



St Oswald's Catholic Primary School **Nursery Admissions Policy 2025-2026**

Admission to the nursery class at St Oswald's Catholic Primary School will be made by the Governing Body in accordance with the parental applications subject to the following set of admissions criteria forming a priority order where there are more applications for admission than the Nursery has places available.

Please note St Oswald's Catholic Primary School & Nursery is a Voluntary Aided school, and as such the Governing Body determine their own admission arrangements and the criteria for admission may therefore be different from those detailed in the Lancashire County Council's guidelines.

For the school year commencing September 2025, the Governing Body has set its admissions number at **20**. There will be 3 admissions windows each academic year:

Child born in the period	Funded start period (following 3rd birthday)
1 st January – 31 st March	Summer Term (immediately after the Easter break)
1 st April – 31 st August	Autumn term (immediately after the summer break)
1 st September – 31 st December	Spring Term (immediately after the Christmas break)

The governing body will not place any restrictions on admissions to the Nursery class unless the number of children for whom admission is sought exceeds their admission number. The Governing Body will consider all applications equally. If there are more applicants than places, the governing body will allocate places using the criteria below, which are listed in order of priority.

Admissions Criteria

1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
2. Children with an Educational Health Care Plan.
3. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
4. Baptised Catholic children resident in the parish of St Oswald's.
5. Other baptised Catholic children.

6. Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
7. Children from other Christian denominations (proof of Baptism in the form of a Baptismal Certificate or confirmation in writing that the applicant is a member of their Faith community from an appropriate Minister of Religion is required).
8. Children of other faiths (an appropriate Faith Leader would need to confirm in writing that the applicant is a member of their faith group).
9. Other children

Notes

a) 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, residence or special guardianship order

b) For a child to be considered as a Catholic, evidence of a Catholic Baptism will be required.

c) The decision with regard to the allocation of a morning or an afternoon place rests with the Headteacher.

d) An admission to the Nursery Class does not necessarily secure admission to the Primary School. A separate admissions criterion applies.

e) If in any category there are more applications than places available, priority will be given based on distance from home to school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the front door of the child's home address (including the community entrance to flats) to the main entrance of the school with those living nearer to the school having priority.

f) Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the child's "permanent place of residence" will be determined as the address of the parent who ordinarily has responsibility for the child, as determined by reference to an official document e.g. child benefit.

g) Sibling is defined in these arrangements as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers and sisters or the child of a parent/carer's partner where the child the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

h) The Governing Body reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to baptism, sibling connections or place of residence.