ADMISSIONS POLICY

St Mary's Catholic Academy, Blackpool is an 11-18 Voluntary Catholic Academy

Headteacher: Mr S Eccles B.Sc. (Hons) Chair of Board: Mrs E. Kelly

ADMISSIONS TO ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY - SEPTEMBER 2026

ADMISSIONS NUMBER: 210

St. Mary's Catholic Academy is a caring faith community. Our mission is to provide an outstanding whole-person education through which all are challenged to grow in wisdom, understanding, self-esteem and closeness to God.

The Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust is responsible for admissions within the requirements of the law. All parents applying for a place at the academy for their child(ren) should follow the Blackpool Admission arrangements which may be found on Blackpool Council's website.

In doing so, the Trust has regard to:

a. The advice of the Diocesan Trustees on the nature and purpose of Catholic schools;
b. The Board's responsibility towards the Academy and the Catholic community it serves; c.
The Catholic character of the Academy and its Mission Statement.

As required by the Education and Inspection Act 2006 and the Education (Admission of Children Looked After) (England) Regulations 2006, St. Mary's Catholic Academy gives the highest priority to Children Looked After.

A Child Looked After is a child in the care of the Local Authority or provided with accommodation by the Authority (as defined in Section 22 of the Children's Act 1989) at the time of application and allocation. This definition has been extended to include adopted children who were previously in the care of the local education authority or provided with accommodation by that authority as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

As required by law, all children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming the Academy will automatically be admitted. If more children apply to St. Mary's Catholic Academy than the agreed Admissions Number the following oversubscription criteria will be used:

1. *Baptised Catholic children in the care of the local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 or adopted Catholic children who were previously in the care of the local education authority or provided with accommodation by that authority as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. *This criterion will also apply to Baptised Catholic children who were previously in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care as they have been adopted. This is in accordance with advice from the Minister of State for Schools. These are Baptised Catholic children who were looked after outside of England by a public authority, a religious group or another provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society (eg orphanages). Parents / carers will be expected to provide evidence of previous looked after status. If this proves difficult, or not possible, they should contact the School Admissions Team for advice.*

2. *Baptised Catholic **siblings of Catholic students, in attendance at St. Mary's Catholic Academy at the time of application, who attend the following Primary Schools/Academies:
St. John Vianney, St. Kentigern, Holy Family, St. Bernadette, Christ the King, Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Cuthbert's, St. Mary's, Great Eccleston, St. John's, Poulton, St. Teresa's, Cleveleys.

3. *Baptised Catholic pupils attending the schools named in 3.

4. *Baptised Catholic pupils.

5. Other children in the care of the local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 or adopted children who were previously in the care of the local education authority or provided with accommodation by that authority as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. *This criterion will also apply to children who were previously in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care as they have been adopted. This is in accordance with advice from the Minister of State for Schools. These are children who were looked after outside of England by a public authority, a religious group or another provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society (eg orphanages).Parents / carers will be expected to provide evidence of previous looked after status. If this proves difficult, or not possible, they should contact the School Admissions Team for advice.*

6. Children of staff employed by the Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

7. Children of faith*** who have siblings, in attendance at St. Mary's Catholic Academy at the time of application, who attend the following Primary Schools/Academies:
St. John Vianney, St. Kentigern, Holy Family, St. Bernadette, Christ the King, Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Cuthbert, St. Mary's Great Eccleston, St. John's, Poulton, St. Teresa's, Cleveleys.

8. Children of faith*** attending the Primary Schools/Academies named in 7.

9. Children of faith*** who have siblings already attending St. Mary's Catholic Academy.

10. Children of faith***.

11. Other children who have siblings in attendance at St. Mary's Catholic Academy at the time of application.

12. Other pupils who attend the following Primary Schools/Academies:
St. John Vianney, St. Kentigern, Holy Family, St. Bernadette, Christ the King, Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Cuthbert's, St. Mary's Great Eccleston, St. John's, Poulton, St. Teresa's, Cleveleys.

13. Children of other faiths

14. Other children whose parents/carers wish them to be educated within the ethos and values of a Roman Catholic Academy.

If the number of children in any of the categories 1-16 is greater than the places available, applications will be further ranked as follows:

1. 1.

1. Children living nearest the Academy as measured by a straight line distance from the Local Land and Property Gazatee (LLGP) address point of the school to the Ordnance Survey point of the applicant's home address and of the academy.* The LLGP Ordnance Survey address point is a point within the boundary of the property and is usually located at its centre. Distances are measured using the Council's Geographic Information System.
2. In the event of the distances being identical lots will be drawn to determine which child is offered a place at the Academy.

The Academy will maintain a waiting list of unsuccessful applicants from parents of Year 6 pupils. The order of pupils on the waiting list will be determined using the criteria above. Pupils will be admitted from the waiting list up to the Academy's published Admission Number if places become available

* For admission to this Catholic Academy a baptised Catholic is:

- One who has been baptised into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various ritual Churches in communion with the See of Rome. Proof of baptism will be required.
- A child baptised in another Christian Faith who has been received into full communion with the Roman
- Catholic faith. (Proof of baptism and reception from the Register of Receptions or Baptismal Register will be required).

** Sibling refers to full brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. Stepchildren or foster children who live at the same address are also classed as siblings

***People of Christian faith are defined as a child who is:

- Enrolled in a recognised course of preparation leading to Catholic baptism (Proof of enrolment with details of the place and date of enrolment from the appropriate parish records will be required).
- A member of Christian Churches and the Eastern Orthodox Churches. (Proof of baptism with a copy of a baptismal certificate, details of the date and place of baptism or certificate of reception will be required).

Applications received after the closing date stated by Blackpool Local Authority, as part of the common admission process, will be treated as late applications. Late applications received through the common admissions process and forwarded to the Academy prior to their Admissions Meeting and determinations will be considered equally. However, late applications received by the Academy after the Admission Meeting will not be considered.

Multiple Births

Where there are twins or multiple birth children wanting admission then the Trust will operate with as much flexibility as permitted by the Code. In the event that two or more children, from a multiple birth, are applying for a single available place lots will be drawn to determine which child is offered a place at the Academy.

Address of Pupil

The address used on the school's admission form must be the current one at the time of application. The address or 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 at the time of application. If the address changes subsequently, the parents should notify the school. In some cases, for example, where shared parental living arrangements are in place, a child's address may be difficult to determine. In these circumstances, the address used for child benefit purposes, ie, the address of the parent claiming the child benefit, will be used.

If you are moving house and applying for the Academy and it is not oversubscribed, using your new address may not be a problem. In the event of oversubscription it may be possible to consider your application on the basis of an address you are intending to move to. You must be resident at a specific address and not just have a stated intention to move to an area. You must provide evidence that you have exchanged contracts on a house or have an offer of a tenancy on a property in which you intend to live and which will be in place when your child would start at the school. This evidence must be submitted as soon as possible and no later than the closing date stated by Blackpool Local Authority, as part of the common admission process. Further evidence, eg utility bills, may also need to be submitted.

Fraudulent Applications

Where the Trust discovers that a child has been awarded a place as a result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent, for example, where a false address has been provided, then the Trust is required to withdraw the offer of a place. The application will then be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

Accepting the Place at the Academy

Any Year 7 child that has been offered a place and fails to attend the academy to accept the place, within the first two weeks of the term in September, risks forfeiting their place. Within these exceptional circumstances after an initial two week period they will then be written to and offered a further two weeks in which to begin to attend. Should they fail to attend the academy in this time then they will forfeit their place and it may be offered to another child, if there is a waiting list.