



St. Ethelbert's R.C.P. School, Bolton
Admission Policy
2023-2024

St. Ethelbert's is a Roman Catholic Primary School under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Salford and is maintained by Bolton Local Authority. As a Voluntary Aided primary school, the school's Governing Board is the Admission Authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions. For the school year commencing September 2023, the Governing Board has set its admission number at 30.

Admission to the school will be made by the Governing Board. All preferences listed on the Local Authority preference form will be considered on an equal basis with the following set of admissions criteria forming a priority order where there are more applications for admissions than the school has places available:

1. Baptised Catholic Looked After and previously Looked After children.
2. Baptised Catholic children who will have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission and who are resident in the catchment area of St. Ethelbert's RCP School within the parish of Christ the Redeemer or who are resident in the parish of St. Vincent's.
3. Baptised Catholic children in the catchment area of St. Ethelbert's RCP School within the parish of Christ the Redeemer or who are resident in the parish of St. Vincent's.
4. Baptised Catholic children who will have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission and who are resident in another parish.
5. Other Baptised Catholic children
6. Other Looked After and previously Looked After children.
7. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church
8. Non-Catholic children who have a sibling in school at the time of admission
9. Other children.

Notes

a. All applications will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions in January 2023. 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.

b. A Looked After Child 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 (under section 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, residence or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear to the governing board to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

c. For a child to be considered as a Catholic evidence of a Catholic Baptism or reception into the Catholic Church is required. Written evidence of reception into the Catholic Church can be obtained by referring to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the Church in which the Rite of Reception took place. If, for example, a child has been baptised in the Church of England and the parents are subsequently admitted to the Catholic Church through the RCIA programme, the child must also be admitted to the Church by the Rite of Reception.

The governing board will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of 'Baptised Catholics'. A Certificate of Reception is to include full name, date of birth, date of reception and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of reception.

Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to the parish priest who, after consulting with the Episcopal Delegate will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with Canon Law.

d. Home Address is considered to be the address where the child normally lives. Where care is split and a child moves between two addresses, the household in receipt of the child benefit would normally be the address used but the admission authority body reserves the right to request other evidence as fit the individual circumstance. Applicants should not state the address of another relative or person who has daily care of the child.

e. 'Sibling' is defined in these arrangements as full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit. This does not include cousins or other family relationships.

f. A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the admission criteria. The waiting list does not consider the date the application was received or the length of time a child's name has been on the waiting list. This means that a child's position on the list may change if another applicant is refused a place and their child has higher priority in the admissions criteria.

g. For 'In Year' applications received outside the normal admissions round, if places are available they will be offered to those who apply. If there are places available but more applicants than places then the published oversubscription criteria will be applied.

h. If an application for admission has been turned down by the Governing Board, parents may appeal to an independent appeals panel. Parents must be allowed at least twenty school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to submit that appeal. Parents must give reasons for appealing in writing and the decision of the appeals panel is binding on the governors.

i. The governing board reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to the application.

j. It is the duty of governors to comply with regulations on class size limits for children aged between rising five and seven. The governing board may exceed the regulations for twins and children from multiple births where one of the children is the 30th child admitted. This also applies to in-year applicants who are looked after/previously looked after children of UK service personnel or children who move into the area for whom there is no other school available within a reasonable distance.

k. If a child is a "summer born child", parents may request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred to later in the school year. However, the child must start school before the end of that school year. If a parent wishes their child to be educated out of their normal school year (kept back a year), they must discuss this with the school before applying. However, the final decision on this rests with the headteacher.

l. Parents may request that their child attend school part-time until he/she reaches his/her fifth birthday.

Parents may also find out about our school's admission arrangements through the Local Authority:

Tel: 01204 332143 (Pupil & Student Services)

Reviewed and agreed by the Governors of St. Ethelbert's RCP School -3rd November 2022