

# **Archdiocese of Liverpool**

## **School Admissions and Appeals**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Admissions**

**Why should I put three preferences when there's only one school I really want for my child?**

It is advisable for parents to state three preferences on their application because it helps the local authority to ensure that, wherever possible, parents are allocated at least one of their preferences. The school you most want should be placed as first preference.

**I don't want my child to attend the school designated to my parish but, if they don't get allocated a place at any of my three preferences, will they be allocated this school automatically?**

Not necessarily. The school designated to your parish may allocate all their places to parents who put the school as one of their preferences. If you do not put it as a preference, you will not automatically be allocated it unless there are still places available. It is always advisable to put your parish school as one of your preferences.

**Why has my child been allocated a school that I didn't ask for?**

If the local authority is unable to allocate a place for your child at any of your preferred schools, they have an obligation to offer a place at the nearest school to you with available places. This may not necessarily be a Catholic school.

**If I live in one Local Authority but want my child to attend a school in another Local Authority, what should I do?**

Parents can apply for any school in any local authority but they have to do it via their home local authority. When applying for a place in a school that is not in your home local authority, parents should check whether there are any additional supplementary forms to be completed which would only be available from the school or the Local Authority in which the school is located.

**Does my child have to be baptised into the Catholic faith to obtain a place at a Catholic school?**

Our schools welcome children of all faiths and none and from all sections of the community. However, Catholic children are given priority in the oversubscription criteria that are used in

the event that more requests for places are received than there are places available. If your child is a baptised Catholic it is very important that this is highlighted in the supplementary information provided at the point of application and evidenced by production of a baptism certificate when requested by the school.

## **Admission Appeals**

### **How do I make an appeal against the decision of the school not to offer my child a place?**

If parents wish to appeal for a Catholic primary or secondary school place in Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens or Wigan (with the exception of St Edward's College and St Francis Xavier's College in Liverpool, Maricourt High School in Sefton, St Theresa's Primary School, St Cuthbert's High School and De La Salle High School in St Helens) they should contact the Liverpool Archdiocese by completing the online form via this link.

Parents can also contact the Archdiocese during office hours on 0151 522 1071

### **How many places are set aside for parents who make an appeal?**

There are no places set aside for parents wishing to appeal. If there were places available, they would be offered to children who are on the waiting list.

### **If there are no places available, what's the point of making an appeal?**

Parents have a legal right to an appeal hearing when they are refused a place for their child at a particular school. However, in the case of Reception appeals, where the class size of 30 is governed by legislation, there are only very limited and exceptional circumstances in which an appeal would be successful.

### **Can I appeal again if my appeal is unsuccessful?**

Parents are only allowed to appeal once in an academic year.