



The Blue Coat School, Oldham
(Proud to be part of the Cranmer Education Trust)

**Admissions Policy 2020
For Year 7 Entry in 2021**

The Blue Coat School, Oldham Admissions Policy for entry into Year 7 in September 2021

The Blue Coat School Oldham is a Church of England Academy committed to Christian ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, and which serves Anglican families and a wide community of faith across the region.

The Governing Body welcomes applications from all families, of all faiths and none, wherever they live. The school does not have a catchment area.

As of September, 2021, the school will admit 243 children into Year 7. Children with Statements of Special Educational Need/Education, Health & Care Plan, where the school is named in the document, will be offered places before any oversubscription criteria are applied. Thereafter, if there are more applications than places available, the governors will offer the first 219 places in the following order:

First 219 places:

- 1) Looked-After Children/Children in the care of the Local Authority who are members of the Church of England. This must be supported by corroborating evidence attached to the supplementary form from the child or family's Church of England minister, or, if the parish is in interregnum, by the church warden. In the case of children in care who will have experienced upheaval and distress, a history and pattern of church attendance is not required; the governors require only the assurance of Church of England clergy that the child or family is a member of the Anglican community. (The definition of a looked-after child include those who were in care but have since been adopted or become subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).

Members of the Church of England

Children whose parent (s) or legal guardian (s) provide evidence¹ that the child and one parent/ legal guardian are active members of the

¹ To "provide evidence" is defined as the record of attendance at worship which is recorded on the Supplementary Form by the applicant's vicar/ minister/ priest/ pastor/ elder/ church warden¹ if the parish is in interregnum/leader of worship.

Church of England, by:

- 2) weekly worship attendance over a **minimum period** of four years as of 31st August 2020. “Weekly” means attendance of at least 45 weekly services per year. (Recorded services must be in separate weeks).
- 3) a worship attendance of not less than fortnightly over a **minimum period** of four years as of 31st August 2020. “Fortnightly” means attendance of at least 24 weekly services per year. (Recorded services must be in separate weeks).
- 4) a worship attendance of not less than fortnightly over a **minimum period** of three years as of 31st August 2020. “Fortnightly” means attendance of at least 24 weekly services per year. (Recorded services must be in separate weeks).
- 5) a worship attendance of not less than monthly over a **minimum period** of 3 years as of 31st August 2020. ‘Monthly’ means attendance of at least 12 weekly services per year. (Recorded services must be in separate weeks).
- 6) a weekly worship attendance for at least **one full year** as of 31st August 2020. “Weekly” means attendance of at least 45 weekly services in the relevant year. (Recorded services must be in separate weeks).
- 7) **All Looked-After Children/Children in the care of the Local Authority.** (The definition of a looked-after child include those who were in care but have since been adopted or become subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
- 8) Children of staff employed at The Blue Coat School (Egerton Street, Oldham, OL1 3SQ) who permanently reside with that member of staff. That member of staff must have been employed for a minimum of two years or was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.

Members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, including membership of local Churches Together groupings, and Councils of Churches, as of 31st August, 2020.

Children whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) **provide** evidence² that the child and one parent/ legal guardian are active members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, including membership of Greater Manchester Churches Together groupings, by

² It is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian of the applicant to provide evidence that their church is a member of Churches Together/local Churches Together groupings/Councils of Churches.

- 9) weekly worship attendance over a **minimum period** of four years as of 31st August 20120. “Weekly” means attendance of at least 45 weekly services per year. (Recorded services must be in separate weeks).
- 10) a worship attendance of not less than fortnightly over a **minimum period** of four years as of 31st August 2020. “Fortnightly” means attendance of at least 24 weekly services per year. (Recorded services must be in separate weeks).
- 11) a worship attendance of not less than fortnightly over a **minimum period** of three years as of 31st August 2020. “Fortnightly” means attendance of at least 24 weekly services per year. (Recorded services must be in separate weeks).
- 12) a worship attendance of not less than monthly over a **minimum period** of 3 years as of 31st August 2020. ‘Monthly’ means attendance of at least 12 weekly services per year. (Recorded services must be in separate weeks).
- 13) a weekly worship attendance for at least **one full year** as of 31st August 2029. “Weekly” means attendance of at least 45 weekly services in the relevant year. (Recorded services must be in separate weeks).

Members of a faith other than Christian, which are members of the UK Inter-Faith Network³, as of 31st August, 2020.

- 14) Children whose parent(s)/ legal guardian(s) show evidence⁴ that the child and family are active members of a faith other than Christian which are members of the **UK Inter-Faith Network**.

In the event of the school being oversubscribed, the tie-break will be random allocation.

Any other children

- 15) If there are more applicants than places available, the tie-break will be random allocation.

The additional 24 places

The additional 24 places will be allocated first to children whose parent(s)/

³ It is the responsibility of the leader of worship to provide evidence of their membership of the UK Inter-Faith Network.

⁴ To “show evidence” is defined as the confirmation on the Supplementary Form by the applicant’s leader of worship that the child and family are active and practising members of their faith.

legal guardian(s) show evidence⁶ that the child and family are active members of a faith other than Christian which are members of the UK Inter-Faith Network⁵. If there are more applicants than places available, the tie-break will be random allocation.

If the additional 24 places are undersubscribed by children whose parent(s)/legal guardian(s) show evidence⁵ that the child and family are active members of a faith other than Christian which are members of the UK Inter-Faith Network, those remaining places will be allocated to any other children. If there are more applicants than places available, the tie-break will be random allocation.

Tie Breaks

For the first 219 places: if the number of 219 places is reached within categories 1-13, the following tie-break(s) will be used in whichever of the categories 1-13 is under consideration at the time.

- i. Children who have a sibling attending the school as of 1st September 2021 will be admitted first within the category. The definition of sibling is: 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, this will be geographical proximity, using a straight-line measurement between the home postcode and the school postcode.
- iii. If all children with siblings can be admitted within the category, geographical proximity using a straight-line measurement between the home postcode and the school postcode will be used as a tie break between the remaining applicants in the category.

If that number (219) is reached within categories 14-15, the tie-break will be random allocation.

In allocating the additional 24 places: if that number (24) is reached within either category, the tie-break will be random allocation.

The process for random allocation is electronic and is overseen by a responsible person independent of the school. Details are available on the school website.

⁵ To "show evidence" is defined as the confirmation on the Supplementary Form by the applicant's leader of worship that the child and family are active and practising members of their faith.

Waiting List

Where we have more applications than places, the oversubscription 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 criteria. Late applicants for the school will be slotted into the order according to the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list for categories 14-15 will be re-randomised in line with legal requirements. Thus it is possible for a child who moves into the area later to have a higher priority than one already on the waiting list. 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.

Appeals

Where the governors are unable to offer a place because the school is oversubscribed, 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/legal guardians should notify the clerk to the governors at the school within 14 days of receiving the letter refusing a place.** Parents will have the opportunity to submit their case to the panel in writing and also to attend in order to present their case. Parents/legal guardians will normally receive 14 days' notice of the place and time of the hearing.

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/legal guardian (for example a false claim 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.



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