered until after the main allocation of places has taken place.

All applicants will be required to provide proof of date of birth and proof of address. Proof of Catholic Baptism is required for categories 2,3,4,5.

Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the child's 'permanent place of residence' will be determined as the address of the parent who normally has responsibility for the majority of school days in a week.

For 'In Year' applications received outside the normal admissions round and if places are available then children applying will be admitted. If there are places available but more applications than places then the published oversubscription criteria will be applied.

Admission arrangements to the Reception class are separate to those for the Nursery and require a separate application. Attendance at the Nursery does not give a child any guarantee or priority when it comes to consideration by the Governors of applicants for admission to the Reception class.

The admission of a non-Catholic child in a year when there are vacancies remaining after the demand from Catholics is met does not guarantee a place for a sibling in a year where the Catholic demand is greater.

Waiting List (Application for Reception Class September 2025)

Children who are not admitted to Reception class will have their name placed on the 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 school will be slotted into the waiting list according to the extent to which they meet the criteria. Thus it is possible that a child who moves into the area later may 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. Please note that looked after children, previously looked after children and those allocated a place at the school in accordance with the Fair access protocol must take precedence over those on the waiting list.

The Waiting List for Reception class will operate until 31st December 2025 only. After this period parents must inform the school if they wish their child to remain on a waiting list.

If an application for admission has been turned down by the governing body, parent(s)/carer(s) can appeal to an independent Appeals Panel. This appeal must be sent in writing to the Clerk to the Governors at the school within 20 school days of notification of refusal. The date of notification will be 2 working days after posting by first class post. The parent(s)/carer(s) must give their reasons for appealing in writing and the decision of the Appeal Panel is binding on the Governors and on the parent(s)/carer(s).

Deferred Entry

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 August 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. Parents may request that their child attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age. A child reaches compulsory school age on the 31 December, 31 March and 31 August following their 5th birthday, whichever comes first.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents/carer(s) may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if a child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Parents of a summer born 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 out of their normal age group - to reception rather than year 1.

Parents/carers may request that their child attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age. A child reaches compulsory school age on the 31 December, 31 March and 31 August following their 5th birthday, whichever comes first.

Children who are already of school age

Parent(s)/carer(s) must submit their written request for admission out of the normal age group to the Governing Body. If their request is agreed and a place is available in the requested year group, the child will be admitted.

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.

If their request for admission outside the 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.

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; medical history and views of a medical professional (where relevant); whether the child would 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/carer 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 age group.

Appendix 1

Churches in union with Rome

Alexandrian

- Coptic Catholic Church
- Ethiopian Catholic Church ('Gheez rite') (Includes Eritrean Catholic Church)

Antiochean (West Syrian)

- Syrian Catholic Church
- (Syro-)Maronite Catholic Church
- Syro-Malankar Catholic Church

Armenian

- Armenian Catholic Church

Chaldean (East Syrian)

- Chaldean Catholic Church
- Syro-Malabar Catholic Church

Constantinopolitan (Byzantine)

- Albanian (Byzantine) Catholic Church
- Belarussian Catholic Church
- Bulgarian (Byzantine) Catholic Church
- Georgian Catholic Church
- Greek (Hellenic) Catholic Church
- Greek-Melakite Catholic Church
- Hungarian (Byzantine) Catholic Church
- Italo-Albanian (Byzantine) Catholic Church
- Church of the Byzantines of the Diocese of Krizevci (Krizevci Catholic Church)
- Macedonian Catholic Church
- Romanian (Greek) Catholic Church
- Russian Catholic Church
- Ruthenian (Byzantine) Catholic Church
- Slovak (Greek) Catholic Church
- Ukrainian (Greek) Catholic Church

There are an equivalent number of Eastern Orthodox Churches with similar names that are not in union with the See of Rome. The general rule is Eastern Rite Churches in union with the See of Rome will have the word Catholic in their titles. Churches with the word Orthodox in their titles are not in union with the See of Rome and children from these Churches should be considered after category 5.