

Admission Policy

2026-27

St Joseph's Catholic High School is a member of the Mater Christi Multi Academy Trust. This Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company registration number 13272608

It is an apostate of the Roman Catholic Church under the episcopal jurisdiction of the Bishop of Lancaster. Registered Office: The Education Centre, Balmoral Road, Lancaster, LA1 3BT.

This policy has been drafted to comply with the 2021 School Admissions Code. The admission authority is the Mater Christi Multi Academy Trust. The term “governing body” is used throughout to refer to the admission authority under the appropriate constitutional arrangements.

ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY 2026/27

St Joseph’s Catholic High School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and articles of association and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school’s activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school’s education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with the admission arrangements.

The governing body is the admissions authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round. The governing body has set its admission number at 120 pupils to Year 7 in the school year which begins in September 2026

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan or a Statement of Special Educational Needs (see note 1)

The admission of pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

Oversubscription Criteria

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

1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children (see note 2)
2. Baptised Catholic Children who currently attend St Gregory’s, St Mary’s, St Patrick’s, Workington or Our Lady & St Patrick’s, Maryport Catholic Primary Schools.
3. Baptised Catholic Children who have attended a non-Catholic primary school
4. Non-Catholic Children who currently attend a Catholic primary school.
5. Children who will have a brother or sister in the school at the expected time of admission giving priority to those children with the youngest sibling.
6. Children of staff at the school may be conferred where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time the application is

made or the member of staff is recruited to fill vacant post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

7. Children who attend a 'faith based Primary school'.
8. Children who are baptised in or are members of other Christian denominations and which is supported in writing by a Certificate of Baptism and/or letter from their minister.
9. Children living nearest the school. Distance measurements will be undertaken using the Local Authority's computerised Geographical Information System (GIS) and will be to the nearest entrance on the school site which is available to pupils at the time of undertaking the assessment. The route used will be the shortest walking route by road as identified by GIS at that time.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provision will be applied in the following order.

- (i) Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school, the application will be placed at the top of the category within which the application is made. (see note 6)

Tie Break

Priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. Distances are calculated using the local authority's computerised system and will be to the nearest entrance on the school site. The route will be the shortest walking route by road as identified by GIS at that time. In the event of distances being the same for two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the school. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

Application Procedures and Timetable

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round, you must complete an online Common Application Form available from the local authority in which you live. You are also requested to complete the Supplementary Information Form attached to this policy if you wish to apply under oversubscription criteria 2, 3 or 8. The Supplementary Information Form should be returned to Admissions Clerk, St Joseph's Catholic High School by 2nd November 2026.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application on 1st March or the next working day, by the local authority on our behalf. If you are unsuccessful (unless your child gained a place at a school you ranked higher) you will be informed of the reasons, related to the oversubscription criteria listed above, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

If you do not provide the information required in the SIF and return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, your child will not be placed in criteria 1 to 4 or 6, and this is likely to affect your child's chance of being offered a place.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 31st October 2026.

Late Applications

Late applications will be administered in accordance with your home Local Authority Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.-

Admission of Children Outside their Normal Age Group

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside their normal age group, for example if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Any such request should be made in writing to **Admissions Clerk, St Joseph's Catholic High School, Harrington Road, Workington Cumbria, CA14 3EE.** at the same time as the admission application is made. The governing body will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the head teacher, including the head teacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the governing body will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals, as appropriate.

Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful children will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and **not** in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year. The waiting list will be held open until the last day of the summer term.

Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

In-Year Applications

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. Application should be made to **St Joseph's Catholic High School** by contacting **Admissions Clerk, St Joseph's Catholic High School, Harrington Road, Workington Cumbria, CA14 3EE, office@sjchs.uk**

Where there are places available then applicants will be admitted, unless to do so would prejudice the provision of the efficient education or use of resources. This may mean that applications are refused even if the year group is under the PAN.

If the number of applicants for a year group exceeds the number of places available, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out above, will be applied.

In year admissions will commence on the first day of term following the offer of a place, unless the application is due to a change of address.

If there are no places available, the child will be added to the waiting list (see above).

You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Fair Access Protocol

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the governing body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol. The governing body has this power even where admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

The governing body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place or, where a child is already attending the school the place itself, where it is satisfied that the offer or place was obtained by deception.

Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. A Statement of Special Educational Needs is a statement made by the local authority under section 324 of the Education Act 1996, specifying the special educational provision for a child. An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.

2. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making application to the school.

A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the governing body) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

3. 'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest who, after consulting with the Diocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the laws of the Church.

4. 'brother or sister' includes

(i) all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and

(ii) the child of a parent's partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.

5. A 'parent' means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.

6. To demonstrate an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can be most appropriately met at this school, the governing body will require compelling written evidence from an appropriate professional, such as a social worker, doctor or priest.

7. A child's "home address" refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer, and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form ("CAF").

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.