



ST CHRISTOPHER'S

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS

2024 ENTRY



CONTENTS

3. Welcome to St Christopher's

4. Introduction

5. Secondary Admission Arrangements

- Making an application
- Admission procedures

7. Admissions Information

- Late applications for admission
- Waiting list
- Address of pupil
- Appeals
- Fraudulent applications
- In-year admissions
- Admissions Information

8. Pastoral Care at St Christopher's

9. Worship and Attendance

10. Behaviour Policy

11. School Uniform

- Uniform for Girls
- Uniform for Boys
- Notes on Appearance
- Workshop
- General notes on Uniform/Dress
- Official School Stockist

12. Curriculum Organisation 2023

- Setting Procedures
- Homework
- Communication with Parents

- Home-School Agreement

- Access to Documents and Information

- Complaints Procedure

13. Learning/Pupil Support

- Well-being
- Learning Support Department Activities
- Parent Support Group
- Library
- School Nurse

14. Extra Curricular Activities

- Christian Union
- Sports Activities
- Music Activities
- Maths Support
- STEM Club
- Charity Work
- Modern Languages Visits
- Ski Trip
- Eco
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- IT Club

16. Sixth Form

- Curriculum Overview

17. List of Governors

18. Teaching Staff

19. Pupil Term and Holiday Dates 2024/2025

“That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.”

Psalm 1:3

St Christopher's is a Church of England Academy where pupils and staff work together, in the knowledge and love of God. We try to act out our faith in daily lives, with Christ as our example.

Within our strong Christian, Anglican context, we seek to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of our pupils, growing together as a caring and supportive community, and preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of their adult life.

WELCOME TO ST CHRISTOPHER'S

St Christopher's CE High School has provided high quality education for the Church going families of East Lancashire for over sixty years. We are proud of the enviable reputation that we have earned in all areas of education – cultural, social, physical and of course spiritual. Our faith in the love of God informs all that we do. St Christopher's is first and foremost a Church school.

It is a privilege to lead a high achieving and over-subscribed 'outstanding' (SIAMS) school. We strive to provide a genuinely holistic education, preparing boys and girls to tackle the ever greater demands facing young people in the 21st century. The talented and able teaching staff are dedicated to combining academic excellence with a richness of opportunity beyond the classroom. We are hugely ambitious academically for our pupils, ensuring that they secure the results to continue their education at the best universities or on training courses which will prepare them for careers of significance and worth.

The wide range of activities ensures that each pupil can grow and develop wherever their interests may lie. The many educational trips, expeditions and tours, our popular Duke of Edinburgh programme, highly regarded music department, and nationally recognised eco group, all give further evidence of what really is a complete curriculum. We encourage all our pupils to take full advantage of all that is on offer.

Visitors to St Christopher's often comment on the sense of community which is such a distinctive feature of the school. We work hard to ensure that every child is known, supported and challenged. These are all bold claims, so the last word should go to one of our former students –

"I am still not sure what I want to be but after studying at St Christopher's I know who I want to be."

This prospectus contains a wealth of information and I commend it to you.

Canon R.D. Jones
Headmaster



It is a privilege to lead a high achieving and over-subscribed 'outstanding' school.



"St Christopher's is one big Christian family."

Tom, Year 7

INTRODUCTION

St Christopher's opened in 1958 and is an outstanding 11 - 18 Church of England Academy.

Our caring community is based on a close partnership between staff, parents, pupils and governors and we foster strong links with local parishes and clergy, six of whom serve as School Chaplains.

We emphasise pupils' whole development, offering high standards of teaching in a range of courses to cater for all abilities, a wide extra-curriculum and making a priority of spiritual nurture, with religious worship and teaching at the centre of school life.

High academic achievement has been a feature of the school over many years, with eight out of ten Year 11 pupils gaining good GCSE grades in English and mathematics.

Our most recent Ofsted Inspection Report commented on record levels of attainment and judged pupils' personal development and behaviour as 'Outstanding'.

“Whatever you are interested in, you can come here and achieve your goals.”

Olivia, Year 7



Pupils are happy here. They like each other and treat each other with respect and kindness.

Ofsted

SECONDARY ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Making an application

Applications for admission to the school should be made on the common application form enclosed with the Local Authority's brochure, or on-line, between 1st September 2023 and 31st October 2023. Parents wishing to be considered under faith-based criteria need to complete and return the St Christopher's Supplementary Form which is available from the school website. It is essential that this is done by parents who wish an application under this category to be considered. It is not normally possible to change the order of your preferences for schools after the closing date.

Letters informing parents of whether or not their child has been allocated a place will be sent out by the Local Authority by 1st March 2024. Parents of children not admitted will be informed of the reason and offered an alternative place by the Authority.

Admission procedures

The number of places available for admission to Year 7 in the year 2024 will be a maximum of 195. The governing body will not place any restrictions on admissions to Year 7 unless the number of children for whom admission is sought exceeds this number.

The Governing Body operates a system of equal preferences under which it considers all preferences equally and allocates places according to its policy. In the event that there are more applicants than places, the governing body will allocate places using the following criteria, which are listed in order of priority.

1. (a) Children in public care and previously looked after children.

This includes any "looked after child", "previously looked after children" and any child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. 'Looked after' means that the child was (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.

This criteria also includes looked after children and all previously looked after children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

(b) Children with special medical or social circumstances affecting the child where these needs can only be met at this school.

Professional supporting evidence from a professional, e.g. a doctor, psychologist, social worker, is essential if admission is to be made under the criterion for special medical or social circumstances, and such evidence must set out the particular reasons why St Christopher's is the most suitable school and the difficulties which would be caused if the child had to attend another school. Alternatively, the school should be named in an education and health care plan or statement.

2. Children who have attended All Saints Church of England Primary School, Clayton le Moors, or St James's Church of England Primary School, Altham, for the previous year, i.e. the whole of Year 5.

A maximum of 28 pupils will be admitted under this criterion.

(a) Children of staff of St Christopher's

Staff children are defined as the children of staff (teaching and non-teaching) who have been employed in the school for the whole of the two years prior to the closing date for applications.

(b) Children who already have a sibling attending St Christopher's on the date of application and on the date of admission.

Siblings are defined as full brother and sister (including those who live apart), step, half, foster and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address, who are pupils at St Christopher's at the time of transfer.

(c) Other Children

Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category, then the distance between the Ordnance Survey address points for the school and the home measured in a straight line will be used as the final determining factor, nearer addresses having priority over more distant ones. This address point is within the body of the property and usually located at its centre. Where the cut-off point is for addresses within the same building, then the single measure between address points will apply and the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s). In all cases, home is defined as the place where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings.

3. Children with a parent/guardian who worships in a Church which is in full membership of Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance or the North West Partnership.

The lists of Churches can be found on the Churches Together in England website at cte.org.uk, and for the Evangelical Alliance at euk.org; and for the North West Partnership at northwestpartnership.com; lists are taken as on 1st September 2022. Churches in membership of the equivalent bodies to CTE in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are equally accepted.

(a) Children with a parent who has a worship attendance of four times a month for the two years leading up to 1st September 2023.

(i) The children of staff

Staff children are defined as the children of staff (teaching and non-teaching) who have been employed in the school for the whole of the two years prior to the closing date for applications.

(ii) Children who already have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission.

Siblings are defined as full brother and sister (including those who live apart), step, half, foster and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address, who are pupils at St Christopher's at the time of transfer.

(iii) Other children.

(b) Children with a parent who has a worship attendance of three times a month for the two years leading up to 1st September 2023.

(i) The children of staff

Staff children are defined as the children of staff (teaching and non-teaching) who have been employed in the school for the whole of the two years prior to the closing date for applications.

SECONDARY ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

(ii) Children who already have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission.

Siblings are defined as full brother and sister (including those who live apart), step, half, foster and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address, who are pupils at St Christopher's at the time of transfer.

(iii) Other children.

(c) Children with a parent who has a worship attendance of twice a month for the two years leading up to 1st September 2023.

(i) The children of staff.

Staff children are defined as the children of staff (teaching and non-teaching) who have been employed in the school for the whole of the two years prior to the closing date for applications.

(ii) Children who already have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission.

Siblings are defined as full brother and sister (including those who live apart), step, half, foster and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address, who are pupils at St Christopher's at the time of transfer.

(iii) Other children.

(d) Children with a parent who has a worship attendance of once a month for the two years leading up to 1st September 2023.

(i) The children of staff.

Staff children are defined as the children of staff (teaching and non-teaching) who have been employed in the school for the whole of the two years prior to the closing date for applications.

(ii) Children who already have a sibling in the school.

Siblings are defined as full brother and sister (including those who live apart), step, half, foster and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address, who are pupils at St Christopher's at the time of transfer.

(iii) Other children.

(e) Children with a parent who has a worship attendance which is less than once a month for the two years leading up to 1st September 2023.

(i) The children of staff.

Staff children are defined as the children of staff (teaching and non-teaching) who have been employed in the school for the whole of the two years prior to the closing date for applications.

(ii) Children who already have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission.

Siblings are defined as full brother and sister (including those who live apart), step, half, foster and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address, who are pupils at St Christopher's at the time of transfer.

(iii) Other children.

The governors will require confirmation of this from the relevant member of the clergy. Parents should ensure that clergy have responded to this request. Parents who have changed their place of worship within the previous two-year period should seek verification from all who can vouch for them, to be submitted together with the Supplementary Information Form.

Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category, then the distance between the Ordnance Survey address points for the school and the home measured in a straight line will be used as the final determining factor, nearer addresses having priority over more distant ones. This address point is within the body of the property and usually located at its centre. Where the cut-off point is for addresses within the same building, then the single measure between address points will apply and the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s). In all cases, home is defined as the place where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings.

“St Christopher's is a school full of opportunities.”

Hannah, Year 7

4. Other children

(i) The children of staff

Staff children are defined as the children of staff (teaching and non-teaching) who have been employed in the school for the whole of the two years prior to the closing date for applications.

(ii) Children who already have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission.

Siblings are defined as full brother and sister (including those who live apart), step, half, foster and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address, who are pupils at St Christopher's at the time of transfer.

(iii) Other children.

Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category, then the distance between the Ordnance Survey address points for the school and the home measured in a straight line will be used as the final determining factor, nearer addresses having priority over more distant ones. This address point is within the body of the property and usually located at its centre. Where the cut-off point is for addresses within the same building, then the single measure between address points will apply and the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s). In all cases, home is defined as the place where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings.

Covid-19 Arrangements

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

In 2022 for 2023 entry, there were 762 applications for 195 places, 218 at first preference, 271 second preference and 273 at third preference.

The Admissions Committee applied the criteria and offered places to 8 children under criterion 1a (Children in Care)

0 children under criterion 1b (Children with special social or medical circumstances)

28 children under criterion 2 (Pupils from All Saints, Clayton-le-Moors and St James, Altham)

159 children under criterion 3 (attendance at a Christian Trinitarian Church, 53 of whom had a sibling already in school)

No children under any other criteria were offered places.

Late applications for admission

Where there are extenuating circumstances for an application being received after the last date for applications, and it is before the governors have established their list of pupils to be admitted, then it will be considered alongside all the others.

Otherwise, applications which are received after the last date will be considered after all the others, and placed on the waiting list in order according to the criteria.

Waiting list

Where there are more applications than places, the school's published admissions criteria will be used. Children who are not admitted will have their name placed on a waiting list. The names on this waiting list will be in the order resulting from the application of the admissions criteria. Since the date of application cannot be a criterion for the order of names on the waiting list, late applicants for the school will be slotted into the order according to the extent to which they meet the criteria. Thus it is possible that a child who moves into the area later to have a higher priority than one who has been on the waiting list for some time. If a place becomes available within the admission number, the child whose name is at the top of the list will be offered a place. This is not dependent on whether an appeal has been submitted.

Where there are twins or triplets seeking admission and there is only a single place left within the admission number, then the Governing Body will exercise as much flexibility as possible. If places for both twins or all triplets cannot be offered, the family will be advised accordingly. This may also apply to siblings who are in the same year group. If only a single place can be offered, then the Local Authority's system for a random draw will decide which pupil receives an offer.

The waiting list will operate until 31st December of the relevant year.

Address of pupil

The address used on admission forms must be the current one at the time of application. If the address changes subsequently, the parents should notify the school. Where the parents live at different addresses and there is shared parenting, the address used will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings. If there is any doubt about this, then the address of the Child Benefit recipient will be used. Parents may be asked to show evidence of the claim that is being made for the address used. For children of UK Service personnel and other Crown Servants returning to the area, proof of the posting is all that is required..

Appeals

Where the governors are unable to offer a place because the school is over-subscribed, parents have the right to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, as amended by the Education Act, 2002. **Parents should notify the clerk to the governors at the school by 24th March, 2024.** Parents will have the opportunity to submit their case to the panel in writing and also to attend in order to present their case. You will normally receive 14 days' notice of the place and time of the hearing.

Appeals which are received after the deadline will be slotted into the schedule where this is possible. There is no guarantee that this will happen and late appeals may be heard after the stipulated date at a second round of hearings. The schedule is subject to change depending upon the availability of appeal panel members, clerks, venues and the number of appeals for each school (which will vary year on year).

Fraudulent applications

Where the governing body discovers that a child has been awarded a place as the result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent (for example a false claim to residence in the catchment area or of involvement in a place of worship) which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, then the governing body is required to withdraw the offer of the place. The application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

In-year admissions

In-year admission is the process of applying for a school place during the school year. Any applications for the intake made after the start of the autumn term will be treated as an in-year application.

The in-year admission process is managed by the school. Parents are required to complete the in-year application form, which is available from the school website.

Where a place cannot be secured, parents will be offered a legal right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Lancashire County Council administers the appeals process on behalf of the school. Parents can complete the school's appeal form on Lancashire County Council's website.

Admissions Information

Admissions September 2023

Places available for pupils entering Year 7	195
Formal applications for places (1st preference)	218
Places offered (All first preference)	195
Appeals against non-admission	9
Successful Appeals	3
TOTAL admitted	201

PASTORAL CARE AT ST CHRISTOPHER'S

On starting school at St Christopher's, pupils are placed in a form group for registration and for pastoral purposes. These form groups are chosen so that there is a full range of abilities within each, as well as a good mix of boys and girls, whilst taking into account friendships already made at primary schools. Each group has a form teacher with whom the pupils meet at the beginning of morning school. He/she is the person who most quickly gets to know the pupils and the person to whom most correspondence should be addressed. Although pupils may go into different sets and groups for lessons, the form group will stay together as a unit throughout the five years up to the end of Year Eleven.

The Heads of Year Seven (Mrs Ramsbottom and Mrs Lillie) are responsible for the smooth transfer of pupils from primary schools to St Christopher's. Pupils are visited at primary school by a member of St Christopher's staff. They are also invited to attend a Taster Day and a New Intake Evening in July, before beginning school in September.

The Heads of Year Seven and the Year Seven Form Teachers do everything possible to ensure that pupils settle into our school and enjoy school life to the full. A pastoral Parents' Evening is organised in the Autumn Term of Year Seven to exchange information and to

smooth the settling-in process. The Year Seven form teacher is also assisted by a team of Year 11 Mentors, who support the new pupils, escorting them to lessons in the first few days.

Children may also be supported by a member of the Well Being Team, which can be arranged through Heads of Year.

Because of their day-to-day contact with children, schools are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of a child who may be at risk through changes in behaviour or failure to develop. Parents should be aware, therefore, that where it appears to a member of school staff that a child may have been the victim of abuse or neglect, the school may be required, to report its concerns to the Lancashire School Safeguarding Team.

We have worked hard at St Christopher's to establish a Pastoral System which promotes mutual trust and respect. We aim to show concern for our pupils by recognising their strengths and needs and responding to these in a positive way.

We also hope to develop in each pupil an understanding of others and a sensitivity to their needs. This, we feel, forms the basis of a Christian community.

The school is a caring and inclusive community in which learners flourish as 'children of God'.

SIAMS



"The teachers helped me to settle in, because they were really kind and very welcoming."

Harry, Year 7

WORSHIP

Worship at St Christopher's is our life-blood, our very DNA. Each school day begins with an act of worship within the Anglican tradition. This takes place during an assembly in the School Hall, usually attended by each year group every week, a Year Assembly in the Studio or Lecture Theatre once a week and Form Assembly. A Chaplaincy Team supports our worship and pastoral work. Each year group has two Communion Services and every form has a Form Communion during the year. The School fosters links with local parishes and Christian organisations who help with assemblies.

We take every opportunity to present the Gospel to our pupils with clarity, relevance and credibility. Spirituality Days, for which we have recently won an award, Christian Band weeks, theatre companies, all play their part.

We try to establish caring attitudes and lasting values through worship and work done in the classroom, as well as, on a more practical level, supporting charitable appeals.

We now have a thriving youth church on our site, run by and for pupils.

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child from RE and collective worship in all schools. In the context of our Church School, there is an emphasis on Christian education throughout the school and we expect all pupils to participate fully in our Christian community.

ATTENDANCE

St Christopher's has been amongst the best attended secondary school in Lancashire for each of the last ten years. We reward those pupils with full attendance by presenting them with certificates and badges and present special prizes to those pupils who have had full attendance for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. We also run inter-form attendance competitions each half-term.

If a pupil is absent from school, we ask parents to inform the school by telephone or via School Synergy before 9.00am on the first day of absence and provide a note of explanation immediately on their return. Any request for absence will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, providing the pupils attendance is in line with the whole school average. In order to ensure the safety of our pupils, we make first day contact when we have received no notification. Our staff keep a close check on absentees. We work together with parents to monitor and encourage any individual pupils who have had problems in this area. All our parents are kept informed of our attendance figures on a regular basis to encourage the best possible attendance from each child in our school. Parents should note that holidays in term time are not authorised.

Pupils' care and well-being are at the heart of everything the staff do.

Ofsted



"St Christopher's is an amazing school and you'll feel like you're in a big church family."

Ola, Year 7

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Standards of behaviour are high at St Christopher's. Rewarding good behaviour, intervening promptly when problems occur and applying sanctions fairly when conduct is not acceptable, will help to maintain these standards. Staff work together to try to ensure that a consistent message is given to the pupils.

We do not underestimate the importance of reinforcing good behaviour by recognising and rewarding it. Everyone responds well when their actions or words are praised and young people, particularly, thrive when encouraged in this way.

At St Christopher's, we have a comprehensive system of rewards through which we aim to recognise the positive contributions made by pupils in many areas of school life. Our pupils respond well to the system and value the rewards. Year assemblies, main assemblies, our four annual Awards Afternoons and Speech Night are all seen as opportunities to celebrate the achievements of our pupils.

Rewards include:

- Credits, certificates, Credit badges (Years 7,8,9)
- Attendance certificates, attendance badges,
- Certificates of achievement
- Certificates of Active Citizenship
- Certificates of commendation
- School colours
- School prizes
- The prefect system
- Displays of work
- Mention in assembly
- Pupils of the month
- Certificate of excellence (Form Inspection)

We expect pupils to follow our Code of Conduct and our anti-bullying and anti-drugs policies. If a pupil fails to do this, sanctions will be applied.

Sanctions include:

- Verbal reprimand by member of staff
- Informal detention at break or lunchtime, set and supervised by the subject teacher
- A phone call home
- Referral to Head of Department
- Referral to Head of Year
- School detention
- Report card
- Withdrawal of privileges/badge etc.
- Referral to a member of the Senior Leadership Team
- Withdrawal from normal lessons within school
- Parent interview with the Head of Year/Head of department/a member of the Senior Leadership Team
- Individual Behaviour Plan
- Alternative timetabling
- Pastoral Support Programme
- Temporary suspension
- Permanent exclusion.

Parents are contacted by telephone or email/synergy when appropriate.

Parents are welcome to log on to their child's Synergy behaviour record to be up-to-date on their progress.

A full copy of our Behaviour Policy, from which this is an extract, is available on the school website.



"St Christopher's creates many opportunities for pupils to explore their greatest potential. We take pride in the breadth of academic, personal, and extracurricular experiences offered to pupils, building us spirituality and helping developing us individually to prepare for adult life. We are a close-knit community, where pupils and staff are supportive of each other, creating an ideal environment that fosters learning and personal growth. No matter what path you take at St Christopher's, you will flourish into your best self."

Grace Chadwick - Head Girl

Uniform for Girls

1. Official St Christopher's school blazer.*
2. Official St Christopher's checked, pleated, knee-length skirt.*
3. Black school trousers in a traditional 'classic' fit.
4. Plain white school blouse with short or long sleeves and stiffened collar.
5. A plain navy V neck jumper or school cardigan.
6. Official school tie.*
7. Plain navy-blue or black coat with no large logos or badges.
8. School scarf or plain navy-blue scarf (optional).
9. Plain black leather school shoes.
10. Plain white, navy-blue, black socks or tights.
11. If a hairband or fastener is worn, this should be plain navy-blue, black or white.
12. A sturdy school bag (not fashion bag) is required, large enough to comfortably fit an A4 folder and keep all contents dry.

Uniform for Boys

1. Official St Christopher's school blazer.*
2. Dark charcoal-grey school trousers in a traditional 'classic' cut.
3. Plain white school shirt with short or long sleeves.
4. A plain navy V neck jumper or school cardigan.
5. Official school tie.*
6. Plain navy-blue or black coat with no large logos or badges.
7. School scarf or plain navy-blue scarf (optional).
8. Plain black leather school shoes.
9. Plain navy-blue, black or grey socks.
10. A sturdy school bag (not fashion bag) is required, large enough to comfortably fit an A4 folder and keep all contents dry.

* Only available from Whittakers shop in Blackburn, from their Pendle Village Mill outlet or from Abbey Street Shopping Centre, Accrington.

Notes on Appearance

1. Blouse/shirt should be worn tucked in.
2. Girls' skirts must be worn at knee length and may not be rolled at the waist.
3. Ties should be pulled up to shirt collar and tied at a reasonable length.
4. All pupils may wear a wristwatch, with no other jewellery.
5. Hair for boys should be no shorter than a number one razor cut and no longer than collar length. Tram lines or patterns cut with a razor are not allowed. Boys are expected to be clean shaven for school.
6. Any hair colours/highlights should be natural shades or combinations of shades.
7. Girls' socks can be worn at knee or ankle length, not above the knee.
8. In very cold weather, a plain navy or black knitted hat may be worn when travelling to and from school.
9. Where appropriate we shall be sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races, religions and sexuality.

The following are NOT allowed

1. Slim or skinny trousers. 'Classic' fit only, with no rear patch or combat pockets.
2. Round-necked, polo-necked, hooded or front-fastening jumpers or sweatshirts.
3. Any jewellery for boys or girls. Any facial/body piercings or plastic retainers. Please note jewellery may be confiscated and parents required to collect at their convenience.
4. Coats made of denim, suede, leather or sweatshirt fabric.
5. Extreme hairstyles or hair colouring (including dip-dyed or ombre effects) Haircuts shorter than number one.
6. Make-up, false eyelashes/lash extensions, nail varnish, gel or acrylic nails, tinted eyebrows/lashes or fake tan.
7. Boots, sports shoes, sandals, plimsolls, suede or fabric shoes, shoes with high heels or platform soles.
8. Coloured scarves, football scarves, football hats or baseball caps.
9. Hair wraps, hair extensions, braided or multi-braided hair, fashion accessories.
10. Frilled or over-the-knee socks or patterned tights.
11. Heels higher than 2" (5cm).

Workshop

An apron with bib is required. This is available to purchase using the order form in the induction pack sent to parents in May.

General notes on Uniform/Dress

1. If it is necessary for your child to wear something which does not comply with our uniform list, a note to his/her form teacher is essential.
2. If children lose belongings in school, they should first try to find them by re-tracing their steps. Lost PE kit is handed into the PE Department. Other lost property can be claimed from Reception. If you could make sure that EVERYTHING IS NAMED, it is much easier for us to return it to your child.
3. If parents are in doubt about the suitability of items of School clothing, please consult the School or the stockists **before** making your purchase. The uniform does not allow for fashion items.

Official School Stockist

Whittakers,
3 Waterloo Pavilions,
20-26 Church Street,
Blackburn BB1 5AL

Tel: 01254 676047

Whittakers Outlet,
Pendle Village Mill,
Hollin Bank,
Brierfield, Nelson

Tel: 01282 442424

On-line ordering is available at www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk

Many items are also available at Abbey Street Shopping Centre, Accrington.

CURRICULUM ORGANISATION 2023

The curriculum offered to pupils is broad and balanced. In Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils follow courses in National Curriculum Science, Mathematics, English, Technology, Geography, History, French or Spanish, PE/Games, Computing, Music and Art, with a common programme in Religious Education, Personal Social & Health Education.

In Year 9 & 11 counselling is undertaken with all pupils, so that their Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form subject choice is guided and balanced. Parents are informed of all courses available through explanatory booklets and Parents' Evenings, where subject choice and general progress may be discussed with the teaching staff.

In Years 10 & 11, English, Maths, Science, Personal Social & Health Education, Careers, Religious Education, PE/Games, form a core for all. Subjects offered in 2022-23 were French, Spanish, History, Geography, Separate Sciences, Graphics, Textiles, Art & Design, Music, PE, Computer Science, Food & Nutrition, Business Studies, Digital, ICT, Performing Arts and Design & Technology.

In the Sixth Form a wide range of courses is offered as described on page 15.

Setting Procedures

From Year 7, all subjects are taught in mixed prior attainment groups. These classes are reviewed regularly and adjusted as and when appropriate. Special arrangements are made for those requiring learning support. All classes are characterised by a culture of high aspirations with the aim of ensuring that all pupils can attain well and make good rates of progress.

Homework

Our homework policy stresses the importance of homework for all pupils, and parental co-operation is requested to ensure that such work is completed and returned punctually. Parents are asked to provide reasonable time and facilities for this. A homework timetable is issued to each child with a homework diary which we ask parents to check and sign each week.

Communication with Parents

Parents receive one full School Report and three Progress Reports each year informing them of their child's progress, punctuality and conduct. If the School is not satisfied with some aspect of a pupil's work or behaviour, parents will be invited to discuss the problem in School. Parents' Evenings are held in each year of a pupil's career in School, when normally all subject teachers and form teachers are available for consultation. In addition, parents are invited to a Pastoral Evening during the first term of Year 7 and 12, an Options Evening in Year 9 and a Futures Evening in Years 10 and 11. Parents are invited to contact the school through the Head of Year if they have any concerns. Parents can keep up-to-date with their child's behaviour, homework and calendared events through the School Synergy Parent Portal.

Home-School Agreement

The close partnership we seek between home and school is reflected in a written agreement signed by parents, pupils and the school when pupils join Year 7.

Access to Documents and Information

The Headmaster will make available to parents, on request, the information required, in accordance with the Education Act 1980.

Complaints Procedure

A copy of the school's complaints policy can be found on the website

"I feel St Christopher's is a community that provides opportunities for every individual to learn new or grow existing talents. Whether these are academic, athletic, skill based, artistic, or faith-based, there is something for everyone. All students are encouraged to embrace learning and the school values ensure this is done in a safe and supportive environment. Our school leaders work closely with every student to realise their full potential. It is not about being the best, it is about doing your best."

Rheon Beveridge - Head Boy



Our main aim is to ensure that all pupils who experience difficulties, for whatever reason, receive their entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum at St Christopher's. Support is provided on the basis of individual needs. Pupils are screened when they enter the school and, with the aid of specialist teachers, appropriate means of support are provided. This can include:

- the creation of special teaching groups
- extra teacher support in lessons
- extra support outside the classroom
- the provision of special equipment such as laptops, overlays, radio aids
- a variety of supported activities at lunchtime
- computer-assisted learning using a literacy and numeracy acceleration programme
- assessment for special arrangements for GCSE and internal exams.

Every effort is made to involve pupils and their parents in the process so that pupils experiencing difficulties reach their full potential.

Well-being

Maintaining positive mental health is a priority of pastoral care at St. Christopher's. We are aware of how areas such as anxiety, family difficulties, bereavement and exam pressure can impact on young people's well-being. A significant number of staff have undertaken mental health first aid training and mental health is a feature of PSHE lessons, assemblies and study skills sessions. We regularly run mindfulness sessions in preparation for external examinations to help equip young people with coping strategies at pressure points throughout their lives.

We aim to foster an environment which:

- recognises that each member of the school community is an individual with specific needs and strengths
- fosters mutual respect and concern for others
- values the contribution made by each member of the school community
- encourages and celebrates positive achievement
- actively supports those in need.

St. Christopher's Well Being Team includes counsellors, safeguarding leads, a wellbeing practitioner and designated leader for Looked After Children. Pupils can request support, or be referred by parents or Heads of Year. We work with families and young people to offer in-house and external support tailor made for individual circumstances, making referrals to outside agencies as appropriate. For further details, please refer to the school Well Being Policy on the website.

School Nurse Team

Our school nurse offers a confidential drop-in facility to pupils on a weekly basis. She provides help and advice to teachers on a wide range of health issues.

In order to ensure that her support is appropriate to pupils' needs, Year Nine and Sixth Formers provide her with feedback on health concerns for their year group.

Learning Support

The main aim of the learning support department is to ensure that all pupils who experience learning challenges receive their entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum. The SENDCO works closely with Heads of Department and teachers to ensure the provision of high-quality teaching to all pupils, including those with SEND. Termly reviews of progress take place for all pupils; where a higher degree of support is required, interventions and support strategies are implemented based on individual pupil need.

Examples can include:

- Communication of appropriate strategies or reasonable adjustments that are required in the classroom
- Literacy intervention programme for struggling readers
- Social or communication skills interventions with the specialist teaching assistant
- Teaching assistant support in classes
- Availability of 'quiet spaces' during lunch and break times
- Supported activities available at lunchtime to promote social inclusion and development of friendships
- Provision of specialist equipment such as laptops, visual aids, physical aids
- Assessment for access arrangements for GCSE and internal exams.

SEN reviews and parents' evenings provide opportunities for parents and pupils to evaluate current provision and adapt or change as required, enabling pupils to reach their full potential.

Please see SEND Policy (on website) for further information.

Library

Our library is open to pupils for reading, study and research. Computer facilities and a wide range of books are available for individual, group or class learning. Our full-time Librarian helps to advise and guide pupils.

Our Sixth Form library makes an attractive study area. Well-equipped with computers, it also boasts a wide range of academic works designed to support A-level courses we offer. In addition there is an eclectic selection of fiction books available for study and private reading.

The school's values
weave through all
aspects of school life.

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EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A lively and vital part of school life are the many extra-curricular activities open to our pupils.

Christian Union

This group meets every week. It is led by a team from the local church and supported by the school's Year 11 pupil worship co-ordinator under the oversight of the RE staff. Games, drama, quizzes, videos, guest speakers and a Youth Alpha course give pupils the opportunity for fellowship and the chance to deepen their faith.

St Christopher's Youth Church

We are fortunate to have our very own Church of England youth church, run entirely by main school pupils and sixth form students. Under the spiritual oversight of local parish priest and school chaplain, Fr. David Arnold, we offer a youth church which is by youth for youth; outward facing and seeking to grow followers of Jesus.

Our services are held after school every second week with a monthly Eucharist service. Pupils also meet together weekly in order to plan the services, learn how to preach/communicate, and follow courses like 'youth Christianity explored' or 'youth Alpha.' All pupils from years 7 to 13 are welcome to come along to all of these events.

Sports Activities

The P.E. staff provide many opportunities for pupils to enjoy sports and games during the lunch break and after school. Regular practices are held and teams compete against other schools in inter-school local, regional and national competitions. In addition, inter-form matches take place each term.

Sports on offer are:

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Dance
- Gymnastics + Trampolining
- Orienteering
- Hockey
- Netball
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Cricket
- Football
- Handball
- Rugby League
- Judo
- Rounders
- Tennis
- Yoga

Music Activities

All pupils are encouraged to get involved in the many music ensembles that rehearse at lunchtime and after school. These include Junior Choir, Senior Vocals Girls' Choir, Orchestra, Wind Band, Concert Band, Swing Band, Discovery Jazz, Cantores SATB Choir and Brass Ensemble. The ensembles cater for all ability ranges and expertise.

Musicians contribute to assemblies, concerts, celebratory events, Cathedral evensong and joint performances with other schools. Senior Vocals compete in the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen and Cantores in the Choir of the Year Competition where they have been named Choir of the Day.

The Swing Band along with the choirs tour abroad each year. To date the choirs and bands have given concerts in Northern Spain, Paris, Venice, Tuscany, Prague, Budapest, Salzburg, Croatia, Malta, Poland, Holland, Germany, Belgium and Tenerife.

Maths Support

Chess Club is available every lunchtime for all. Pupils are provided with opportunities to enter maths puzzle competitions. Pupils from Years 8, 9 and 11 are selected to enter national maths challenge competitions. Maths teachers are available every lunchtime for extra help in an ICT Suite.

Science Activities

Science café runs every lunchtime for any pupil who needs extra help with classwork or homework. Pupils are helped by our Science Subject Ambassadors and Science teachers. In Science Club, year 7 and 8 pupils complete GCSE-level practical activities and engineering challenges. In Year 10, our Gifted and Talented group runs after school once a week. Pupils carry out activities above and beyond our exam specifications to inspire, motivate and inform A-level and university choices. Our KS3 and KS4 pupils have participated in local and national Science competitions, including the National Scientific Thinking Challenge. Pupils and students have also watched Science Live! university style lectures from a range of top scientists. At A-level, our students take part in the British Biology Olympiad and benefit from a range of trips and visits. These include trips to Jodrell Bank, CERN, Blue Planet Aquarium, Chester Zoo and a range of university departments to complete degree style experiments.



"I have enjoyed Craft Club and other different activities such as Eco Group and Lego Club."

Annie, Year 7

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Charity Work

Charity work at St Christopher's is an important part of our school life. It gives pupils the opportunity to put into practice the messages of our Mission Statement and Aims in a most practical way. Pupils and staff work together enthusiastically to support a range of charities.

At the beginning of the school year, each Year Group chose its own charity. During the year, pupils and staff promoted their causes to others and organised games and activities to raise funds.

Year Charities for 2022/23

Year 7: Children In Need

Year 8: Lepra

Year 9: Nightsafe & Maundy Relief

Year 10: Child Action North West

Year 11: Teenage Cancer Trust & Unicef

The school year 2022/23 was a busy one for our young fund-raisers with over £2,500 raised.

Eco Group

The care for the environment is well embedded within the St Christopher's ethos, as well as being recognised nationally as a leading sustainable school. This is testament to the children and whole school community as they work together to build a better environmental future, as well as campaign for social justice. Recent campaigns include banning single use plastic bottles, encouraging children to bring their own refillable bottle and drink more water.

As a six times Green Flag ambassador Eco School and host of the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Eco Cluster Group, we support and share ideas across the borough's local primary and secondary schools. We also co-ordinate the UK Schools Sustainability Network N North West section. Past activities have seen the senior eco team visit Brussels in 2017 before we left Europe and presented to members of the European Parliament on issues such as the energy crisis, food providence, fracking in Lancashire and child labour. They were the first children to meet an official BREXIT negotiator and asked pertinent questions in front of various members of parliament and representatives of international organisations.

An annual visit to the Roots & Shoots awards in London is a show case for the nationally recognised Trashion Show from our textiles students.

Our well-established Eco Group spans years 7-13, pupils learn various skills beyond the classroom including organic growing in our 36' polytunnel and seven outdoor beds. They undertake many campaigns throughout the school year, from the local walk or cycle to school initiatives to national campaigns such as Pledge 4 Veg helping and supporting the hosting of the annual Sustainability Learning Conference North West.

IT Club

The department has been very active in offering extra curricular classes to pupils of all ages. Regular classes take place at lunchtime and after school.

Pupils may also access computers outside lesson time by negotiation with subject department staff and through the use of a booking system.

Sustainability Learning Conference North West

Since 2013 we have been an integral partner of this annual conferences. First hosting in our sixth form in 2016 a programme for able and gifted high school students was introduced. As our conference grew, the Blackburn Rovers Community Trust volunteered their space and the event has been hosted there since 2017. The conference is a platform sharing skills, knowledge and experience in promoting education for sustainable development (ESD) in schools and other learning communities in Lancashire including the organisation of annual conferences for primary and secondary school pupils. It encourages environmental education and learning outside the classroom, with an emphasis on real world links to jobs and future career prospects. Firmly established as the largest in the UK, our pupils have an integral part annually.

Ski Trip

St Christopher's is really pleased to offer pupils the opportunity to spend seven days abroad, learning to ski. Over the last 30 years, we have visited resorts in the French Pyrenees, Italian Dolomites and the French and Austrian Alps.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

St Christopher's offers pupils the opportunity to participate in the Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13.

The Award is a challenging programme which helps pupils to learn new skills, encourages social commitment and allows them to experience adventure whilst giving them a great sense of achievement.

Pupils complete activities in four sections - Volunteering, Skills, Physical Recreation and Expeditions, completing the Bronze Award in Year 10, Silver Award in Year 11 and Gold in Year 12/13. This year over 100 pupils will receive either their Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards.

All pupils benefit from the many opportunities on offer outside their classroom learning.

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SIXTH FORM

An exciting, wide range of A-level courses is offered at St Christopher's Sixth Form Centre.

Building on the foundations of our pupils' academic success over past years, we have responded to the needs of our community by extending our courses. Our Sixth Form offers students the opportunity of studying a wide and diverse variety of A-levels.

The Sixth Form Centre, known as the Crossland Building, opened in January 2011, situated sympathetically on our current site. It enables students to have their own more mature identity. Particular attention has been given to student facilities, with an extensive common room, roof garden, lecture theatre, careers library and excellent catering.

Sixth Form students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop independent thought and self-discipline. Our aim is to encourage intellectual excitement and provide appropriate challenge to help fulfil each individual's potential.

The proximity of the Sixth Form Centre to the existing school allows staff to have easy access and ensure that the cherished ethos of St Christopher's is maintained and extended.

Curriculum Overview

Nearly 30 A-level courses are offered at St Christopher's. Students commence with four subjects in Year 12 and continue with three of these through Year 13.

The A-level courses offered are as follows:

- Art & Design
- Business Studies
- Classical Civilisation
- Economics
- English Literature
- French
- German
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Product Design
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computing
- English Language
- English Combined
- Geography
- Government & Politics
- Law
- Further Mathematics
- Performing Arts
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Textiles

Further details are published in the Sixth Form prospectus.

Teaching groups at St Christopher's are small and a range of teaching styles adopted, partly to prepare students for the less structured teaching approach they will meet at university. Sixth formers are encouraged to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to make well-informed and realistic choices about their future.

All A-level courses require a minimum of 4 GCSEs Grade 5, plus at least Grade 4 in English Language and Mathematics.

All pupils move on to appropriate, high-quality destinations at the end of their time at the school.

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"St Christopher's Sixth Form offers a welcoming and nurturing atmosphere, making it an exceptional learning environment. The teachers possess incredible enthusiasm for their subjects, which they skillfully impart to us, igniting our own passion for learning."

George Murphy - Head Boy, St Christopher's Sixth Form



LIST OF GOVERNORS

Chairman of Governors

Mr F Whitehead (21-25)

Vice-Chairman

Mr P Stinchon (20-24)

Foundation Governors

Fr D Arnold – Area Dean

Mr D Anderson (20-24)

Mr A Cran (21-25)

Mrs L Hargreaves (19-23)

Mrs J Roberts (21-25)

Mr P Stinchon (20-24)

Mrs D Taylor (22-26)

Mr F Whitehead (21-25)

Mrs C Wightman (21-25)

Parent Governors

Mrs E Barker (22-26)

Mr J Leaver (19-23)

Staff Governors

Canon R Jones Headmaster

Miss H Davies (21-25)

Mr W Young (23-27)

Clerk to Governors

Governor Support Ltd.



TEACHING STAFF

Headmaster

Canon R Jones BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Senior Assistant Headteachers

S Parkinson BA (Hons) PGCE

R O'Doherty BA (Hons) GTP NPQSL

Deputy Headteacher

A Spence BA (Hons) PGCE WEd,CMgr,MCMI

Assistant Headteachers

D Allen BSc PGCE NPQSL

H Davies GMus (Hons) RNCM PPRNCM (Director of Sixth Form)

L Williamson BA (Hons) GTP

Teachers are very
proud to be part of
the school.

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Associate Headteachers

S Holmes BA (Hons) PGCE

W Litherland BSc (Hons) PGCE

C Pountain MTh BA (Hons) PGCE

J Waller BA (Hons) PGCE

N Anderton MA BA (Hons) PGCE

G Ashton BA (Hons) PGCE

S Bailey BSc (Hons) PGCE

N Black BSc PGCE

J Walton BA (Hons) GTP

V Buckley BA (Hons) PGCE

M Coop-Rushworth BEconSc (Hons) PGCE

R Costigan BSc (Hons) PGCE

M Dickinson BEd (Hons)

J Fallows GRSM (Hons) LRAM PGCE

K Farrelly BSc (Hons) PGCE

C Flanagan NPQH Med BSc (Hons) PGCE

J Gerrard BA (Hons) PGCE

K Gerrard BA (Hons) PGCE

A Gleave BSc (Hons) PGCE

O Hamey BA (Hons) PGCE

S Hancock MChem (Hons) PGCE QTS

T Hardwick BA (Hons) PGCE

H Hargreaves BEd (Hons)

E Harrison BSc (Hons) QTS

S Heward BSc (Hons) PGCE

L Howe BSc (Hons) PGCE

B Ince BSc (Hons) PGCE

T Johnson BSc (Hons) PGCE

R Kelly BSc (Hons) PGCE

S Layfield BSc (Hons) PGCE

A Lilly BA (Hons) PGCE

Dr T Maryon MPhys (Hons)

W McManus BA (Hons) PGCE

H Morgan BSc (Hons) PGCE

A Morrison BA (Hons) PGCE

E Muir BA (Hons) GTP

H Musso BA (Hons) GTP

K Newborough BA (Hons) PGDE

C Newton BA (Hons) PGCE

R Nunns BA (Hons) PGCE

C O'Reilly BSc (Hons) PGCE

A Parker BA (Hons) PGCE

S Patchett BSc (Hons) PGCE

O Pellet BA (Hons) PGCE

A Pollock BA (Hons) PGCE

A Powell BA (Hons) PGCE

L Price BA (Hons) PGCE

R Proctor BA (Hons) PGCE

C Ramsbottom BA (Hons) QTS

M Redfearn MPhys (Hons) PGCE

M Rigby BA (Hons) QTS

S Saxby-Street BA (Hons) PGDE

A Smith BSc (Hons) PGCE

E Smith MA PGCE

J Smith BSc PGCE

T Smith MA PGCE

A Snape BA (Hons) GTP

L Stott MA BA (Hons) PGCE

G Stratton BA (Hons) PGCE

D Surgeon BA (Hons) MA PGCE

C Watts BA (Hons) PGCE

C Wright BA (Hons) PGCE

W Young MTh BA (Hons) PGCE

PUPIL TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2024-2025

Term Dates 2024-2025

Autumn Term 2024

INSET DAY	Monday 2nd September
School re-opens Yrs 7, 10, 11 & L6	Tuesday 3rd September
School re-opens Yrs 8, 9 & U6	Wednesday 4th September
Mid-Term Closure	Monday 21st October - Friday 25th October
INSET DAY	Monday 28th October
School re-opens	Tuesday 29th October
Closure after school on	Friday 20th December
<i>Number of Opening</i>	73

Spring Term 2025

School re-opens on	Monday 6th January
Mid-Term Closure	Monday 17th - Friday 21st February
School re-opens	Monday 24th February
Closure after school on	Friday 4th April - Monday 21st April
<i>Number of Openings</i>	60

Summer Term 2025

School re-opens on	Tuesday 22nd April
May Day	Monday 5th May
Mid-Term Closure	Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May
School re-opens on	Monday 2nd June
INSET DAY	Monday 30th June
Closure after school	Tuesday 18th July
<i>Number of Opening</i>	57

Total number of Openings *190 Total*

Please visit our website (www.st-christophers.org/main-parents-students/term-dates) for the most up-to-date copy of our term dates for 2024-2025.

Times for School Session

8.45am	Registration and Form Period/Year Assembly/Hall Assembly
9.10am	Lesson 1
10.10am	Lesson 2
11.10am	Break
11.30am	Lesson 3
12.30pm	Lesson 4
1.30pm	Lunch
2.10pm	Registration and Lesson 5
3.15pm	End of school day*

“I am enjoying Maths, English and Science because they are more challenging than primary school.”

Annabel, Year 7

*On Friday each week, the school finishes at 2.15pm. Lunch will be taken at 12.30pm with Lesson 4 commencing at 1.10pm.

OPEN EVENING

for Year Six pupils and their parents

Wednesday 4th October
6pm - 8pm

Visit our high performing and caring church school



Queens Road West • Accrington • BB5 4AY
www.st-christophers.org

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither
- whatever they do prospers.

Psalm 1



 Queens Road West
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 01254 232 992
 www.st-christophers.org

