

St Joseph's RC Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs M Scott

NURSERY ADMISSION POLICY: 2026/2027

St Joseph's is a Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary school provided by the Diocese of Salford and is maintained by the 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.

Please note that admissions to primary school reception classes are a completely separate process from nursery school and nursery class admissions. If you have a child on roll in nursery he/she will not automatically move up to Reception Class. Applications for a Reception place must be made through Lancashire County Council's online admission page on <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk>

If spaces are available we will admit children in the term after their third birthday at three points throughout the year; September, January and April. Our planned admission number will vary depending on the number of children on role in Reception and Nursery and the uptake of the 15 hour and 30 hour entitlement.

Admissions Criteria

1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children. This includes those children adopted from care outside of England.
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children resident in the parish of St Joseph's.
4. Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
5. Other Baptised Catholic Children.
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 in a straight line. In the event of distances being the same for two or more applicants, places will be allocated by random draw.

Notes for Applicants:

For criterion 1, a Looked After Child is a child who is (a) in the care of a Local Authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their Social Services functions (under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). A previously Looked After Child is one who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption,

For criteria 2 and 4, “siblings” is defined 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.

When to Apply

Parents may apply as soon as their child is born, but places will not be offered until the term before the child’s third birthday. Occasionally we may receive more applications than there are available places. A waiting list will be in operation and the child's name will be placed on a waiting list. Should places become available then these will be offered in accordance with the published admission criteria and not on a first come first served basis. There may be available places throughout the year; these can be filled throughout the year and will be offered to children from the first day of term after their third birthday.

Entitlement to Free Provision

Please note that if you have access to 15 hours per week of free provision at a maintained* nursery school or class, then you cannot also have free provision at a private, voluntary or independent nursery. (** Maintained means funded via the Local Authority*)

Attendance

A commitment to regular attendance is essential as places may be withdrawn if this is unsatisfactory.