

# St John Fisher Catholic High School



## Admissions Policy 2018/19

Designated Teacher:	Headteacher
Adopted:	March 2017
Review Period:	Annually
Review Date:	October 2017

## *“Educating for Life”*

### Our Values



St. John Fisher Catholic High School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide Catholic education for children of Catholic families. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ.

If the number of preferences received is less than the admission number then all preferences will be met. However, when there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic applicants in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. By applying to this school parents, or carers, are declaring their support for the aims and ethos of the school.

The governing body has responsibility for admissions to the school and intends to admit 210 pupils to Y7 in the school year which begins in September 2018.

### Over-subscription Criteria

At any time where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered in the following order of priority:

1. Looked after children from Catholic families or children from Catholic families who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because they became adopted or became subject to a residence or special guardianship order with a sibling who attends St John Fisher Catholic High School.



2. Looked after children from Catholic families or children from Catholic families who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because they became adopted or became subject to a residence or special guardianship order.
3. Baptised Catholic children with a sibling who attends St John Fisher Catholic High School.
4. Baptised Catholic children who live in the following parishes AND who *go to* the Catholic primary schools serving these parishes.

Deanery of Harrogate (all parishes): St Edward, Clifford; St Robert, St Joseph and St Aelred, Harrogate; St Mary, Knaresborough; St Wilfrid, Ripon; St Joseph, Wetherby.

Deanery of Selby: St. Joseph the Worker, Sherburn-in-Elmet (served by Barkston Ash Catholic Primary School) and St Joseph, Tadcaster.

Children who live in the parishes of St Joseph, Bishop Thornton and our Lady Immaculate, Pateley Bridge and who attended St Joseph Primary School, Bishop Thornton when the school closed in 2016.

**The Governors will require evidence of Baptism or certificate of reception (See Notes)**

5. Baptised Catholic children who live in the above named parishes.

**The Governors will require evidence of Baptism or certificate of reception (See Notes).**

6. Baptised Catholic children who currently attend one of the Catholic primary schools listed in category 4 above but do not live in the named parishes.

**The Governors will require evidence of Baptism or certificate of reception (see Notes).**

7. Other baptised Catholic children

**The Governors will require evidence of Baptism or certificate of reception (see Notes).**

8. Other looked after children or other children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they became adopted or became subject to a residence or special guardianship order with a sibling who attends St John Fisher Catholic High School.
9. Other looked after children or other children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they became adopted or became subject to a residence or special guardianship order and who live in the parishes listed in 4 above and who attend the Catholic primary schools serving those areas.
10. Other looked after children or other children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they became adopted or became subject to a residence or special guardianship order.
11. Other children with a sibling who attends St John Fisher Catholic High School, Harrogate.



12. Other children who currently attend one of the Catholic primary schools serving the parishes listed in 4 above.

13. Other children.

### **Tie Break**

- Where the offer of places to all the applicants in any of the categories listed above would still lead to oversubscription, the available places will be offered to those living nearest to the school. “straight line distance” will be used as the measure (see notes).
- If two or more pupils live equidistant from the school, the distance each pupil lives by road from the preferred school will be measured and the place offered to the pupil who lives nearest by this means. In the event of this being equal, places will then be decided by random allocation (see notes)
- Where there is more than one application from a postal address contained within a block of flats, places will be decided by random allocation (see notes).

### **Admission to Sixth Form**

The Sixth Form is available for all existing pupils providing they meet all entrance requirements and expectations. Any remaining places in the Sixth Form of the school will be distributed in line with the oversubscription criteria. All applicants must meet the requirements of individual courses.

### **Application Procedures and Timetable**

A standard application form, known as the Common Preference Form, must be completed and returned to the Local Authority at the address specified on that form by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**. Failure to provide a Common Preference Form would mean that the application is not valid.

If parents feel that they should be in a specific category, ie Baptised Catholic, then they are required to complete a Supplementary Information Form and provide the required evidence. The Supplementary Information Form is attached to this policy and should be submitted by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2017** directly to the Headteacher at the school. Therefore, failure to provide a Supplementary Information Form could affect the category your application is placed in. Please note that it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to complete all forms and supply evidence – reminders will not be sent.

Parents or carers will be advised of the outcome of their application on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Unsuccessful applications will be given reasons related to the over subscriptions criteria listed above and advised of their right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

### **Late Applications**

If you return the Common Preference Form after the deadline we cannot consider your application at the same time as those received on time. Late applications will be dealt with once all other applications have been considered.



**Admissions outside the normal admission round** – applications should be made to the school and will be dealt with by the admission authority of the school ie the governing body. If there is more than one application for an available place the governors will make their decision using the oversubscription criteria listed in the appropriate policy for the year group. Unsuccessful applicants will be given reasons related to the oversubscription criteria listed above and will be advised of their rights to appeal the governors’ decision to an independent appeal panel.

### **Waiting Lists**

As well as their right of appeal, unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will follow the order of the over-subscription criteria set out above, therefore, this means that each time a child is added the list will be re-ranked. Names are normally taken off the list at the end of the academic year.

### **Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs**

The admission of pupils with a statement of Special Educational Need or an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. The procedure is set out in the 1996 Education Act. Details of the separate procedure are set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

### **Explanatory Notes (these notes form part of the over-subscription criteria)**

**Catholic** means a member of a church in communion with the See of Rome. A certificate of baptism in a Catholic church, or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church, will normally evidence this alternatively a letter from the parish priest confirming membership of a church in communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches.

**Looked After Child** has the same meaning as in section 22 of the Children Act 1989, and means any child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them e.g. children with foster parents.

**Looked After Children from Catholic Families** this has a dual meaning. It could be the child themselves who are baptised Catholic or it could be the family who are caring for the child that is Catholic. If it is the child who is a baptised Catholic normal rules apply and a baptism certificate should be seen by the admission authority. However, (in limited situations) this may not always be possible and in these cases the governing body should seek to ensure that the child is baptised. If a child is placed with a Catholic family who wish the child to have a Catholic education this should be evidenced by a letter from a priest evidencing the baptism of the parent carer.

**Defined area** is geographical area. Please see boundary maps available for inspection in school (boundaries determined by Diocese of Leeds).

**Siblings (brother or sister)** includes children with a brother or sister (including step-siblings, adoptive siblings and foster siblings) of statutory school age, living at the same address, in attendance at the same school on the date of admissions.

**Twins or Triplets (or multiple births)** where a family of twins or triplets request admission and if one sibling has been offered the last place the ‘excepted pupil’ rule comes in and the other twin/triplets are offered a place.



**Live** – in all categories “live” means the child’s permanent home address. A child is normally regarded as living with a parent or guardian and we will use the parent or guardian’s address for admission purposes. You cannot lodge a child with a friend or relation in order to gain a place at a school. For admission purposes only one address can be used as a child’s permanent address. When a child lives with more than one parent/carer, at different addresses, we will use the preference expressed by the parent/carer at the address where the child lives the majority of the time during the school week as the main place of residence.

**Straight line distance** – in all categories, when decisions have to be made between children satisfying the same criterion, children living nearest to the school, using a straight line measure, have priority. (if you use LA measurements please use the LA descriptor as to how they measure).

**Random allocation** - this is only to be used when the last place to be offered would fall into one of the two categories above ie children living in a block of flats or children who live equidistant from the school using straight line distance criterion. An independent person will be used to make the random selection.

Admissions appeal – appeals should be submitted to Clerk to Appeal Panel

