



ADMISSIONS POLICY 2026-27

Document Record	
Title	Admissions Policy 2026-27
Date	October 2024
Supersedes	2025-26
Author	Mr Mike Whiteside, Headteacher
Date considered by Admission authority	October 2024
Review Date	September 2027 -28
Date adopted by School	October 2024
Consultation Date	
Consultation Date review	October 2030

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2026 - 2027

St Paul's Catholic High School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its academy company as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and articles of association, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with the admission arrangements.

The academy company (Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust) is the admission authority has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round. If you wish to have your admission request considered against the school's faith/denomination criteria then you should complete the Supplementary Information Form (SIF). The admission authority has set its admission number at 180 pupils to year 7 in the school year which begins in September, 2026.

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (see note 1)

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

Oversubscription Criteria

At any time where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority:

1. Baptised Catholic looked after and previously looked after children. (see notes 2&3)
2. Baptised Catholic children who attend a feeder Catholic primary school, namely, Saint Anthony's Catholic Primary School, St John Fisher & Thomas More Primary School, St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School, St Peters Catholic Primary School, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, St Aidan's Catholic Primary school. (see notes 3&4)
3. Other Baptised Catholic children. (see note 3)
4. Other looked after and previously looked after children. (see note 2)
5. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church. (see notes 5&6)
6. Children of other Christian denominations and children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader. (see notes 7&8)
7. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- (i) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made. (see note 9)
- (ii) The children of staff will be given increased priority within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) above (see note 10).

Tie Break

Priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. Distances are calculated as a straight-line from the child's home address, using the address point assigned by The National Land and Property Gazetteer, to the main gate to the school property. Measurements will be made using the local authority's school admissions data mapping software. In the event of distances being the same for two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the school. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

Application Procedures and Timetable

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round, you **must** complete a Common Application Form available from the local authority in which you live.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application on 1st March or the next working day, by the local authority on our behalf. If you are unsuccessful (unless your child gained a place at a school you ranked higher) you will be informed of the reasons, related to the oversubscription criteria listed above, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 31st October 2026.

Late Applications

Late applications will be considered after all those that were received by the deadline. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside their normal age group, for example if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Any such request should be made in writing to the Chair of the Admissions Committee at the school at the same time as the admission application is made. The admission authority will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the head teacher, including the head teacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the admission authority will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals, as appropriate.

Admission of Twins

The admission authority will, where logistically possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within the school's PAN.

Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful children will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and **not** in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year. The waiting list will be held open until the last day of the summer term.

Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

In-Year Applications

To apply for a place at this school at any other time, please contact the school directly to arrange for a tour of the school. You will then be asked to complete a Manchester City Council Admissions Form. Printed copies of the form are available from school and Manchester City Council, alternatively you can apply online by visiting the Manchester City Council website.

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out above, will be applied.

If there are no places available, the child will be added to the waiting list (see above).

You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Fair Access Protocol

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the admission authority is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol. The admission authority has this power even where admitting the child would mean exceeding the PAN number.

The admission authority reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place or, where the child is already attending the school the place itself, where it is satisfied that the offer or the place was obtained by deception.

For further details of Secondary School admissions in Manchester please click https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500322/secondary_school_admissions

Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.
2. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making application to the school.

A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order.

3. 'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism or who have lost their certificate should contact their Parish Priest who, after consulting with the Diocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the laws of the Church.

4. For the purposes of this admission policy, attendance at a feeder primary school includes those who were prevented from attending a feeder school due to oversubscription of Catholics and whose application to attend was unsuccessful, normally evidenced by a letter of rejection from the feeder primary school.
5. 'catechumen' means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the order of catechumens.
6. 'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.
7. "children of other Christian denominations" means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England and CYTŪN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

8. "children of other faiths" means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian denominations' at 7 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:

- A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
- A religion which does not involve belief in a God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.

9. 'brother or sister' includes:

- (i) all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and
- (ii) the child of a parent's partner where that child for whom the school place is sought lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same address as the applicant.

10. This applies where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
11. A 'parent' means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.



Saint Paul's Catholic High School



Supplementary Information Form (SIF): Standard version

(see note 1 – overleaf)

Admission - September

Saint Paul's Catholic High School, Firbank Road, Newall Green, Wythenshawe M23 2YS
Contact: 0161 499 0000

It is essential that all sections are completed and this form returned to the main office at Saint Paul's Catholic High School.

If you are applying for a place for your child in a Catholic School on faith grounds, please complete this form in addition to the Local Authority form available online or issued by the Local Authority.

This supplementary faith request form will assist the governors of the school in deciding whether your child qualifies for a place. Failure to complete the form may affect where your child is placed within the oversubscription criteria.

Personal Details

Surname: _____

Forename: _____ Middle Name: _____

Chose name: _____

Gender M/F

Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Carer contact information

Full name of parent/carer: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____ does the child live at this address? Yes/No

Email address: _____

Names of Brother (s) and/or Sister (s) still attending St Paul's in September of the coming year -

Name of current primary school: _____ From: _____ To: _____

BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Saint Paul's Catholic High School
Firbank Road, Newall Green, Wythenshawe, Manchester M23 2YS.
Telephone: 0161 499 0000 Email: admin@st-paulshigh.net Website: www.st-paulshigh.net Twitter: @StPaulsRCHigh

Mr M. Whiteside, Headteacher.

We are His body, living and learning as one.





Saint Paul's Catholic High School



For Catholics: I confirm that the above child is a baptised Catholic and enclose proof of baptism
e.g. copy of Baptismal Certificate

Yes _____ No _____

Parish you live in _____ (not necessarily the Church you attend)

For students who are not Catholic but wish to have a faith-based education in a Catholic school:

To be completed by your Faith Representative e.g. Vicar/Imam/Swami

Please complete below to confirm that the applicant is known to you and a member of your faith community.

Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Address: _____

Position held: _____

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