



## **St Columba's RC Primary School Admissions Policy 2019**

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 at St Columba's RC primary School

### **Our Admissions Policy**

St Columba's RC Primary School is a Roman Catholic Primary School under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Salford. It is maintained by Bolton Local Education Authority. As a Voluntary Aided School, the Governing Board 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 2019, the Governing Board has set its admissions number at 30.

Admissions 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 Roman Catholic Looked After Children and previously Looked After children or children who became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.
2. Baptised Roman Catholic children who will have a sibling attending the school at the time of admission and resident in the catchment area.
3. Baptised Roman Catholic children who will have a sibling attending the school at the time of admission but are resident outside the catchment area.
4. Baptised Roman Catholic children resident in the catchment area.
5. Baptised Roman Catholic children who are resident outside the catchment area.
6. Other Looked After Children or previously Looked After children and children who became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.
7. Other children with a sibling attending the school at the time of admission.
8. Other children.

## Notes:

- a) The Governing Board is the admissions authority.
- b) In the August of the year preceding their child's entry into Reception all parents who have expressed an interest in a school place will be sent a copy of the Bolton Council 'Primary Admission Booklet' which gives details of the co-ordinated admissions arrangements. These are available from Council offices, public libraries and primary schools.
- c) Parents must complete a Bolton Council application form, either on line or a paper copy, and express three preferences for primary school admission. The closing date for all applications is October in the year preceding their child's admission into Reception.
- d) All applicants will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
- e) Parents will be informed of decisions by Bolton Council by March/April. An offer of a place does not guarantee a place for brothers and sisters in subsequent years.
- f) 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.
- g) For a child to be considered as a Catholic evidence of 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.
- h) Parents should check carefully whether they are resident within the catchment area of the school  
  
The catchment area for St Columba's RC Primary School is defined by the following boundaries:  
  
From the junction of Turton Road and Shady Lane, E along Turton Road, Printers Lane to the end of the road, then by a beeline to and S along Bradshaw Brook to and W along Thicketford Road, S Crompton Way, Abingdon Road (both sides), Ainsworth Lane, Entwistle Street and by a beeline to and N along River Tonge, Eagley Brook and by a footpath to Darwen Road and Turton Road to its junction with Shady Lane.
- i) It is the duty of governors to comply with regulations on class size limits at Key Stage One. The Governing Board may exceed the regulations for twins and children from multiple births where one of the children is the 30th child admitted.
- k) If in any category there are more applications than places available, priority will be given on the basis of walking distance from home to school. The Local Authority work this out for us.

l) 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.

m) 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.

n) A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the Admission Criteria. Parents will be informed of their child's position on the waiting list which will not be operated for longer than the end of the Autumn Term

o) 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. Direct application to the school can now be made under this heading. If there are places available but more applicants than places then the published oversubscription criteria will be applied.

p) 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 all parties.

q) Parents can request that the date their child, if below compulsory school age, is admitted to school is deferred to later in the school year or until the term when they reach compulsory school age.

r) The Governing Board 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.

Visit [www.bolton.gov.uk/website/pages/Primaryschoolplaces.aspx](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/website/pages/Primaryschoolplaces.aspx) for information when applying for places at St Columba's RC Primary

Appeals should be addressed to  
The Secretary  
Appeals Panel  
Democratic Services  
Town Hall  
Bolton  
BL1 1RU