



ST CHRISTOPHER'S

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS

2026 ENTRY



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“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 like a big family all supporting Christian values together."

Leo, 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'.

"The reassurance of my form teacher, and the teachers around school, gave me the confidence I needed and never knew I had."

Alice, 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 for September 2026 should be made on-line between 1st September 2025 and 31st October 2025. It is not normally possible to change the order of your preferences for schools after the closing date.

Parents must complete their home Local Authority application form, stating three preferences. Residents can apply online at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/.

For families who are unable to apply online, application forms can be requested from, and returned to, the school or appropriate area office, the address of which is available at the school. All parents returning application forms to school must receive a receipt of submission.

Parents who wish their application to this Church school to be considered against the faith criteria must also complete the Supplementary Form. If the school is oversubscribed, a failure to complete the Supplementary Form will result in your application for a place in this school being considered against lower priority criteria as the Governing Board will have no information upon which to assess the worship attendance.

The Supplementary Information Form must be completed at the time of application and is available from the school or online at www.st-christophers.org/main-year-focus/year-6-transition/admissions.

The Supplementary Information Form must be returned directly to the school by 31st October 2025 if parents wish their application to be considered against faith criteria.

For parents applying online emails informing parents of whether or not their child has been allocated a place will be sent out by the Local Authority on 1st March 2026. Parents of children not admitted will be informed of the reason and offered an alternative place by the Authority. Parents applying by hard copy forms will be informed by letter.

Admission procedures

Arrangements for admission have been agreed following consultation between the Governing Body, the Diocesan Board of Education, Local Authorities and other admission authorities in the area.

The number of places available for admission to Year 7 in the year 2026 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 their admission number. The Governing Body operates a system of equal preferences under which they consider all preferences equally and the Local Authority notifies parents of the result. In the event that there are more applicants than places after admitting all children with a Education Health and Care Plan naming the school, the Governing Body will allocate places using the criteria below which are listed in order of priority.

1. (a) Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

This means a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously 'looked after' but ceased to be looked after because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements or special guardianship order, including those 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 (please see definitions below). A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to the school.

An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who are adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46

adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individual's to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians). A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

(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 the school in question is the only school where these needs can be met and the difficulties which would be caused if the child had to attend another school. Parents must submit this evidence to the school by 31st October 2025, if they wish their application to be considered under this criterion.

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.

Children who have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission. Siblings include full, step, half, foster, adopted brothers and sisters and children of parent or carer's partner. In all cases both children should be living in the same family unit at the same address.

(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 Gospel 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 www.eauk.org; and for the North West Gospel Partnership at www.northwestgospelpartnership.com; lists are taken as on 1st September 2025. Churches in membership of the equivalent bodies to CTE in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are equally accepted.

SECONDARY ADMISSION 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 arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

(a) Children with a parent who has a worship attendance of four times a month for the two years leading up to 1st September 2025.

(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.

Children who have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission. Siblings include full, step, half, foster, adopted brothers and sisters and children of parent or carer's partner. In all cases both children should be living in the same family unit at the same address.

(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 2025.

(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.

Children who have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission. Siblings include full, step, half, foster, adopted brothers and sisters and children of parent or carer's partner. In all cases both children should be living in the same family unit at the same address.

(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 2025.

(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.

Children who have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission. Siblings include full, step, half, foster, adopted brothers and sisters and children of parent or carer's partner. In all cases both children should be living in the same family unit at the same address.

(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 2025.

(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.

Children who have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission. Siblings include full, step, half, foster, adopted brothers and sisters and children of parent or carer's partner. In all cases both children should be living in the same family unit at the same address.

(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 2025.

(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.

Children who have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission. Siblings include full, step, half, foster, adopted brothers and sisters and children of parent or carer's partner. In all cases both children should be living in the same family unit at the same address.

(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.

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.

Children who have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission. Siblings include full, step, half, foster, adopted brothers and sisters and children of parent or carer's partner. In all cases both children should be living in the same family unit at the same address.

(iii) Other children.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

In 2024 for 2025 entry, there were 790 applications for 195 places. The Admissions Committee applied the criteria and offered places to 20 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). 147 children under criterion 3 (attendance at a Christian Trinitarian Church, 54 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 (31st October 2025), and it is before the Governing Board 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 we have more applications than places, the admissions criteria will be used. Children who are not admitted will have their name placed on a waiting list by the school. 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 for 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. Looked after children or previously looked after children allocated a place at the school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those on a waiting list.

This waiting list will operate until 31st December 2026.

The schools in-year admissions will be administered by the Governing Board of the School.

Address of pupil

The address used on the school's admission form must be the current one at the time of application, i.e., the family's main residence. 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, e.g., identity cards of various sorts showing the child's address as the one claimed. Where there is dispute about the correct address to use, the Governing Board reserve the right to make enquiries of any relevant third parties, e.g., the child's GP, Council Tax Office, Electoral Registration Officer, utilities provider. 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**

16th April 2026. 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).

Please note that this right of appeal against the governors' decision does not prevent you from making an application or an appeal in respect of another school.

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.

Non-routine and In-year admissions

It sometimes happens that a child needs to change school other than at the "normal" time; such admissions are known as non-routine or in-year admissions. Parents wishing their child to attend this school can arrange to visit the school to discuss this should they wish. You must submit an "In Year Application Form" to the school. If there is a place in the appropriate year group, then your child will be admitted. If there is no place, then the governing body will have to refuse the application, but information will be provided about how to appeal against this refusal.

If your family is moving house, your application (both for routine and non-routine applications) and any appeal will be considered as being made from your old address until you provide suitable evidence of a permanent change of address, e.g. exchange of contracts on your house purchase or the signed tenancy agreement and rent book for your new address.

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.

Twins/Triplets etc.

Where there are twins wanting 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 twins or all triplets, etc 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 for twins, then the Local Authority's system for a random draw will decide which pupil receives an offer.

Admissions Information

Admissions September 2025

Places available for pupils entering Year 7	195
Places offered	195
Appeals against non-admission	6
Successful Appeals	0
TOTAL admitted	198

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 Mr Nicholson) 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.

Supportive relationships are a strength of the school. Pupils' behaviour and attitudes are shaped by the vision and underlying virtues.

SIAMS



"The Year 11 mentors helped me to settle in as they showed me to my lessons and answered any questions I had."

Monty, 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



"There is nothing to be nervous or scared about. Just be excited to join this amazing school."

Isla, 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 is an encouraging community where everybody is seen, heard and valued. At St Christopher's our core Christian values are rooted into our community and allow everybody to flourish. School provides a wide variety of rewarding opportunities which encourage students to learn new skills, be ambitious and aspire to achieve the best in themselves. The staff are always supportive and deliver all lessons with enthusiasm which allows pupils to work hard and thrive at St Christopher's."

Bella Finn - Head Girl

SCHOOL UNIFORM - YEARS 7,8 & 9

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. Trim 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 2025

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 2023-24 were French, Spanish, History, Geography, Separate Sciences, Graphics, Textiles, Art & Design, Music, PE, Computer Science, Food & Nutrition, Business Studies, Performing Arts and Design & Technology.

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

Setting in Year 7

All pupils are placed in mixed prior attainment groups at the start of Year 7 using their KS2 SAT scaled scores. In and out of class support is provided for pupils requiring additional learning support. At Christmas, Autumn assessment data, in addition to KS2 SATs scaled scores and CAT scores, is used to place pupils into broad ability sets for Maths and Science. Classes in all subjects 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. Homework is shared on Synergy and parents are asked to help their child check each evening for homework set and deadlines shared.

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

"Being a pupil at St Christopher's is rewarding and has provided me with countless new experiences and opportunities. Whether it be joining a club to master a new sport, or learning academic skills in lessons, the school finds a way for everyone to thrive thanks to supportive staff. The key virtues of our church school help pupils feel encouraged, safe and confident, making new friends in a caring environment. St Christopher's works hard to enable pupils of all backgrounds to prosper."

Philip Amadi - Head Boy



LEARNING/PUPIL SUPPORT

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. 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.

Pupils thrive in this
nurturing environment,
where each child is
known and seen as an
individual.

SIAMS

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 | • Badminton |
| • Basketball | • Cricket |
| • Dance | • Football |
| • Gymnastics + Trampolining | • Handball |
| • Orienteering | • Rugby League |
| • Hockey | • Judo |
| • Netball | • Rounders |
| • Table Tennis | • Tennis |
| • Volleyball | • 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.

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. Each term we hold a Science Spectaculars where pupils in KS3 get the opportunity to take part in a range of themed science investigations. Our KS3 pupils this year have also had the opportunity to visit the International Space Station in Belgium. Our KS4 pupils have participated in local and national Science competitions, including the National Scientific Thinking Challenge. Pupils and students have also had the opportunity to attend Science Live! university style lectures from a range of top scientists.

At A-level, our students have taken part in the British Biology Olympiad and benefit from a range of trips and visits. In the past, these have included, trips to Jodrell Bank, CERN, Blue Planet Aquarium, Chester Zoo and a range of university departments to complete degree style experiments.



"St Christopher's has so many amazing clubs like judo and netball."

Jessica, 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 2024/25

Year 7: Children In Need

Year 8: YNOT Aspire

Year 9: The Cancer Bank

Year 10: Winston's Wish

Year 11: Maundy Relief

The school year 2024/25 was a busy one for our young fund-raisers with over £2,786 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 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.

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

Ofsted

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.

Staff have high ambitions for pupils and are committed to ensuring everyone is successful.

SIAMS



"Our sixth form is a welcoming, supportive space where every student can thrive, whether you are continuing from main school or joining us from another school, you will definitely find a community within sixth form which will help you grow academically and personally. As the senior team, we would encourage you to make the most of all the experiences offered to you!"

St Christopher's Sixth Form Senior Team



LIST OF GOVERNORS

Chairman of Governors

Fr D Arnold – Area Dean

Foundation Governors

Fr D Arnold – Area Dean

Mr A Cran	(21-25)
Mrs L Hargreaves	(19-23)
Mrs J Roberts	(21-25)
Mrs D Taylor	(22-26)
Mrs C Wightman	(21-25)

Parent Governors

Mr B Whittaker	(22-26)
Mr J Butterfield	(19-23)

Staff Governors

Canon R Jones	Headmaster
Miss H Davies	(21-25)
Miss H Musso	
Mr W Young	(23-27)

Clerk to Governors

Governor Support Ltd.

Governors know the school very well. They are very proud of the school's strengths and demonstrate total commitment to improving areas of weakness.

OFSTED



TEACHING STAFF

Headmaster

Canon R Jones - BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH NPQEL

Deputy Headteachers

A Spence - BA (Hons) PGCE WEd CMgr MCMI

R O'Doherty - BA (Hons) GTP NPQSL

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.

Ofsted

Associate Assistant Headteachers

S Holmes - BA (Hons) PGCE

C Pountain - BA (Hons) MTh PGCE

L Stott - BA (Hons) MA PGCE

J Waller - BA (Hons) PGCE

G Ashton - BA (Hons) PGCE

S Ashworth - BSc (Hons) PGCE

S Bailey - BSc (Hons) PGCE

N Black - BSc PGCE

D Brady - MA PGCE

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

T Fielding - BA (Hons) PGCE QTS

C Flanagan - BSc (Hons) MEd PGCE NPQH

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

J Hands - BSc (Hons) PGCE

H Harber - BA (Hons) PGCE

T Hardwick - BA (Hons) PGCE

E Harrison - BSc (Hons) QTS

S Heward - BSc (Hons) PGCE

E Holt - BA (Hons) PGCE

S Hornby - BA (Hons) PGCE

L Howe - BSc (Hons) PGCE

H Howson - BA (Hons) QTLS

T Johnson - BSc (Hons) PGCE

H Kelly - BA (Hons) PGCE

A Lillie - BA (Hons) PGCE

H Mahfooz - BSc (Hons) MChem

L McCool - BSc (Hons) PGCE

H McLeod - BA (Hons) PGCE

S McLeod - BA GTP

W McManus - BA (Hons) PGCE

S Moosa - BSc PGCE

P Morely - BA (Hons) PGCE

H Morgan - BSc (Hons) PGCE

M Morgan - BA (Hons) PGCE

A Morrison - BA (Hons) PGCE

E Muir - BA (Hons) GTP

S Mulcrone - BSc (Hons) PGCE

H Musso - BA (Hons) GTP

P Neal - BSc (Hons) QTS

J Nicholson - BSc (Hons) PGCE

C Nolan - MA PGCE

A Parker - BA (Hons) PGCE

R Parkinson - BSc (Hons) PGCE

O Pellet - BA (Hons) PGCE

A Pollock - BA (Hons) PGCE

A Powell - BA (Hons) PGCE

L Price - BA (Hons) PGCE

R Procter - BA (Hons) PGCE

C Ramsbottom - BA (Hons) QTS

J Ramshaw - BA (Hons) PGCE

M Redfearn - MPhys (Hons) PGCE

S Rushton - BA (Hons) PGCE NWRAC

S Saxby-Street - BA (Hons) PGDE

A Smith - BSc (Hons) PGCE

E Smith - MA PGCE

D Surgeon - BA (Hons) MA PGCE

J Tyson - BA (Hons) PGCE

J Walton - BA (Hons) GTP

C Wright - BA (Hons) PGCE

W Young - BA (Hons) MTh PGCE

PUPIL TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2025-2026

Term Dates 2026-2027

Autumn Term 2026

INSET Day	Tuesday 1st September
School re-opens Yrs 7, 10, 11 & L6	Wednesday 2nd September
School re-opens Yrs 8, 9 & U6	Thursday 3rd September
INSET Day (Commuted)	Monday 19th October
INSET Day (Commuted)	Tuesday 20th October
INSET Day (Commuted)	Wednesday 21st October
Pupil Closure	Friday 16th October - Friday 30th October
School re-opens	Monday 2nd November
Closure after school on	Friday 18th December
<i>Number of Opening</i>	<i>68</i>

Spring Term 2027

School re-opens on	Monday 4th January
INSET Day	Friday 12th February
Pupil Closure	Thursday 11th February - Friday 19th February
School re-opens	Monday 22nd February
Closure after school on	Thursday 25th March
<i>Number of Opening</i>	<i>53</i>

Summer Term 2027

School re-opens	Monday 12th April
May Day	Monday 3rd May
Mid-term Closure	Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June
School re-opens	Monday 7th June
School closure on	Friday 23rd July
<i>Number of Opening</i>	<i>69</i>
<i>Total Number of Openings</i>	<i>190 + 5 INSET</i>

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 2026-2027.

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*

“St Christopher’s is a wonderful school and I’m excited for the next seven years.”

Eddie, 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

Tuesday 30th September
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
Accrington
Lancashire. BB5 4AY



01254 232 992



www.st-christophers.org

