



# St Peter's Church of England Primary School

## Admissions Policy 2021/2022

### Our Christian Vision

As a Christian family at St Peter's School, we create a unique place of learning, nurturing the gifts that God in His awesomeness has given us. We encourage every child and prepare them for life's journey, inspiring them to fulfil their potential, their dreams and their aspirations.

Sowing the seeds of tomorrow.

(Matthew 13:1-23)

### **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

#### **Making an application**

Applications for admission to the school for September 2021 should be made online at [www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions) or on the common application form enclosed with the Local Authority's brochure between September 2020 and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. It is not normally possible to change the order of your preferences for schools after the closing date.

Parents must complete the Local Authority application form, stating three preferences. Parents who wish their application to this Church school to be considered against the faith criteria should also complete the appropriate questions on the common application form. If the school is oversubscribed, a failure to answer these questions may result in your application for a place in this school being considered against lower priority criteria as the Governing Body will have no information upon which to assess the worship attendance.

Letters informing parents of whether or not their child has been allocated a place will be sent out by the Local Authority by 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Parents of children not admitted to this school will be informed of the reason and offered an alternative place by the Authority.

#### **Admission procedures**

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

**The number of places available for admission to the Reception class in the year 2021 will be a maximum of 45.**

The governing body will not place any restrictions on admissions to the reception class unless the number of children for whom admission is sought exceeds their admission number. By law, no infant class may contain more than thirty children. 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 statement of educational need or EHCP naming the school, the governing body will allocate places using the criteria below, which are listed in order of priority.

1. Children in Care or previously looked after children. This includes any "looked after child" and any child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.
2. Children with special medical or social circumstances affecting the child where these needs can only be met at this school. Professional supporting evidence from 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 is question is the most suitable school and the difficulties which would be caused if the child had to attend another school.
3. Children who have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission. Siblings include step, half, foster, adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address for most of the week.
4. Children whose parents live within the ecclesiastical parish of St Peter's, Darwen ( a map is available in school) with a parent/guardian worshipping in a church in full membership of Churches Together in England, or Evangelical Alliance or the North West Partnership. The list of Churches can be found on the *Churches Together in England* website at [cte.org.uk](http://cte.org.uk) "Parental worshipping" means regular fortnightly attendance at church at public worship over a period of at least six months between 1st January and 1st September 2020. The governors will request confirmation of this from the relevant member of the clergy.
5. Children of staff where that member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to school is made.
6. Children whose parents live within the ecclesiastical parish of St Peter's, Darwen but do not worship in a church in full membership of Churches Together in England, or Evangelical Alliance or the North West Partnership.
7. Children whose parents live outside the ecclesiastical parish of St Peter's, Darwen.
  - a. Children with a parent/guardian worshipping in a church in full membership of Churches Together in England.
  - b. Other children.

Where there are more applicants than available places within a category, then the distance between the Ordnance Survey address point 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).

### **Admissions information:**

In 2020, there were 69 preferences for 45 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 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. 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.

This waiting list will operate for the full autumn term.

### **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 governors 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.

### **Non-routine 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 to discuss this and then submit an "In Year Application Form" to the Admissions Team. If there is a place in the appropriate class, 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 and 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.

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.

More information about changing schools is listed in the Council's "In Year Admission Form". The form is available from schools and the admissions manager, Children's Services and Education Department, 10 Duke Street, Blackburn BB2 1DH.

### **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 19th May 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 10 school days' notice of the place and time of the hearing.

Appeals which are received after the closing date for appeals 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).

If your child was refused a place in Reception or Key Stage 1 because of Government limits on Infant class sizes, the grounds on which your appeal could be successful are limited. You would have to show that the decision was one which in the circumstances no reasonable governing would have made, or that your child would have been offered a place if the governors' admissions arrangements had been properly implemented. Please note that this right of appeal against the governors' decision does not prevent you from making an appeal in respect of any other 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.

**Deferred admission**

If your child is due to start school during the next academic year, it is important that you apply for a place for September. If your child's fifth birthday is between the months of September and December, then, if you wish it, admission may be deferred until January; if it is between January and April, then admission may be deferred until the start of the summer term though it is likely to be in your child's interest to start no later than January. Parents should talk to the Headteacher to plan any deferred admission.

**Twins, etc**

Where there are twins, etc 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 within the requirements of infant class sizes. In exceptional circumstances cases we are now able to offer places for both twins and all triplets, even when this means breaching infant class size limits. This may also apply to siblings who are in the same year group.

**Clergy Reference Form**

**Admission to Primary School, 2021**

**School: St Peter's C of E Primary, Darwen**

**Name of child:**

**Surname** ..... **Christian names** .....

Date of birth ..... Boy  Girl

**Name of parent/guardian** .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Post code .....

**Telephone** ..... **Mobile** .....

This parent has given your name as a reference for his/her commitment to the church.

How often does he/she attend public worship in your church? .....

For how long has this been his/her pattern prior to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020? .....

Signed .....

Name ..... Date: .....

Position .....

Church .....

Please return this form to .....

by .....