

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.

Why are we proposing to amend the admissions policy?

Context:

1. The vision of the Cranmer Education Trust is to make an excellent education, grounded in the distinctive ethos of the Church of England, available to as many children and young people as possible. Excellence means the development and nurturing of the whole person, academically, physically, socially, morally and spiritually. Our schools have faith at their heart. Faith is the rock we can stand on. It is the foundation of our value.
2. Our schools are committed to community - to bringing people together, in faith, to build a future of shared values and hope for our children.
3. Our Trust is growing. We will soon be opening a new secondary school in Oldham, which will mean another 240 places per year for parents who want their children to have a Church of England and Cranmer education.

The Blue Coat policy:

1. Now that we are in a position to offer 483 secondary places per year across 2 schools we have decided to review and update aspects of Blue Coat's admissions policy. The school is a 180-year-old Church of England foundation which serves children from across the diocese. In recognition of that foundation we will continue to prioritise committed members of the Church of England.
2. Blue Coat will continue to include children of other faiths in its oversubscription criteria and in addition to reserve places for those children.
3. In our new policy we propose also to create some reserved places for committed members of other Christian denominations in Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Evangelical Alliance.
4. We have also taken into account the impact of Covid19. Christians evidence their faith commitment by attendance at public worship. This has been difficult (and sometimes impossible) during the pandemic. Therefore, we have adjusted our policy to reflect this reality, and to take into account attendance over a slightly longer period of time.
5. In the current policy attendance at worship is grouped in broad categories. The feedback from clergy and parents has been that in reality many families fit between the categories. We are therefore proposing to move to a points system whereby the child with one parent or legal guardian receive a point for each weekly attendance, up to a maximum of 39 per year, and up to a maximum of 5 years. In the Covid (academic) year 2019-20 the maximum would be 20. In 2020-21 we'll start the recording of attendance when Manchester Diocese says we can. We know that this is something that the Diocese and Board of Education are working on. The same system will apply to the reserved places for Christians of other denominations.

6. We are also proposing to include 5 points for baptism into the Church of England (or another Christian denomination), or for an equivalent, evidenced service of dedication for the child/young person.
7. The different faith traditions have different approaches to worship. Worship may be based on the home. Or not everyone attends worship in the same way. Therefore, we will continue to allocate places to Interfaith applicants randomly as this is the fairest approach which gives everyone a chance.
8. Any remaining places will be allocated to all other children, by random allocation, as at present.

Sixth Form

1. This policy has been updated to reflect the changes in the GCSE grading system from letters to numbers. It is included as it is part of the whole admission policy for the school.

Consultation

Over the next few months we will be launching consultations about admissions policy. For Blue Coat this process will commence on FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2020 and will close at 3.30pm on FRIDAY 8th JANUARY 2021.

A full copy of the proposed admissions policy and supplementary form which incorporate the proposed new arrangements can be found on our website:

<https://www.blue-coat.org/admissions/consultation-2022-admissions-entry/>

Comments and representations on the proposals are welcomed and should be sent either by e-mail or letter to:

The Chair of the Admissions Committee
C/o, The Blue Coat School,
Egerton Street,
Oldham.
OL1 3SQ
E-mail: secretary@blue-coat.org

Anonymous comments/representations will not be accepted.

The Admissions Committee of the Trust Board will meet week beginning 11 January 2021 to review all comments/representations and will report to the Trust Board.

The outcome of the consultation will be published on the school website by 15 March 2021 and the Published Admissions Number and Policy will be confirmed with the Local Authority by the same date.