

Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School

Ysgol Gatholig Bendigaid Carlo Acutis



Admissions Policy

Ratification date:	June 2024
Review Date:	June 2025
Staff member responsible for writing, reviewing & updating	Mrs S J Hopkins
Person responsible for monitoring & implementation of the policy	Mrs S J Hopkins

Admissions Policy 3-16 school (Sept 2023 admission)

This policy refers to admission in September 2023. Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic school is a voluntary aided school in the Archdiocese of Cardiff. The Governing Body has sole responsibility for admissions to the school and will act in accordance with all relevant provisions of the Welsh Government's 2013 Codes on School Admissions and School Admission Appeals, and with the law on school admissions as it applies to maintained schools.

Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic school has a Catholic ethos. The School is governed as part of the Catholic church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents of other faiths, or of no faith background, to apply for and be considered for a place, as the School welcomes and encourages applications from all families.

The admission number for the school is **193**, split across the four separate sites as follows:

Year 7 (Bishop Hedley campus)	120
Reception (St Aloysius campus)	23
Reception (St Illtyd's campus)	22
Reception (St Mary's campus)	28

Where there are more than 120 applications for year 7, and 73 in Reception, places will be allocated in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below.

Oversubscription Criteria

1. Children who are looked after by a Local Authority or who were previously looked after by a Local Authority.
2. Baptised Catholic children residing in the school's catchment area which is the parishes of Merthyr Tydfil, Mary Immaculate Parish (St Margaret's Primary school catchment), Abertillery & Brynmawr, Tredegar, Ebbw Vale and Rhymney, or who attend any of the following Primary schools:
 - St Margaret's, Aberdare
 - St Mary's, Brynmawr
 - All Saints, Ebbw Vale
 - St Joseph's, Tredegar
3. Siblings of children attending the school at the time the applicant would join the school.
4. Other baptised Catholic children.
5. Other children whose parents seek a Christian education.
6. Other children.

Confirmation of baptism (either certificate or letter from priest) is required for applications under 2 and 4.

Proximity

If the governors are unable to admit all applicants who fall into the lowest criterion a tie-breaker will be applied. In the case of all of the Primary sites, priority will be given to children living closest to the site, determined by the shortest walking distance from the applicant's home address to the main entrance to the site. Distances are calculated by the local authority's "mapping schools" system.

In the case of the Secondary site, priority will be given to children living closest to the site, determined by the shortest distance from the front door of the applicant's home to the Reception entrance in Phase 2. The Geographical Information System (GIS) will be used to calculate home to school distances in miles, while the shortest walking route will be calculated using Ordnance Survey (OS) customised route data from an applicant's home to the nearest open school gate.

Siblings

For admission purposes a sibling is a child who is the brother / sister, half-brother / sister (children who share one common parent), step brother / sister where two children are related by marriage. This definition also includes adopted or fostered children living at the same address. Priority will be by reference to the youngest sibling in the school at the time of admission, the youngest sibling commanding the highest degree of priority.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child (e.g. a twin or triplet), the governors will also admit the other sibling(s).

Residence

Evidence of permanent residence of the child at the time of application must be supplied. Permanent residence is considered to be the child's along with the parent / guardian's main place of residence. If the child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than guardianship) the friend or relative's address will not be considered.

Shared parental responsibility

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for parts of the week, the home address will be determined as the property where the child lives for the majority of the school week (i.e. 3 out of 5 days) at the time of application.

Looked after children / Previously looked after children

The definition of a Looked after Child is a child who is looked after by the Local Authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. Children who are in the care of the Local Authority (looked after children) or provided with accommodation by them e.g. foster parents (section 106 of the Education Act 2005).

A child who has been in the care of the Local Authority as defined above for at least 24 hours will be regarded as a previously looked after child.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) /Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Children in receipt of a statement of SEN which names the school will be admitted as will children with ALN who have an IDP (Individual Development Plan) which names the school.

Late applications and applications outside the normal admissions round

Late applications will be looked at after the applications received by the closing date have been considered. If the number of offers has reached the admission number in the first round, then all late applications will be considered and placed on the waiting list.

Applications outside the normal admission round, including in-year transfer requests, will be considered by the Admissions Committee. A formal decision either to offer or to refuse a place will be notified to the applicants within 15 school days or 28 calendar days, whichever is the sooner.

Waiting list

Children not offered a place will be placed on a waiting list. The order of priority on the waiting list is the same as the list of criteria for over-subscription.

No account is taken of the length of time on the waiting list.

If offers of a place are refused then the place will be offered to the first child on the waiting list at that point in time. The order of the waiting list will vary as late applications are received, refused and placed on the waiting list in the order of the oversubscription criteria.

The waiting list will be maintained until 30 September.

Right of appeal

When a child is refused a place at a school the governing body will write to the parent giving full details of why the application was refused. Parents have a right to appeal this decision. Parents wishing to appeal the decision must return the appeal form within 14 days of the receipt of the decision letter.

The appeal will be heard by an independent appeal panel.

How to apply

Any parent may apply for their child to be admitted to the school. A form for admission can be found on the website or obtained from the school office. Every application will be considered by the admissions committee of the governing body.

Nursery admission

The total number of nursery places available is 66 full-time or 132 part-time split across 3 campuses as follows:

- St Aloysius 20 full-time or 40 part-time
- St Illtyd's 20 full-time or 40 part-time
- St Mary's 26 full-time or 52 part-time

Nursery classes are non-denominational but priority in application for places will be given to:

- Children who are looked after by a local authority or who were previously looked after by a local authority.
- Children who have siblings already on roll at the School.
- Children who have attended the School's pre-Nursery Group.
- Children residing in the catchment area.
- Other children.

Attendance at nursery class **will not** guarantee a place in the School's Reception class, where a separate application form must be submitted at the appropriate time.

There is no right of appeal in relation to admission to the Nursery Class.