



Admission Policy St John Fisher RC Primary School

MISSION STATEMENT

**Love Jesus, love learning,
Inspiring each other to be the best that we can be.**

St. John Fisher R.C. Primary School is a Catholic Primary School in the trusteeship of the Diocese of Salford. It is located in the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption. It is maintained by the Rochdale Local Authority as a Voluntary Aided School. The school's Governing Board is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions. The co-ordination of admission arrangements is undertaken by the Local Authority.

For the school year commencing September 2026, the Governing Board has determined that the number of children to be admitted to St John Fisher RC Primary School will be 30.

The school's role is to participate in the mission of the Catholic Church by providing a curriculum, including Catholic religious education and worship, which will help children to grow in their understanding of the Good News and in the practice of their faith. The school will help the children develop fully as human beings and prepare them to undertake their responsibilities as Catholics in society. The school requires all parents applying for a place here to understand and respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the rights of parents who are not of the Catholic faith to apply for a place here.

Admissions to the school will be determined by the Governing Board. Parents must complete a Local Authority Preference Form or apply online via the Rochdale Local Authority Website. If you wish to have your application considered against that school's religious criteria then you must **ALSO** provide proof of baptism.

If there are fewer than 30 applications, all applicants will be offered places. Pupils with an Education Health Care Plan naming the school will be allocated a place before any other places are allocated. If there are more applications than the number of places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be applied:

1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children (see notes b & c).
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission (see note c).
3. Baptised Catholic children resident in the former parishes of St Agnes and St John Fisher (see note c).
4. Other baptised Catholic children (see note c).
5. Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission (see note e).
6. All remaining applicants.

If it is not possible to offer places for all applications within any criterion above, priority will be given to those living closest to the school measured by the nearest, safest walking route.

Walking routes are measured by the Local Authority on the school's behalf using RouteFinder® a computerised mapping system which uses the Ordnance Survey integrated transport network to measure from a central point of the child's home to the main gate of the school.

Deferred entry to school

All children are entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can defer the date their child is admitted to school until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or for children born between 1st April and 31st August, not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer is made. Where parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Admission of children outside their normal age group and admission of summer born children

The vast majority of parents are content to allow their children to start school in the September following their fourth birthday and the school's arrangements are based on that assumption. The parents of children born between 31 March and 31 August ('summer born' children) do however have the right to request that admission is deferred for a year. Any such application will be considered on its individual merits and a decision will be taken in the best interests of the child. Parents are invited to discuss the position with the headteacher before the application is submitted. ***The Admission Committee will take decisions on any such requests on the circumstances of each case.***

Notes for Applicants

- a. All applicants will be considered at the time and after the closing date for admissions which is 15 January 2026. Applications received after this date will be **treated as a late application** and will not be considered until **after** the main allocation of places has taken place.
- b. Parents should check within which parish they and the applicant child are resident. The catchment area for school is: From the point where Hollin Lane meets Oaken Bank Road east to Hopwood Hall farm then Lords Wood, south across Rochdale Road (A664) and the Rochdale Canal to the recreation ground south of Glenwood Drive, west along River Irk crossing Don Street to where Hilton Fold Lane meets River Irk, North to Dale Road/Grove Road, North to where Boarshaw Road and Boarshaw Clough meet at the mini round about, along Clough Road (north side) to Rochdale Road (A664), west to Hollin Lane, North up Hollin Lane (eastern side) back to the starting point at Oaken Bank Road/Hollin Lane.
- c. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making application to the school.
A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the governing body) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- d. 'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic.

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

- e. Home Address is considered to be the address where the child normally lives. Where care is split and a child moves between two addresses, the household in receipt of the child benefit would normally be the address used but the admission authority body reserves the right to request other evidence as fit the individual circumstance. Applicants should not state the address of another relative or person who has daily care of the child.
- f. 'Sibling' is defined in these arrangements as full, half or step brothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit. This does not include cousins or other family relationships.
- g. A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the Admission Criteria. The waiting list does not consider the date the application was received or the length of time a child's name has been on the waiting list. This means that a child's position on the list may change if another applicant is refused a place and their child has higher priority in the admissions criteria. The school has a waiting list for the first term of each academic year. (Autumn Term)
- h. For 'In Year' applications received outside the normal admissions round, if places are available they will be offered to those who apply. If there are places available but more applicants than places then the published oversubscription criteria will be applied.
- i. If an application for admission has been turned down by the Governing Board, parents may appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Parents must be allowed at least twenty school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to submit that appeal. Parents must give reasons for appealing in writing and the decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on the Governors.
- j. The Governing Board reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to the application.
- k. It is the duty of governors to comply with regulations on class size limits for children aged between rising five and seven. The Governing Board may exceed the regulations for twins and children from multiple births where one of the children is the 30th child admitted. This also applies to in-year applicants who are looked after/previously looked after, children of UK service personnel or children who move into the area for whom there is no other school available within a reasonable distance.

Document history

Date	Amendments
February 2025	Policy reviewed – reference to 2026 added.

Make a complaint: If you're not happy with our application process you have until the 15th May 2025 to make an objection to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator