

St. Matthew's R.C. High School

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Admission Policy for Academic Year 2018 to 2019

St Matthew's RC High School is an 11-16 Catholic secondary school under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Salford and maintained by Manchester Local Authority as a Voluntary Aided School. The school's Governing Body is the Admissions Authority, which is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admission. The co-ordination of admissions arrangements is undertaken by the local authority. For the school's year commencing September 2018, the Governing Body has set its admissions number at 300.

The Catholic Faith and the Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church have an essential role in school life and influence every aspect of the Curriculum. We ask all parents applying for a place here 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 for and be considered for a place here.

Admission to the school will be made by the Governing Body. 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. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children [see note a below].
2. Baptised Roman Catholic children [see note c below] who attend the following partner primary schools: Christ the King, Mount Carmel, St Dunstan's, St Edmund's, St John Bosco's, St Margaret Mary's, and St Mary's Failsworth.
3. Baptised Roman Catholic children living in the parishes linked to the above named schools, and St John Vianney's parish.
4. Other baptised, Roman Catholic children who currently attend a Catholic primary school.
5. Other baptised, Roman Catholic children.
6. Non Catholic children attending schools named in '2' above.
7. Non Catholic children from other Catholic primary schools.
8. Other children seeking a Catholic education.

If applications in any category exceed places available, they will be further ranked as follows:

1. Children who will have a sibling in the school at the time of admission. A sibling is defined as a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.
2. Children living nearest the school. Distance is to be measured in a straight line from the centre point of the child's permanent home address to the centre point of the school as defined by the Ordnance Survey, the national mapping agency, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority [see note d below].

NOTES

- a) A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).
- b) All applicants will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is published annually by the LA as part of its co-ordinating responsibility.
- c) All Catholic applicants will be required to produce a baptismal certificate. In addition to candidates who can give evidence of baptism within the Roman Catholic Church, the definition of baptised Roman Catholic is also extended to children enrolled in or having completed the catechumenate (process of preparation to be received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church) and those from Eastern Rite Churches in communion with Rome viz:
 - ALEXANDRIAN : Coptic, Ethiopian (Eritrean Catholic Church)
 - ANTIOCH: Malankrese (Sri Lanka), Maronite, Syrian
 - ARMENIAN: Armenian
 - CHALDEAN (East Syrian): Chaldean, Malabar
 - CONSTANTINOPLE (BYZANTINE): Albanian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Georgian, Greek, Melchite, Italo-Albanian, Romanian, Russian, Ruthenian, Slovakian, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Macedonian and the Church of the Byzantines of the Diocese of Krizevci.
- d) With regard to the 'distance' criteria. In the event of distances being the same for 2 or more applicants where this distance would be last place/s to be allocated, a random lottery will be carried out in a public place. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.
- e) 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.
- 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. Places will be allocated if they become available and will be ranked according to the Admission Criteria.
- g) For 'In Year' applications received outside the normal admissions round and if places are available then children qualifying under the published criteria will be admitted. If there are places available but more applicants than places then the published oversubscription criteria will be applied. 'In Year' and late applications will be treated as per the co-ordinated arrangements published by the Local Authority.
- h) If an application for admission has been turned down by the Governing Body, parents can 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 Body reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to baptism, sibling connections or place of residence.