SIXTH FORM 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 SIXTH FORM - SEPTEMBER 2026

EXTERNAL APPLICATIONS ADMISSIONS NUMBER: 40

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. 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 Governing Body'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.

The Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust is the Admission Authority of the academy. Students already educated at St. Mary's Catholic Academy, during Year 11, will automatically be eligible for the Sixth Form so long as they meet the minimum entry requirement of five or more 9-4 grades at GCSE including GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics.

Applications are welcomed from students who attended other high schools and wish to apply for a place at St. Mary's Catholic Academy. To be admitted to St. Mary's Catholic Academy, students from other schools/academies must meet the minimum entry requirement of five or more GCSEs at grade 4 or higher at GCSE including GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics.

From 2005 to 2020 all students who applied to St. Mary's and met the minimum entry requirement were offered a place in the Sixth Form.

Blessed Edward Bamber
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

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Registered in England and Wales

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Any student who has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), which names the Academy will be admitted to Yr 12 provided the student also meets the minimum entry requirement of five or more GCSEs at grade 4 or higher at GCSE including GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics, and s/he will count towards the admission number. If more external students apply to St. Mary's Catholic Academy than the agreed Admissions Number the following oversubscription criteria will be used.

1. *Baptised Catholic students 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 students 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 (e.g. 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 students attending Cardinal Allen Catholic High School, Fleetwood or St. Bede's Catholic High School, Lytham.

3. *Baptised Catholic students.

4. Students 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 students 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.*

5. People of faith*** attending Cardinal Allen Catholic High School, Fleetwood or St. Bede's Catholic High School, Lytham.

6. People of faith***.

7. People of other faiths.

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

Where there are more students seeking admission than places available, within a stated criterion, the Trust will apply the following tiebreakers in order of priority:

1. Children living nearest the Academy as measured by a straight line distance from the Local Land and Property Gazateer (LLGP) address point of the school to the Ordnance Survey point of the applicant's home address and of the school.* 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 11 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 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).

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.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- The Academy welcomes interested students to the Annual Sixth Form Open Evening in the Autumn Term.
- Application forms are distributed with the Sixth Form prospectus, from the academy's website (www.st-mary.blackpool.sch.uk) or from Mrs. J. Burrough (Head of Sixth Form) on 01253 396286.
- Informal visits are available to external candidates and may be arranged with Mrs. J. Burrough.
- Applications are welcomed up to the closing date of the 31st March each year.
- By the 30th April, conditional offers will be made to applicants subject to them meeting the minimum entry requirement and for external candidates subject to availability. If the oversubscription criteria are required, external candidates will be informed of the number of external candidates who applied, the oversubscription category they have been placed in and the number of applicants in each category.
- Late applications will not be considered by the Trust but following receipt of GCSE results confirmation students may be admitted to the Academy if there are places available or placed on the waiting list.
- Following receipt of GCSE results confirmation of admittance to St. Mary's Catholic Academy will be given to all those students who meet the entry requirement and in the case of external applicants if there is availability.
- If applicable, a waiting list of students will be maintained until the 30th September with places offered in order of the place determined by the oversubscription criteria.