



at School, Oldham
dance for Parents 2009
7 Entry in 2010

Blue Coat School, Oldham Admission Guidance for Parents

Blue Coat School is a voluntary-aided, Church of England primary school. The Admissions Authority is the governing body. Each year the governing body can

in line with the Education Act of 2007, children with Statements of Special Educational Needs where the school is named on the Statement are given priority as first before any oversubscription

Blue Coat School gives priority in admission to children of the Church of England/Anglicans. In line with the Education Act of 2007, **Looked-After Children in the care of the Local Authority** and **Children of the Church of England** have first priority. If the family is a member of the Church of England or their Church of England clergy. In such cases, if the child has not experienced upheaval and if regular church attendance is not required.

For a Church of England school, the Blue Coat school gives priority to children of Church of England families whose faith is demonstrated by regular attendance of the child and one parent at church services over a substantial period of time, and a commitment to the heart of their church. Attendance must be verified by the applicant's church records. In interregnum the church warden

will provide five statements about the child and their family's church attendance at worship. **The vicar/curate** will provide a description most closely applies, and in interregnum, the church warden must tick and sign the description which most closely applies. The parent/



legal guardian must countersign that s/he has seen and agreed with the category.

After priority has been given to active Church of England families, in line with the Admissions Code of 2007, the governing body then gives **priority to all other Looked-After Children/Children in the care of the Local Authority.**

The school is committed to Christian ecumenism and as such gives **next priority to active members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, including membership of local Churches Together groupings, and Councils of Churches,** who are at the heart of their church. There are five statements about the child and parent/ legal guardian's attendance at worship, and the **minister/ pastor/ priest/ elder** must tick which description most closely applies, and sign this. The parent/ legal guardian must countersign that s/he has seen and agreed with the category. Membership of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland can be supported by reference to the national website; however, where the church is part of a local Churches Together grouping, or Council of Churches, it is the responsibility of the applicant's parents or guardians to provide evidence of this membership.

The school is committed to inter-faith dialogue and community cohesion and as such gives **priority after active Christian families to active members of a faith other than Christian, which is associated with the UK Inter-Faith Network** who are at the heart of their faith's worship. There are five statements about the child and parent/ legal guardian's attendance at worship, and the relevant leader of worship must tick which description most closely applies, and sign this. The parent/ legal guardian must countersign that s/he has seen and agreed with the category. It is the responsibility of the applicant's parent or guardian to provide evidence of membership of the UK Inter-Faith Network. The Network's website provides a comprehensive list.

The school is committed to serving the wider community of Oldham and **after active members of a faith other than Christian which**

is associated with the UK Inter-Faith Network welcomes **all other children**. The oversubscription criteria in this category are based on, first, whether the child has a sibling (defined as brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, adopted brother, adopted sister) attending The Blue Coat School as of 1st September in the year of entry, and second, geographical proximity using a straight-line measurement between the home postcode and the school postcode.

The governors allocate places to applicants in the order set out in the admissions policy, working from statement one to statement eighteen in that order.

Tie-breaks

The school's admission number is 218 children in each year group. When the admission number of 218 is reached, the following tie-break (s) will be used in whichever of the categories 1-16 is under consideration at the time.

- i. Children who have a sibling attending the school as of 1st September 2010 will be admitted first within the category. The definition of sibling includes: brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, adopted brother, adopted sister.
- ii. If a further tie break needs to be applied between children with siblings as defined above, it will be geographical proximity using a straight line between the home postcode and the school postcode.
- iii. If all children with siblings can be admitted within the category the tie-break will be geographical proximity using a straight-line between the home postcode and the school postcode.

Parents/guardians are asked to note that Blue Coat serves families throughout Oldham and beyond; annually over 40% of our intake come from outside Oldham. With the exception of children with Statement of Special Educational Needs, and children in the care of the Local Authority, it is the faith commitment of the child and parent/legal guardian which determines priority, not a sibling link or proximity to the school, except in the final category or when a final tie-break is needed.

The Application Process



date for application to Blue Coat. The **Application Form** from your Local Authority references. If you do not submit this form, All Local Authorities will have a responsibility to ensure the form is returned on time. The second form provides supplementary evidence which enables the governors to apply their discretion. **This must be returned to school by the date requested.** You are asked to include a small stamped-supplementary Form so that we can verify the information. **Responsibility for the return of the form lies with the applicant's parent(s)/ legal guardian(s).**

Please discuss the form fully and openly with your child to ensure that the category is fair and reasonable.

The vicar/ leader of worship may have a role to play, and that she/ he will need to be consulted and allowed to allow him/ her at least four clear days for consideration.

If your child is a member of a church, you will need to discuss the application with the Church Warden(s) who can advise you on what is the case you should enclose a letter from the church.

If your child is a member of a church / to your church/ place of worship and your child attend more than one church/ place of worship, I need to obtain additional eligibility information from the church/ place of worship for completion with your previous vicar/ leader of worship.

5. Please remember that a sibling connection in the school is only used as a tie-breaker within a category which reflects the

applicant child and parent/ legal guardian's attendance, and that places cannot be awarded to younger children on the basis of the elder brother or sister's attendance.

What has the pattern of admissions been in the past?

Admissions Law has changed considerably, so it is difficult to make direct comparisons. The following information is offered as an indication of patterns and trends.

1. Historically the school has been oversubscribed.
2. In 2005-06 all Anglican applicants and all applicants from Churches Together were admitted. In 2005 sixteen members of other faiths, or no faith, were admitted. In 2006 eighteen members of other faiths, or no faith, were admitted.
3. In 2007 all Anglican applicants were admitted. Thirteen applicants from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland were admitted.
4. In 2008 only Anglicans up to and inclusive of Criteria 4 were admitted.

The governing body welcomes the school's inclusion in Oldham's Building Schools for the Future programme which will enable the school, once the building work is complete, to move to an admissions number of 240 per year.

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 for 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.



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