



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

**Draft Admissions Policy
For Year 7 Entry in 2022**

The Blue Coat School, Oldham Admissions Policy for entry into Year 7 in September 2022

Vision and Values

The Blue Coat School Oldham is a Church of England Academy committed to Christian ecumenism and interfaith dialogue which serves Anglican families and a wide community of faith across the region. The school welcomes applications from all families, of all faiths and none, wherever they live. The school does not have a catchment area.

Statutory Framework

The Cranmer Education Trust (CET) is the Admission Authority for the school, with the administration and implementation of the policy being delegated to the Local Governing Committee of the school. The school is required to act in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014 and the Schools Admissions Appeals Code 2012, which are available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academy-admissions>. The admissions process is coordinated by Oldham Council (the Local Authority) and the school liaises with the Local Authority on admissions issues. The CET has consulted Manchester Diocesan Board of Education in drawing up the following arrangements for admissions, which include the criteria to be used to determine the allocation of places when the school is oversubscribed.

Applying for School Places

Applications for a place in Year 7 in the normal admissions round each year must be made on the Local Authority's Common Application Form.

In addition to the Local Authority Form, all applicants should complete and return the school's **Supplementary Information Form** to the school, by the closing date of 31st October 2021.

Admission Arrangements for Year 7 in September 2022

The published admissions number (PAN) for admissions to Year 7 in September 2022 is **243**. If no more than 243 pupils apply, all applicants will be offered places.

The school welcomes applications for admissions from children of all faiths and none. If the school is oversubscribed, as a designated Church of England (CE) school, the Admissions Code 2014 allows Blue Coat to use faith-based oversubscription criteria. Some places are prioritised for Anglicans, some for other Christian denominations and some for other major world faiths that are members of the Interfaith Network.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan

The school will admit all children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), naming the school. These admissions are made without reference to faith.

Oversubscription Criteria

If the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an EHCP naming the school, the decision upon which children will be offered places will be based on the following oversubscription criteria. **The school will admit children under 2 categories:**

1. **Priority Group 1: Up to 183 places** (See Note 1) to applicants of the Anglican faith, in the order of priority out set below:
 - 1.1 **Children of the Anglican faith who are Looked After Children (LAC) or who are Previously Looked After Children (PLAC)** (See Definitions).
 - 1.2 **Children whose parent or legal guardian provides evidence that the child and one parent or legal guardian are active members of the Anglican faith.**
Active Membership of the Anglican faith is evidenced by:
 - (a) the attendance at public worship of the child and one parent/legal guardian;
 - (b) baptism of the child, or a service of dedication.

If there are more applicants in this priority group than places available, priority will be given to those children who with their parent/legal guardian show the greatest commitment as evidenced by their attendance at weekly public worship in an Anglican Church over a period of up to 5 years. This is measured by allocating 1 point for each weekly attendance (Sunday to Saturday) by the parent and child, up to a maximum of 39 per year (to 31 August each year). A maximum of 20 points are awarded for the year 2019-20. Points for attendance at public worship for 2020-21 will not be awarded until the recording of attendance at worship resumes, as determined by the legal authority which is Manchester Diocese. Further details will be published on the School and Trust websites and will be added to this policy as it becomes available. If no attendance may be recorded for 2020-21 then there will be no attendance points available for that year and commitment will be based on previous years' attendance from 2016-17 (School Year 1) to 2019/20.

In addition, 5 points will be allocated for the baptism of the child into the Church of England, or a service of dedication, before the 31st August 2021. Confirmation of baptism or a service of dedication must be provided by the rector/vicar/priest-in-charge or church official.

The minimum points score for eligibility under Priority 1.1 is 5. The minimum points score for eligibility under Priority 1.2 is 15.

2. **Priority Group 2:** Up to **60 places** (See Notes 2 and 3 below) to applicants of other Christian denominations belonging to Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), the Evangelical Alliance (EA), applicants of other faiths that are members of the Interfaith Network and applicants of no faith, in the order of priority set out below:

2.1 **Children not of the Anglican faith who are Looked After Children (LAC) or who are Previously Looked After Children (PLAC)** (See Definitions).

2.2 Up to **30 places** (See Notes 2, 3 and 4 below) to applicants who are active members of other Christian churches that are members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) or the Evangelical Alliance (EA) (See Definition). Active membership of CTBI or EA is evidenced by:

- (a) the attendance at public worship of the child and one parent/legal guardian;
- (b) baptism of the child or the denomination's equivalent of making a commitment (e.g. a service of dedication or Salvationist "wrapping in the flag").

If there are more applicants in this priority group than places available, priority will be given to those children who with their parent/legal guardian show the greatest commitment as evidenced by their attendance at weekly public worship within Churches Together or the Evangelical Alliance over a period of up to 5 years. This is measured by allocating 1 point for each weekly attendance (Sunday to Saturday) by the parent and child, up to a maximum of 39 per year (to 31 August each year). A maximum of 20 points are awarded for the year 2019-20. Points for attendance at public worship for 2020-21 will not be awarded until the recording of attendance at worship resumes, as determined by the legal authority which is Manchester Diocese. Further details will be published on the School and Trust websites and will be added to this policy as it becomes available. If no attendance may be recorded for 2020-21 then there will be no attendance points available for that year and commitment will be based on previous years' attendance from 2016-17 (School Year 1) to 2019/20.

In addition, 5 points will be allocated for the baptism of the child or a service of dedication into the denomination (or the denomination's equivalent of making a commitment) before the 31st August 2021. Confirmation of baptism (or a service of dedication, or the denomination's equivalent) must be provided by the minister/leader of worship.

There are no minimum points score required for eligibility under Priority 2.1. The minimum points score for eligibility under Priority 2.2 is 15.

2.3 Up to **30 places** (see Notes 2, 3 and 4 below) to applicants who are members of another major world faith that is a member of the Interfaith Network (See Definitions).

As patterns of worship vary between faiths, commitment is evidenced by the attestation of the leader of worship. If there are more applicants than places available, allocation of places in this category will be first to children of staff employed at The Blue Coat School (See Definitions) and then by random allocation (See Definitions).

2.4 **Any Other Children.** If places remain in Priority Group 2 after the admission of children under Priorities 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, the remaining places will be allocated to any other children seeking places at the school. If there are more applicants than places, allocation will be by first to children of staff employed at The Blue Coat School (See Definitions) and then by random allocation (See Definitions).

Notes

Note 1: This number will be adjusted downwards by the number of any children of the Anglican faith, who have been admitted as a result of having an EHCP naming the school.

Note 2: The number of places available for Priority Group 2 will be adjusted downwards by the number of any children not of the Anglican faith who have been admitted as a result of having an EHCP naming the school. The places remaining will be divided equally between Priority Group 2.2 and Priority Group 2.3. If there is an odd number, the final place will be deducted from Priority Group 2.3.

Note 3: If all the places available under Priority Group 1 are not filled by children of the Anglican faith, the number of places available in Priority Group 2 will be increased by the number of unfilled places from Priority Group 1, with the places shared equally between Priority Group 2.2 and 2.3. If there is an odd number, the final place will be added to Priority Group 2.2.

Note 4: The number of places available for allocation under Priority Groups 2.2 and 2.3 will be adjusted downwards to take account of the number of any pupils allocated under Priority Group 2.1. Half the number of places will be deducted from Priority Group 2.2 and half will be deducted from Priority Group 2.3. If there is an odd number, the final place will be deducted from Priority Group 2.2.

Tie Breaks

Priority Groups 1.2 and 2.2

Where 2 or more children achieve the same points within each of these Priority Groups, 1.2 and 2.2 the following tie-break(s) will be used:

(a) **Children of staff employed at The Blue Coat School** (See Definitions)

If a further tie break needs to be applied between the children of staff employed at The Blue Coat School, staff children who have a sibling (See Definitions) attending the school as of 1st September 2022 will be admitted first.

If a further tie break needs to be applied between children of staff with siblings attending the school, this will be geographical proximity, using a straight-line measurement between the home (See Definition) postcode and the school postcode.

If a final tie break is needed, this will be random allocation (See Definitions).

(b) **Non-Staff Children who have a sibling** (See Definitions) attending the school as of 1st September 2022 will be admitted next.

If a further tie break needs to be applied between non-staff children with siblings attending the school (See Definitions), this will be geographical proximity, using a straight-line measurement between the home (See Definitions) postcode and the school postcode.

(c) If all children with siblings attending the school can be admitted with this priority group, **geographical proximity using a straight-line measurement between the home (See Definitions) postcode and the school postcode** will be used as a tie-break between the remaining applicants in the group.

(d) If a final tie break is needed, this will be **random allocation** (See Definitions).

Priority Groups 2.3 and 2.4

If there are more applicants than places available, places in each of these groups first to children of staff employed at The Blue Coat School (See Definitions) and then by random allocation (See Definitions).

Definitions

- i) **Looked After Children/Previously Looked After Children (LAC/PLAC)**
This includes any child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order. "Looked After" means that the child was (a) in the care of the Local Authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of its social services functions in line with Section 22 (1) of the Children's Act 1989 at the time of making an application to the school.
- ii) The **Responsible Authority** is the Local Authority which has the care responsibility for the Looked After Child.
- iii) **Random Allocation.** This process is electronic and is supervised by a responsible person independent of the school. It is a means of putting applications into an order that is entirely by chance and has no element of bias in the selection so that everybody has an equal chance of being selected.
- iv) A **parent** is any person who has parental responsibility for the care of the child.
- v) The Cranmer Education Trust has defined "**siblings**" as full, step, half, foster and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address at the time of submitting the application.
- vi) **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Evangelical Alliance.** The lists of member churches of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland can be found on the Churches Together website at www.ctbi.org.uk and for the Evangelical Alliance at www.eauk.org.
- vii) **Other major world faiths** are defined as Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism and Buddhism who are members of the Interfaith Network. A list of members can be found at www.interfaith.org.uk.
- viii) **Home** is defined as the place where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings.
- ix) **A member of staff employed at The Blue Coat School** is defined as someone who must have been permanently employed for a minimum of two years or was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage. This must be verified by the Headteacher.
- x) An **EHCP** (Education Health and Care Plan) is a legal document that outlines a child or young person's special educational, health and social care needs and the provision a Local Authority must put in place to help them.

Exceptional Circumstances

- (a) For members of church communities, where circumstances such as illness, bereavement or work patterns have meant that a member of the family other than the parent/legal guardian has occasionally attended worship with the child, supporting evidence should be provided by the priest/vicar/minister/superintendent for these attendances to be counted in the relevant priority.
- (b) When attendance at public worship re-opens, there may be specific health-related reasons why the parent/legal guardian and child cannot attend public worship in the church but participates online or by other means. In this case, supporting evidence should be provided by the priest/vicar/minister/superintendent for these attendances to be counted in the relevant priority.

Any places which are awarded based on exceptional circumstances will be deducted from the relevant faith priority.

Waiting List

Where there are 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 oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be maintained until 31 December in any given year.

Late applicants for the school will be slotted into the order according to the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list for all categories where randomisation applies will be re-randomised in line with any 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.

Applications for admission outside the normal age group

Parents/legal guardians are entitled to apply to the Trust for entry of their child into a year group outside of the normal age specific group. For example, if a child works at a higher ability that would be expected at Year 7, parents/legal guardians may apply to the Trust for entry of their child into Year 8. Equally, a child may have experienced problems such as ill health which means they would be better suited to a lower age group.

All applications should be sent to the Clerk to Trustees at the Trust. These can be submitted in writing by post or electronically by e-mail. Applications must be supported by evidence. The evidence required is dependent on the nature of the application made. The Local Governing Committee has the delegated authority from the CET to make decisions on requests for admissions outside of the normal age group. Decisions will be made on the available evidence before the Admissions Committee and in the best interests of the child. The committee will take account of the following information:

- the views of the parents/legal guardians;
- the views of the Headteacher at the school;
- any applicable medical history and views obtained by the parents/legal guardians from a medical professional(s);
- whether the child has previously been educated outside of the normal age group;
- any applicable information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; and
- if the child would have fallen into a lower age group had they not been born prematurely (as applicable).

Decisions will be issued to parents/legal guardians setting out the Admissions Committee's reasons.

If the application is granted, and has been made during the normal admissions round, the child will be still subject to the school's oversubscription and will not be given any preference beyond that set out in the oversubscription criteria.

If the application is granted, and it is for in-year admission, subject to any waiting list or space being available, the child will be admitted to the age group applied to.

If the application has been rejected the child will only be able to apply for admission to the normal age group and be subjected to the applicable process whether admission is sought through the normal admissions round or in-year.

Parents and legal guardians have the right to appeal to a refusal to admit their child (see further details below). However, if parents/legal guardians are offered a place for their child but not in the preferred age group there is not right of appeal.

Applications for in-year admission

All applications for in-year admission must be submitted in writing to the school (please telephone in the first instance). If you are an active member of your faith, please also complete the Supplementary Information Form which is available from the school's website. If a place is offered and accepted, the school will inform the Local Authority.

Appeals

Where the Trust is unable to offer a place because the school is oversubscribed, parents have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, as amended by the Education Act, 2002 and subject to the School Admissions Appeal Code. **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 10 school days' notice of the place and time of the hearing. Further information about any appeal will be provided by the independent clerk to the appeals panel.

Please note that this right of appeal against the Trust's decision does not prevent you from making an appeal in respect of any other school.

Fraudulent applications

Where the Trust 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 Trust may withdraw the offer of the place. Where an offer is withdrawn based on misleading information, the application will be considered afresh, and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

The Cranmer Education Trust Privacy Notice

In making an application for admission to the Blue Coat School Oldham, parents provide personal, sensitive information in relation to their child and themselves. This information will be stored in accordance with the School's privacy notice; a copy of which can be found at www.blue-coat.org/policies.



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