

# St Christopher's Church of England High School

## SECONDARY ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS for 2021 ENTRY

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Parents wishing to be considered under faith-based criteria need to complete and return the St Christopher's Supplementary Form which is available to download from the school website or direct from the school on request. 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 2021. 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 2021 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.

**(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 in St Christopher's.  
Siblings are defined as full brother and sister, 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](http://cte.org.uk), and for the Evangelical Alliance at [eauk.org](http://eauk.org); and for the North West Partnership at [northwestpartnership.com](http://northwestpartnership.com); lists are taken as on 1st September 2020. 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.
  - (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, 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.
  - (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, 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.
  - (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, 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

(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, 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

(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, 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.

#### **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 in the school.

Siblings are defined as full brother and sister, 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 2019 for 2020 entry, there were 871 applications for 195 places, 256 at first preference, 279 second preference and 336 at third preference.

The Admissions Committee applied the criteria and offered places to

17 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)

150 children under criterion 3 (attendance at a Christian Trinitarian Church, 48 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 throughout the autumn term.

### **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 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.** 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**

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 should arrange to visit the school. They will be provided with an application form once they have a definite local address. If there is a place in the appropriate class, then the governors will arrange for the admission to take place. If there is no place, then the admissions committee will consider the application and information about how to appeal against the refusal will be provided. Appeals for children moving into the area will not be considered until there is evidence of a permanent address, e.g. exchange of contracts or tenancy agreement with rent book.

Please note that you cannot re-appeal for a place at a school within the same school year unless there has been relevant, significant and material change in the family circumstances.