

**ST KENTIGERN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BLACKPOOL
PROPOSED ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR SEPTEMBER 2010 TO AUGUST 2011**

INTRODUCTION

St Kentigern's is a Catholic Primary School provided by the Diocese of Lancaster and maintained by Blackpool Local Authority as a voluntary aided primary school.

The Governing Body is the admissions authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applicants for admission. It operates a system of Equal Preference under which it considers all preferences equally according to its policy.

The Governors welcome applications from Catholic and non-Catholic parents who would like their children educated within the aims and ethos of St Kentigern's Catholic School.

St Kentigern's is a Catholic Primary School in which the Catholic faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church are important aspects of school life and influence the school curriculum.

We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

The Governing Body is responsible for admissions within the requirements of the law. In doing so, the Governing Body has regard for:

- a. The Advice of the Diocesan Trustees on the nature and purpose of Catholic Schools.
- b. The Governing Body's responsibility towards the school and the Catholic community it serves.
- c. The Catholic character of the school and its Mission Statement.

It is the duty of the Governors to comply with class size limits at Key Stage One. This means that the school cannot operate classes in Key Stage One of more than 30 children. No more than 30 children will be admitted to any one reception or infant class.

For September 2009, the Admission Number for St Kentigern's Catholic Primary was 30. A total of 92 applications was received by the closing date.

7 *applicants were admitted under criterion A of the 2009 policy*

23 *were admitted under criterion B*

The Governing Body has set the planned admissions number for September 2010 at 30. The Local Authority and other parties required by law have been consulted on this.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSION IN SEPTEMBER 2010

1. Applications for a place at the school should be made on the Local Authority common application form or online and returned **to the Local Authority no later than Friday 6th November 2009**.
2. Parents must complete the common application form available from the Local Authority. Parents who wish their application to this Catholic school to be considered against the priority faith criteria should also complete the Schools Supplementary Information Form. If the school is oversubscribed, failure to complete the supplementary form 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 application on the basis of the applicant's baptism.

The supplementary information form should **be returned to the school by 6th November 2009**.

3. Each Roman Catholic applicant will be required to produce a baptismal certificate or other evidence of baptism.
4. The admissions committee of the Governing Body will consider all applications at the same time after the given closing date.
5. Parents or guardians will be informed of the outcome of their application in writing by the Local Authority **by 8th March 2010**.
6. As required by law, all children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school will be admitted before the application of the oversubscription criteria.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

The Governors will admit up to 30 children in September 2010. If the number of applications for admission exceeds the places available, children will be admitted subject to the following criteria which will be used to form a priority order.

- A. Baptised Catholic children in public care.
- B. Baptised Catholic children who attend weekly Mass at St. Kentigern's.
- C. Baptised Catholic children who worship weekly and live in the parish of St Kentigern's with a sibling in the school at the time of expected admission.
- D. Baptised Catholic children who worship weekly and live in the parish of St Kentigern's
- E. Other Baptised Catholic children with a sibling in the school at the time of expected admission.
- F. Other Baptised Catholic children who live in the parish of St Kentigern's

G. Other Baptised Catholic children.

H. Other children whose parents wish them to be educated within the aims and values of a Catholic school.

Priority will be given to Children or the children of a parent/carer with exceptional social or medical needs where the application is accompanied by a written statement from an appropriate professional e.g. consultant doctor, Social Worker/Police Officer naming the school and demonstrating why the preferred school is the most suitable.

If the number of children in any of the categories A – H is greater than the places available, applications will be further ranked as follows:

1. Children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
2. Other children in public care.
3. Other children.

Where two or more applications are tied, Applicants living nearest to the school. The distance between an applicant's home and school is measured as a straight line from the Ordnance Survey address point of the home address to the main entrance of the school. The Ordnance Survey address point is a point within the boundary of the property and is usually located at its centre. Distances are measured using the Councils' Geographic Information System.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Children in public care

This means a child who is looked after by a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989. This is a child in public care who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority.

Siblings

Sibling refers to full brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters. Stepchildren or foster children who live at the same address are also classed as siblings

Address of Pupil

The address used on the school's admission form must be the current one at the time of application. If the address changes subsequently, the parents should notify the school. In some cases, for example, where shared parental living arrangements are in place, a child's address may be difficult to determine. In these circumstances, the address used for child benefit purposes, ie, the address of the parent claiming the child benefit, will be used.

If you are moving house and applying for the school and it is not oversubscribed, using your new address may not be a problem. In the event of oversubscription it may be possible to consider your application on the basis of an address you are intending to move to. You must be resident at a specific address and not just a stated intention to move to an area. You must provide evidence that you have exchanged contracts on a house or have an offer of a tenancy on a property in which you intend to live and which will be in place when your child would start at the school. This evidence must be submitted as soon

as possible and no later than the deadline of **6th November_2009**. Further evidence, eg utility bills, will also need to be submitted by this date.

Multiple Births

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 within the requirements of infant class sizes. If places for both 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 then the Governing Body, as admission authority, will use a random draw system to decide which pupil receives an offer.

Late Applications

Applications received after the closing date of **6th November 2009** will be treated as late applications. Only in exceptional circumstances, and where appropriate evidence is provided, will applications received after the closing date (but before offers of places have been made) be considered alongside those received on time.

Waiting List

A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the admissions criteria. Parents/guardians are invited to contact the school if they wish to be informed of their child's position on the waiting list, which will operate until the end of the autumn term.

Appeal Arrangements

If an application for admission has been turned down by the governing body parents can appeal to an independent appeals panel. This appeal should be sent in writing to the clerk to the governors at the school within 14 days of notification of refusal. The date of notification will be considered to be 2 working days after posting by first class post of the refusal to offer a place. The parents must give their reasons for appealing in writing. The decision of the appeal panel is binding on the parents and on the governing body.

**DIOCESE OF LANCASTER
ADMISSION TO BLACKPOOL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM**

If you are applying a place for your child in St Kentigern's Catholic Primary School on faith grounds please complete this form **in addition** to the Common Application Form available online or issued by the Local Authority

This supplementary information form will assist the Governors of the school in deciding whether your child qualifies for a place. Failure to complete the form may affect where your child is placed within the oversubscription criteria.

This form must be completed by the parent/carer and signed by a Minister of Religion, where necessary

PART A *(To be completed by applicant's parent or carer)*

Name of child: _____

Name of parent: _____

Address of applicant

What faith are you? _____

Do you live in St. Kentigern's Parish? Yes No

Name the Parish/area of faith community in which you worship

If a **Roman Catholic**, is the child a baptised Catholic? Yes No

Please enclose a copy of Baptismal Certificate or details of place and date of baptism

If a **Roman Catholic pupil** - Practice or Worship attendance

How frequently do you and/or your child attend Mass at the parish named above? [tick one box only]

At least weekly fortnightly monthly once a year or less

For how long has this been your practice? [tick one box only]

At least 3 yrs 2 yrs 1 yr 6 mths

If **not a Roman Catholic**, do you wish your child to be educated within the aims and values of a Catholic school? Yes No

PART B (To be completed by a Priest) Please take this form to the Priest in order to confirm this information.

I can confirm the child was baptised at this church Yes No Date _____
I can confirm that the child/family worship as stated above Yes No

Signed (Minister of Religion) _____

Print name _____

Address _____

Position held _____

Please return this form to: St Kentigern's Catholic Primary School by 6th November 2009