

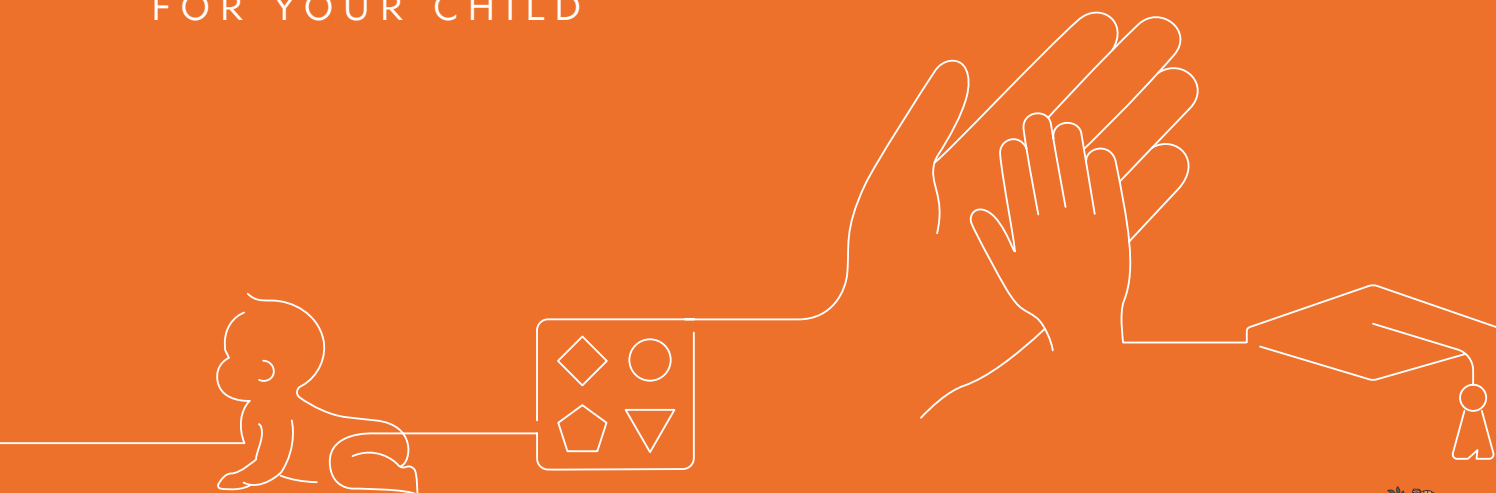


INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

SECONDARY EDUCATION BOOKLET

2027/28

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SECONDARY SCHOOL
FOR YOUR CHILD



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

The statement of preference of a secondary school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will have to make.

Dear Parents/Carers,

The statement of preference of a secondary school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will have to make. We want to do as much as possible to help you understand how to make your application. This booklet has been produced to tell you about secondary schools in St Helens, how to apply for a place and what to do if your preference cannot be met.

This booklet sets out the arrangements for the admission of children to secondary schools for the academic year beginning September 2027. It also sets out arrangements for transfer from one secondary school to another during this year and gives details of how places are allocated.

Please note that you may not always gain your first preference when you apply for a secondary school. Admission may depend on meeting the criteria which are explained fully in this booklet.

Please take the time to read this booklet carefully before you fill in your application form, even if you have already decided which secondary school you prefer. It contains a lot of information which I hope will inform your preferences and, wherever possible, help you to avoid disappointment.

Each secondary school produces its own prospectus which contains a great deal of information about that school. It may also be useful to visit the schools which interest you before completing the application form. If you have any queries about individual schools, do not hesitate to contact the head teacher of the secondary school concerned.

A checklist for applicants is detailed at the back of the booklet and may help parents/carers in completing the form correctly.

You are also advised to read the information provided on eligibility for home to school transport on page 39, since this may be an important aspect to consider in expressing your preferences.

The staff who work in the Admissions Section are there to help with the application process. Please do not hesitate to contact them with any queries or concerns that you may have about admissions.

They can be reached on St Helens 01744 678360.

I hope very much that you find this booklet helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Jason Pickett
Acting Assistant Director, Education & Learning



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Open Evenings/Days

Secondary and academy schools hold open evenings during the autumn term so that parents and pupils may visit schools prior to completing the application form for a secondary school place.

Dates for open evenings are as follows:

Academies	Date and Time	
Hope Academy Telephone: 01744 671930	Thursday 17 September 2026	5.00pm-8.00pm
Outwood Academy Haydock Telephone: 01744 678833	Tuesday 15 September 2026	5. 00pm-7.00pm
Rainford High School Telephone: 01744 885914	Thursday 24 September 2026	6.00pm-8.00pm
Rainhill High School Telephone: 01744 677205	Wednesday 16 September 2026	5.00pm-8.00pm
St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Academy Telephone: 01744 678112	Thursday 17 September 2026	4.00pm-6.30pm
The Sutton Academy Telephone: 01744 678859	Wednesday 16 September 2026	6.00pm-8.00pm

Community High Schools	Date and Time	
Cowley International College Telephone: 01744 678030	Thursday 17 September 2026	3.30pm-6.30pm

Voluntary Aided Schools	Date and Time	
De La Salle School Telephone: 01744 20511	Thursday 1 October 2026	4.30pm-7.30pm
St.Cuthbert's Catholic High School Telephone: 01744 678123	Thursday 24 September 2026	5.00pm-7.30pm

Voluntary Aided Schools (Wigan)	Date and Time	
St.Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High (Ashton-in-Makerfield) Telephone: 01942 728651	Thursday 24 September 2026	Make contact with school to book a slot
St.Peter's Catholic High Visual Arts College (Orrell) Telephone: 01942 747693	This event has now been moved to the summer term and there will no longer be one in the autumn term.	

It is advisable to check the above dates and times with the schools in case there have been any changes since this booklet was printed.

Types of Secondary Schools in St Helens

All secondary schools in the Borough of St Helens are comprehensive:

Academies

Academies are independently managed, all-ability schools set up by sponsors from business, faith or voluntary groups in partnership with the Department for Education. Together they fund the land and buildings, with the government covering the running costs.

Community Schools

The Local Authority employs the staff on the recommendation of the Governing Body, owns the school's land and buildings and, as the admissions authority, determines the oversubscription criteria for these schools.

Voluntary Aided Schools

The Governing Body is the employer and the school's land and buildings are normally owned by the church or a charitable foundation and they contribute towards the capital costs of running the school. They are the admissions authority and, therefore, determine their own oversubscription criteria.

School Prospectus

The Governors of each school publish a prospectus each year that provides information about their school. As well as including details about school policies, educational needs and curriculum, there will also be a summary of the National Curriculum assessment of the pupils in the school at the end of the appropriate Key Stage. The prospectus is available free of charge from each secondary school and Academy mentioned in this booklet.

Ofsted Reports

Schools are inspected by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). Copies of Ofsted reports are available from schools or can be viewed on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

School Achievement and Attainment Tables

Annual School Achievement and Attainment Tables (formerly performance tables) are available online at www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/index.html

Timetable for admission to Secondary School in September 2027

The timetable for admission to Secondary School in September 2026 is as follows:

September 2026 - The website www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions is open for parents who wish to apply online. A copy of the Secondary Admissions Booklet and application form are available for parents to view or download from the above website.

31 October 2026 - Closing date for the submission of online applications or the return of paper applications to primary schools or the Admissions Section for children who do not attend a primary school in St Helens.

1 March 2027 - If you submit a paper application, a letter will be posted to you notifying you of the place allocated to your child. If you apply online, you will receive an email at approximately 12am on 1 March 2026.

April 2027 onwards - Appeal hearings for parents whose preference(s) cannot be met.

September 2027 - Admission to school.



Applying for a Secondary School Place for September 2027

Co-ordinated Admissions

Every Local Authority in England has to co-ordinate admissions to secondary schools in their area for children transferring from Year 6 in primary school.

How Co-ordinated Admissions Work:

- Parents complete one application form on which they are asked to list three secondary schools and rank them in order of preference. These can be schools within St Helens or in neighbouring Local Authorities.
- St Helens Local Authority liaises with the appropriate admissions authorities, including other Local Authorities, if a parent has stated a preference for a school outside the Borough.
- The admissions authority for each of the schools will then determine whether a place can be offered. If more than one place can be offered, the school which the parent has ranked highest will be allocated by the home Local Authority.
- All parents who apply by the **31 October 2026** deadline will be sent an offer letter or email on 1 March 2027.

Application Form

If your child was born on or between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016, and resides in St Helens, please complete the **application form at the back of this booklet or, alternatively, complete your application online (see overleaf). All St Helens residents must fill in a St Helens form even if they are applying for schools in other Local Authorities.**

The completed application form should be returned to the head teacher of your child's primary school, if they are currently attending a primary school in St Helens, by **31 October 2026**.

If you decide to apply online, we will inform your child's primary school (if this is in St Helens) that you have submitted an online application. If your child does not attend a primary school in St Helens, but you are a St Helens resident, then you should return the completed form to the School Admissions Section, PO Box 512, St Helens WA10 9JX by **31 October 2026**.

Applying for schools outside St Helens

If you live in St Helens and wish to apply for schools in another Borough, you must do so on the St Helens form. If you name a school outside St Helens, you should obtain the information booklet from the relevant authority (contact details on page 51) to find out about the particular school in which you are interested.

Applications from parents who live outside St Helens

Even if your child attends a St Helens primary school, if you reside in another Local Authority, then you must read your home Authority's booklet and complete their application form. See page 51 for neighbouring Local Authorities' contact details. Under no circumstances should you complete more than one application form, as this will only delay the allocation process for everyone.

Supplementary Information and Additional Forms

St Helens now have a number of catholic secondary schools which require the completion of a supplementary form, these schools will be identified under their individual 'how places are allocated' pages.

Supplementary forms must be completed alongside a common application form. These can be completed via the school websites and must be returned to the school office before 31st October 2026.

If any of your preferences are for voluntary aided (Faith) schools outside St Helens, these schools may require a supplementary form. If this is the case, you can get a supplementary form from the school and you should return it to them by the date that is specified.

The supplementary form will not be regarded as a valid application unless you have completed the Local Authority's application form and nominated the school concerned on it.

It is the parents' responsibility to make sure they supply such information and/or complete a supplementary form.

Online Applications

You can make an online application for your child's school place. The online form asks for the same information as the paper form at the back of this booklet. The benefits of applying online are:

- It is quick and easy to use;
- There are simple instructions guiding you through the process;
- You can change your application up to the closing date (31 October 2026);
- You will receive an email confirmation that your application has been received;
- The offer of a school place will be sent via email, so you do not have to wait for the post.

For more information, please go to **www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions**

Expressing and Ranking your Preferences for Schools

You do not have a right to choose which school your child will go to, you only have a right to express a preference for a school.

- **You should choose your preferences wisely.** For this reason, before expressing a preference, you should check whether the school was oversubscribed last year and read the oversubscription criteria for that school to work out what priority your child would have for a place. See page 11 for details of the oversubscription criteria for Community schools in St Helens and page 12 on how places were allocated for September 2025. See pages 13-30 for details of the oversubscription criteria for Academy and Catholic schools in St Helens.
- If you are expressing a preference for a school outside St Helens, you will find details on the oversubscription criteria and how places were allocated last year from the information booklet of the Local Authority in which the school is situated. (See Local Authorities' contact details on page 51.)
- **Please remember that the number of pupils in the age group and the pattern of parental preference can change from year to year.**
- **You should state three schools and rank them in order of preference so that if your first preference cannot be met due to oversubscription, your child may be considered for a place at your second or third preference school.**
- If you do not name a second or third preference, **it does not** increase your chance of gaining a place at your first preference school. It means that you have wasted your preferences and, if you do not obtain a place at that school, you may lose priority for another school where you might otherwise have obtained a place.
- Repeating the name of one school does not improve your chances of getting a place there.
- If each of your preferred schools is oversubscribed, and your child is not offered a place at any of them, the Local Authority will normally allocate a place at the next nearest community school with available places. If your child is baptised Catholic, then the Local Authority will allocate the next nearest Catholic school with available places. If you live outside St Helens and you are unsuccessful with your application for a St Helens school, you will be referred back to your home Local Authority.
- **Please note** that if you do not name the secondary school that is associated with your child's primary school as a preference, it will not automatically be allocated if your other preferences cannot be met.

IMPORTANT – EQUAL PREFERENCE:

All first, second and third preferences for schools are treated as equal, regardless of parents' ranking. Therefore, if schools receive more applications than they have places available, the oversubscription criteria will be used to decide who can be potentially offered a place - not the order in which the preferences have been ranked.

The ranking is only used to determine which school should be offered if an applicant meets the criteria for more than one school, i.e. a single offer will be made for the school that has been ranked the highest by the parent.

If you have any concerns about this, please contact the Admissions Section on 01744 678360 prior to completing the application form.

Changes of Preference

The Local Authority will not accept a change of preference after the closing date without proof of an exceptional change in circumstances, e.g. house move to another area or an older sibling has transferred schools.

Where there is no evidence of an exceptional change in circumstances, the change of preference will be considered as a late application.

Late Applications

Applications (including agreed changes of preference) submitted after the closing date will only be considered alongside those who applied on time, when they are received before the allocation procedures begin. However, as this date cannot be predicted, parents have no guarantee that any application received after the closing date will be included.

Definition of Home Address

This is the confirmed address (before allocation procedures begin) where the child and parent, or person with parental responsibility, normally live. The Local Authority will use the address of the parent who is in receipt of Child Benefit for this. If parents are separated and the child spends time at each parent's address, the address which receives child benefit will normally be used, but the Authority reserves the right to request other proofs as fit the individual circumstances. It may be necessary for the Authority to carry out checks to confirm that addresses given are genuine. Parents may, therefore, be asked to produce documentary evidence of their child's home address, e.g. Council Tax or utility bills.

Any parent seeking to advantage their child's application for a school place by submitting a false address may have the offer of a place withdrawn once this is discovered.

The Local Authority has withdrawn offers of places to parents who made false declarations in previous years.

Please note:

Any change in your home address after you have completed the application form must be notified to the Admissions Section and supported by documentary evidence. Similarly, if you are unsuccessful in your application for your preferred school(s) and subsequently move address, you should notify the Admissions Section as this may affect your child's position on the waiting-list(s).

One Application per Child

The Local Authority will only accept one application per child for a school place. Where parents disagree on school preferences for their child, they must settle their differences between each other and submit only one form.



How Places are Allocated

Admission Number

All schools have an admission number (i.e. the number of places available). The admission number for each St Helens secondary school is published in this booklet on pages 12-30. If more applications are received than the number of places available at a school, then it means the school is oversubscribed. When this happens, the oversubscription criteria will be applied in order to decide how places will be allocated.

Please note:

In some areas of St Helens, pupils in associated primary schools may not always secure a place at their associated secondary school. Some children who have an older brother or sister attending a secondary school may not be able to secure a place at the same secondary school.

Oversubscription Criteria for Community School in St Helens

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the oversubscription criteria set out below. After the admission of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans, where the school is named on the Plan, the criteria will be applied in the following order:

1. looked after children and children who were previously looked after but then became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order¹. This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted²;
2. children from the associated primary schools (detailed on page 12);
3. children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of likely admission. The brother or sister must be on the school roll in Years 7-11. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters, or children of the parent/carer's partner and, in every case, who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit;
4. other children.

¹A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions.

²A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

Tie-Break

In the event of any oversubscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above, the Local Authority will offer places first to children whose family home is nearest the school. The measurement shall be done by the Local Authority in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) based on Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and the National Grid co-ordinates for the family home and the school.

Where the tie-break does not distinguish between applicants, e.g. children living in the same block of flats, random allocation will be used. This will be done by drawing lots and supervised by someone independent of the school.

Special Conditions for Twins (etc.)

Where the final place in a year group is offered to one of twins (or triplets etc.), the Local Authority will not apply the tie-break as it will admit the other twin etc. too, even if that means going above the admission number for the school concerned.

Waiting-Lists and Appeals

Where there are more applicants than places for a particular school for the Year 7 September intake, the Local Authority will keep a waiting-list and inform parents about how they can appeal (see pages 35-36 for further details).

Community Schools in St Helens and How Places were Allocated for September 2026

School Name: **Cowley International College**
Principal: Mr R Cormack
Address: Hard Lane
St Helens
WA10 6PN
Telephone: 01744 678030
Website: **www.cowley.st-helens.sch.uk**
Age Range: 11 – 18
Admission Number for Year 7 in September 2027: **250**
Number of pupils on roll, January 2026: **1229**



Associated Primary Schools

Carr Mill Primary
Merton Bank Primary
Parish CE Primary (part of the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust)
Queen's Park CE/URC Primary
Rivington Primary
St.Mary & St.Thomas' CE Primary (part of the Three Saints Academy Trust)

How places were allocated for September 2026:

The school was oversubscribed; therefore, 250 places were allocated as shown in the table below:

Admission Number	Total number of applications: First, Second and Third preferences	How places were allocated	Final number of places allocated after late applications, changes of preference, withdrawals and appeals
250	Total: 519 First Preference 233 Second Preference 155 Third Preference 131	Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan 6 Looked after and previously looked after children 4 Associated Primary 138 Brothers & Sisters 24 Distance 73	250 (1 appeal was upheld)

The last place allocated under Criterion 4 (distance) was measured at 6.213 miles.
Please be aware that how places are allocated can substantially change from year to year.
This school is regularly oversubscribed.

Oversubscription Criteria for Academies in St Helens and How Places Were Allocated for September 2026

School Name: De La Salle
Head Teacher: Mr A Rannard
Address: Mill Brow
Eccleston
St Helens
WA10 4QH
Telephone: 01744 20511
Website: www.delasalle.st-helens.sch.uk
Age Range: 11 – 16



Admission Number for Year 7 in September 2027: 240
Number of pupils on roll, January 2026: 1180

The following information has been taken from the School’s Admissions Policy and Arrangements document:

Associated Parishes and Primary Schools

Parish	Primary School
Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi
Our Lady, Portico	1. St.Austin’s 2. Our Lady’s, Prescott
Former Parish of Sacred Heart	1. St.Austin’s 2. St.Teresa’s
St.Austin	1. St.Austin’s 2. St.John Vianney’s
St.Bartholomew	St.Bartholomew’s
St.Julie	St.Julie’s
St.Teresa	St.Teresa’s
St.Thomas of Canterbury	St.Thomas of Canterbury

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places, the Governing Body will apply the following oversubscription criteria:

- 1. Looked after children and previously looked after children.¹ This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.²

- 2. Baptised Catholic children living in the designated parish(es) and attending a Catholic primary school of a designated parish (see table on previous page).
- 3. Baptised Catholic children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of likely admission. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters or a child of the parent/carer’s partner, and, in every case, who is living at the same address and is part of the same family unit.
- 4. Baptised Catholic children living in the designated Catholic parishes but attending another Catholic primary school.
- 5. Baptised Catholic children living in parishes other than the designated parishes, who attend a Catholic primary school of a designated parish.
- 6. Baptised Catholic children living in parishes other than the designated parishes and who attend other Catholic schools.
- 7. Baptised Catholic children living in the designated Catholic parishes but attending a school other than a Catholic primary school.
- 8. Baptised Catholic children living in parishes other than the designated parishes but attending a school other than a Catholic primary school.
- 9. Children, other than Catholic, who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of likely admission. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters or children of the parent/carer’s partner and, in every case, who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit.
- 10. Children attending a Catholic primary school of a designated parish.
- 11. Children whose parents express a preference for a place at the school.

¹A 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.

²A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

Notes:

- a. All applications will be considered at the same time and after the national closing date for admissions. Applications (including agreed change of preferences) submitted after the closing date will only be considered alongside those who applied on time, when they are received before the allocation procedures begin. However, as this date cannot be predicted, parents have no guarantee that any application received after the closing date will be included.
- b. For a child to be considered as a Catholic evidence of a Catholic Baptism is required. Baptism should take place before the closing date for applications. A Baptised Catholic can also be defined as one who has been baptised by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various Churches in communion with the See of Rome (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church 1203). Written evidence of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place.

Or

A person who has been baptised in a separate ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Written evidence of their reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions,

or in some cases a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the Church in which the Rite of Reception took place.

The Governing Body will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of 'Baptised Catholics'. A Certificate of Reception is to include full name, date of birth, date of reception and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of reception.

Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to the parish priest who after consulting with the Vicar General, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

Tie-Break

In the event of any oversubscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above, then the Admissions Committee will offer places first to children whose family home is nearest the school. The measurement shall be done by the Local Authority in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) based on Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and the National Grid co-ordinates for the family home and the school.

Where the tie-break does not distinguish between applicants, e.g. children living in the same block of flats, random allocation will be used. This will be done by drawing lots and supervised by someone independent of the school.

Special Conditions for Twins (etc.)

Where the final place in a year group is offered to one of twins (or triplets etc.), the Governing Body will not apply the tie-break as it will admit the other twin etc. too, even if that means going above the admission number.

How places were allocated for September 2025:

A total of 618 applications were received: 267 First Preferences, 214 Second Preferences and 137 Third Preferences. After allocating places to 15 pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan, the Governing Body allocated places as follows:

Criterion	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Final number of places allocated after late applications, changes of preference and appeals
	10	98	4	4	10	16	0	3	27	39	12	240 (3 appeals were upheld)

This school has been oversubscribed in previous years.

Enhanced ASD provision at De La Salle

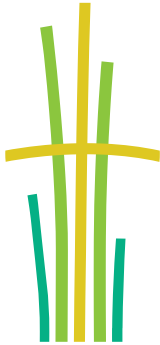
Applications for the enhanced ASD provision at De La Salle are determined by the Local Authority and are therefore outside the school's admission policy and arrangements. Places which are allocated at the provision are in addition to the 240 Published Admission Number set by the Governing Body of De La Salle.

Parents who wish their child to be considered for a place at the provision should contact the Additional Needs Team of the Local Authority (see page 48 for contact details).



Hope Academy is a joint Catholic and joint Church of England Academy that opened in September 2011. It has been formed to replace Newton Community High School and St Aelred's Catholic Community College.

School Name: **Hope Academy**
Principal: Mrs M Adams
Address: Ashton Road
Newton-le-Willows WA12 0AQ
Telephone: 01744 671930
Website: **www.hopeacademy.org.uk**
Age Range: 11 – 16
Admission Number for Year 7 in September 2027: **270**
Number of pupils on roll, January 2026: **1236**



Procedures where the Hope Academy is oversubscribed

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admissions number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of pupils with Education Health and Care Plans, where the Hope Academy is named on the plan, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- a) looked after children and previously looked after children'. This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted'.
- b) after the application of criteria (a), places will be allocated on the following basis:

Catholic Places	Anglican & Community Places
50% of the remaining places, in order of priority to: (i)**Baptised Catholic children living in the designated Catholic Parishes of: St.David, Newton-le-Willows; St.Mary & St.John, Newton-le-Willows; St.Patrick, Newton-le-Willows; All Saints, Golborne; St.Catherine of Siena, Lowton; St.Lewis, Croft; St.Paul of the Cross, Burtonwood* *Pupils attending St.Paul of the Cross Primary School and living in the Kingswood area of West Warrington or in the 'Spa Towns' area bounded by Burtonwood Road, Burma Road and Whittle Avenue (formerly in St.Joseph's Parish) have admission to St.Gregory's High School, Warrington (Warrington LA). (ii)**Baptised Catholic children living in parishes other than the designated parishes but attending one of the associate Primary Schools of the designated Catholic Parishes: St.Mary's Catholic Junior School (Newton); All Saints Catholic Primary (Golborne); St.Catherine's Catholic Primary (Lowton);	50% of the remaining places in order of priority to: (i) Children who attend the associated Church of England and Community Schools: Lyme Community Primary, Newton-le-Willows Primary, St.Peter's Church of England Primary, The District Church of England Primary, Wargrave Church of England Primary, Winwick Church of England Primary.

St.Lewis' Catholic Primary; St.Paul of the Cross RC Primary* ***'Baptised Catholic' means, within the policies and practices relating to school admissions, any child who, before the due date of application, is a baptised Catholic or who, having been baptised into another Christian denomination whose baptisms are recognised by the Catholic Church, has subsequently been formally received into the Catholic Church. For a child to be considered as a Catholic, evidence of a Catholic Baptism (i.e. Baptismal Certificate) or reception into the Church will be required, in accordance with the Archdiocesan Advice on this matter. A copy of the Advice may be obtained at the school.	
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If either Catholic or Anglican and Community applicants are undersubscribed in criterion (b), any remaining places will be allocated to the other sector before the application of criteria (c) to (f).

After the application of criterion (b), any remaining places will be allocated in order of priority to:

- c) non-Catholic children attending one of the associate Primary Schools of the designated Catholic Parishes: St.Mary's Catholic Junior School (Newton), All Saints Catholic Primary (Golborne), St.Catherine's Catholic Primary (Lowton), St.Lewis' Catholic Primary, *St.Paul of the Cross RC Primary;
- d) children who have a brother or sister at the Academy at the time of likely admission. The brother or sister must have entered the Academy in Years 7 to 11. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters, or children of the parent/carer's partner and, in every case, who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit;
- e) children whose parents regularly worship in a recognised Faith community. Regular attendance shall be defined as at least once a month for at least six months before application. This would need to be supported by a reference/letter from a leader of that Faith community and submitted by the parent with their application form.
- f) children whose parents express a preference for a place at the Academy.

¹A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England 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, child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

²A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Applications must be supported with appropriate evidence that the child has been adopted from state care.

Tie-Break

In the event of any oversubscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above, the Academy will offer places first to children whose *family home is nearest the school. The measurement shall be done by the Local Authority in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) based on Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and the National Grid co-ordinates for the family home and the Academy.

Where the tie-break does not distinguish between applicants, e.g. children living in the same block of flats, random allocation will be used. This will be done by drawing lots and supervised by someone independent of the Academy.

Special Conditions for Twins (etc.)

Where the final place in a year group is offered to one of twins (or triplets etc.), the Governing Body will not apply the tie-break as it will admit the other twin etc. too, even if that means going above the admission number for the Academy.

How places were allocated for September 2026:

Places were allocated as follows:

Admission Number	Total number of applications: First, Second and Third preferences	How places were allocated	Final number of places allocated after late applications, changes of preference, withdrawals and appeals
270	Total: 325 First Preference 185 Second Preference 74 Third Preference 66	All preferences were met	169

Please be aware that how places are allocated can substantially change from year to year.

This school has been oversubscribed in previous years.

School Name: **Outwood Academy Haydock**

Principal: Mr P Abram

Address: Clipsley Lane
Haydock
St Helens
WA11 0JG

Telephone: 01744 678833

Website: **www.haydock.outwood.com**

Age Range: 11 – 16

Admission Number for Year 7 in September 2027: **180**

Number of pupils on roll, January 2026: **792**

Associated Primary Schools

Allanson Street Primary
Ashurst Primary
Broad Oak Community Primary
Grange Valley Primary
Legh Vale Primary
St.James’ CE Primary (part of the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust)

How places were allocated for September 2026:

Places were allocated as follows:

Admission Number	Total number of applications: First, Second and Third preferences	How places were allocated	Final number of places allocated after late applications, changes of preference, withdrawals and appeals
180	Total: 334 First Preference 153 Second Preference 103 Third Preference 78	All preferences were met	157

Please be aware that how places are allocated can substantially change from year to year.

This school has been oversubscribed in previous years.

School Name: **Rainford High
(Part of Rainford Academies Trust)**

Principal: Mr I Young

Address: Higher Lane
Rainford
St Helens
WA11 8NY

Telephone: 01744 885914

Website: **www.rainford.org.uk**

Age Range: 11 – 18

Admission Number for Year 7 in September 2027: **290**

Number of pupils on roll, January 2026: **1469**

Associated Primary Schools

Bleak Hill Primary
Chapel End Primary
Eccleston Mere Primary
Garswood Primary
Rainford Brook Lodge Community Primary
Rainford CE Primary
Rectory CE Primary
St.Aidan’s CE Community Primary

Oversubscription Criteria for September 2027

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the oversubscription criteria set out below. After the admission of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans, where Rainford High is named on the Plan, the criteria will be applied in the following order:

- 1) looked after children and children who were previously looked after but then became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order¹. This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted²;
- 2) children from the associated primary schools;
- 3) children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of likely admission. The brother or sister must be on the school roll in Years 7-11. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters, or a child of the parent/carer’s partner and, in every case, who is living at the same address and is part of the same family unit;
- 4) children of staff at the school in either of the following circumstances:
 - a) the member of staff is employed by the trust and assigned at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and/or
 - b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
- 5) other children

¹A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions.



²A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

Tie-Break

In the event of any oversubscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above, the Trust Board will offer places first to children whose family home is nearest the school. The measurement shall be done by the Local Authority in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) based on Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and the National Grid co-ordinates for the family home and the school.

Where the tie-break does not distinguish between applicants, e.g. children living in the same block of flats, random allocation will be used. This will be done by drawing lots and supervised by someone independent of the school.

Special Conditions for Twins (etc.)

Where the final place in a year group is offered to one of twins (or triplets etc.), the Local Authority will not apply the tie-break as it will admit the other twin etc. too, even if that means going above the admission number.

How places were allocated for September 2026:

Admission Number	Total number of applications: First, Second and Third preferences	How places were allocated	Final number of places allocated after late applications, changes of preference, withdrawals and appeals
290	Total: 678 First Preference 358 Second Preference 180 Third Preference 140	Children with an Education Health and Care Plan 32 Looked after and previously looked after children 8 Associated Primary 229 Brothers & Sisters 5 Children of staff at the school 0 Distance 16	290* *1 appeal was upheld

*The last place allocated under Criterion 5 was measured at 0.862 miles.
Please be aware that how places are allocated can substantially change from year to year.*

This school is regularly oversubscribed.

School Name: **Rainhill High School
(Rainhill Learning Village Multi-Academy Trust)**

Head Teacher: Mrs J Thorogood

Address: Warrington Road
Rainhill
L35 6NY

Telephone: 01744 677205

Website: **www.rainhillhighschool.org.uk**

Age Range: 11 – 18

Admission Number for Year 7 in September 2027: **300**

Number of pupils on roll, January 2026: **1447**



Associated Primary Schools

Eccleston Lane Ends Primary
Longton Lane Primary
Nutgrove Methodist Primary
Oakdene Primary
St. Ann's CE Primary (part of the Three Saints Academy Trust)

Oversubscription Criteria for September 2027

The Governing Body has determined that their admission arrangements will be the same as Community Secondary Schools in the Borough of St Helens (see page 11).

How places were allocated for September 2026:

The school was oversubscribed; therefore, 300 places were allocated as shown in the table below:

Admission Number	Total number of applications: First, Second and Third preferences	How places were allocated	Final number of places allocated after late applications, changes of preference, withdrawals and appeals
300	Total: 599 First Preference 306 Second Preference 175 Third Preference 118	Children with an Education Health and Care plan 8 Looked after and previously looked after children 5 Associated primary 144 Brothers & Sisters 48 Distance 95	300* *3 appeals were upheld

*The last place allocated under Criterion 5 was measured at 3.309 miles.
Please be aware that how places are allocated can substantially change from year to year.*

This school is regularly oversubscribed.

St.Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Academy
(St.Joseph Catholic Multi-Academy Trust)

Head Teacher: Ms Adele Quarless
Address: Boardmans Lane St Helens
WA11 9BB

Telephone: 01744 678112
Website: www.staug.org.uk
Age Range: 11 – 16



Admission Number for Year 7 in September 2027: **125**

Number of pupils on roll, January 2026: **551**

The following information has been taken from the School’s Admissions Policy and Arrangements document.

Associated Parishes and Primary Schools

Parish	Primary School
St.Mary’s, Birchley*	St.Mary’s Catholic Primary, Birchley
St.Mary’s, Blackbrook	St.Mary’s Catholic Primary, Blackbrook
St.Mary’s, Lowe House	1. Holy Cross 2. St.Thomas of Canterbury
St.Patrick’s	St.Peter and St.Paul
St.Peter and St.Paul	St.Peter and St.Paul

*St.Mary’s, Birchley is also an associated parish of St.Peter’s Catholic High School Visual Arts College (Orrell).

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the Governing Body will apply the following oversubscription criteria:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children. This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted;
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters or a child of the parent/carer’s partner, and in every case, who is living at the same address and is part of the same family unit.
3. Baptised Catholic children resident in the designated parishes of St.Mary’s, Birchley; St.Mary’s Blackbrook; St.Mary’s, Lowe House; St.Patrick’s and St.Peter and St.Paul
4. Other Baptised Catholic children.
5. Other children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of admission. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters, or children of the parent/carer’s partner and, in every case, who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit.
6. Children attending one of the Catholic Feeder Primary Schools in the parishes named in Criterion 3 above.
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 Minister of Religion would need to confirm, in writing, that the applicant is a member of their Faith group.
9. Other children.

Notes:

- a. All applications submitted before the national closing date will be considered equally and included in the Local Authority initial allocation of school places. Applications received after the national closing date will be processed in accordance with the St Helens admissions scheme for schools detailed in the St Helens admissions information booklets.
- b. 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, child arrangements order or special guardianship order.
A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Applications must be supported with appropriate evidence that the child has been adopted from state care.

- c. For a child to be considered as a Catholic, evidence of a Catholic Baptism is required. Baptism should take place before the closing date for applications.
A Baptised Catholic can also be defined as one who has been baptised by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various Churches in communion with the See of Rome (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church 1203). Written evidence of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place.Or;

A person who has been baptised in a separate ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Written evidence of their reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the Church in which the Rite of Reception took place. The Governing Body will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of ‘Baptised Catholics’. A Certificate of Reception is to include full name, date of birth, date of reception and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of reception. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to the parish priest who after consulting with the Vicar General, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

Tie-Break

In the event of any oversubscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above, then the Admissions Committee will offer places first to children whose family home is nearest the school. The measurement shall be done by the Local Authority in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) based on Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and the National Grid co-ordinates for the family home and the school. Where the tie-break does not distinguish between applicants, e.g. children living in the same block of flats, random allocation will be used. This will be done by drawing lots and supervised by someone independent of the school.

Special Conditions for Twins (etc.)

Where the final place in a year group is offered to one of twins (or triplets etc.), the Governing Body will not apply the tie-break as it will admit the other twin etc. too, even if that means going above the admission number.

How places were allocated for September 2026:

A total of 257 applications were received: 87 First Preferences, 106 Second Preferences and 64 Third Preferences. After allocating places to 2 pupils with an education, Health and Care Plan, the Governing Body allocated places as follows:

Criterion	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Final number of places allocated after late applications, changes of preference and appeals
	3	1	4	10	15	16	2	0	52	103

This school has been oversubscribed in previous years.

School Name: **The Sutton Academy**

Principal: Mr P Willerton

Address: Eltonhead Road
St Helens
WA9 5AU

Telephone: 01744 678859

Website: **www.thesuttonacademy.org.uk**

Age Range: 11 – 18

Admission Number for Year 7 in September 2027: **270**

Number of pupils on roll, January 2026: **1335**



Procedures where The Sutton Academy is oversubscribed

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan, where The Sutton Academy is named on the Plan, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- 1) looked after children and children who were previously looked after but then became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order¹. This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted²;
- 2) children from the following associated primary schools:
Eaves Primary
Robins Lane Community Primary
Sherdley Primary
Sutton Manor Community Primary
Sutton Oak CE Primary
Thatto Heath Community Primary
Willow Tree Primary;
- 3) children who have a brother or sister at the Academy at the time of likely admission. The brother or sister must be on the school roll in Years 7-11. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters, or children of the parent/carer's partner and, in every case, who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit;
- 4) other children.

¹A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions.

²A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

Tie-Break

In the event of any oversubscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above, the Academy will offer places first to children whose family home is nearest the school. The measurement shall be done by the Local Authority in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) based on Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and the National Grid co-ordinates for the family home and the Academy.

Where the tie-break does not distinguish between applicants, e.g. children living in the same block of flats, random allocation will be used. This will be done by drawing lots and supervised by someone independent of the Academy.

Special Conditions for Twins (etc.)

Where the final place in a year group is offered to one of twins (or triplets etc.), the Academy will not apply the tie-break as it will admit the other twin etc. too, even if that means going above the admission number for the Academy.

How places were allocated at The Sutton Academy for September 2026:

The school was oversubscribed; therefore, 270 places were allocated as shown in the table below:

Admission Number	Total number of applications: First, Second and Third preferences	How places were allocated	Final number of places allocated after late applications, changes of preference, withdrawals and appeals
270	Total: 587 First Preference 333 Second Preference 160 Third Preference 94	Children with an Education Health and Care Plan 12 Looked after and previously looked after children 7 Associated Primary 214 Brothers & Sisters 9 Distance 29	270 (No appeals were upheld)

The last place allocated under criterion 4 as measured at 0.750 miles.

This school has been oversubscribed for the last six years.



School Name: **St.Cuthbert'sCatholicAcademy**

Head Teacher: Mr S Holland

Address: Berrys Lane
St Helens
Merseyside WA9 3HE



Telephone: 01744 678123

Website: **www.stcuthberts.com/our-academy**

Age Range: 11 – 16

Admission Number for Year 7 in September 2027: **184**

Number of pupils on roll, January 2026: **897**

The following information has been taken from the School's Admissions Policy and Arrangements document.

Associated Parishes and Primary Schools

Parish	Primary School
Holy Cross and St.Helen	Holy Cross
St.Anne and Blessed Dominic	St.Anne's
St.Theresa of the Child Jesus	St.Theresa's
St.Vincent De Paul	Holy Spirit

Within each of the categories listed below, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- (i) Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school, the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.
 - (ii) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school (not including the Sixth Form where there is one) at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) above.
1. Looked after children and previously looked after children.
 2. Catholic children who are resident in the parishes of Holy Cross & St Helen, St Anne & Blessed Dominic and St Theresa of the Child Jesus.
 3. Other Catholic children.
 4. Children attending one of the following Catholic Partner Primary Schools in the parishes or former parishes named in criterion 2 above:

Holy Cross

St Anne's

Holy Spirit

St Theresa's
 5. Members of an Eastern Christian Church not in full communion with Rome.
 6. Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion.
 7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader.
 8. Any other children.

This school requires a supplementary form to be completed, this can be completed via the school website and must be returned to the school office before 31st October 2026.

Notes:

- a. All applications submitted before the national closing date will be considered equally and included in the Local Authority initial allocation of school places. Applications received after the national closing date will be processed in accordance with the St Helens admissions scheme for schools detailed in the St Helens admissions information booklets.
- b. ¹A Looked After Child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England 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, child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

²A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Applications must be supported with appropriate evidence that the child has been adopted from state care.
- c. For a child to be considered as a Catholic, evidence of a Catholic Baptism is required. Baptism should take place before the closing date for applications.

A Baptised Catholic can also be defined as one who has been baptised by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various Churches in communion with the See of Rome (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church 1203). Written evidence of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place.
Or

A person who has been baptised in a separate ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Written evidence of their reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the Church in which the Rite of Reception took place. The Governing Body will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of 'Baptised Catholics'. A Certificate of Reception is to include full name, date of birth, date of reception and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of reception. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to the parish priest who after consulting with the Vicar General, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

Tie-Break

In the event of any oversubscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above, then the Admissions Committee will offer places first to children whose family home is nearest the school. The measurement shall be done by the Local Authority in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) based on Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and the National Grid co-ordinates for the family home and the school.

Where the tie-break does not distinguish between applicants, e.g. children living in the same block of flats, random allocation will be used. This will be done by drawing lots and supervised by someone independent of the school.

Special Conditions for Twins (etc.)

Where the final place in a year group is offered to one of twins (or triplets etc.), the Governing Body will not apply the tie-break as it will admit the other twin etc. too, even if that means going above the admission number.

How places were allocated for September 2026:

A total of 332 applications were received. 185 First Preferences, 97 Second Preferences and 50 Third Preferences. After allocating places to 14 pupils with an Education, Care and Health Plan, the Governing Body allocated places as follows:

Criterion	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Final number of places allocated, after late applications, changes of preference and appeals
	5	12	15	5	35	17	0	0	81	184 No appeals were upheld

The last place allocated under Criterion 9 was measured at 2.248 miles.

This school has been oversubscribed in previous years.

School Name: **St.Peter's Catholic High School Visual Arts College
(Maintained by Wigan LA)**

Head Teacher: Mr A McGlown

Address: Howards Lane
Orrell
Wigan
WN5 8NU

Telephone: 01942 747693

Website: **www.saintpetershigh.wigan.sch.uk**

Age Range: 11 – 16

Admission Number for Year 7 in September 2027: **205**

The following information has been taken from the School's Admissions Policy and Arrangements document.

Oversubscription Criteria for 2027

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the Governing Body will apply the following oversubscription criteria:

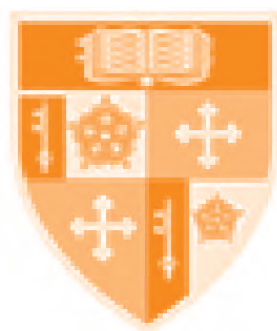
1. Looked after children and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children who are resident in the parishes of Our Lady of the Annunciation & St Bernadette; St James', Orrell; St Joseph's, Wrightington; St Mary's, Birchley; St Teresa's, Upholland and St Edward's (the part of the parish formerly referred to as St Cuthbert's)
3. Other Catholic children.
4. Children attending one of the following Catholic Partner Primary Schools in the parishes or former parishes named in criterion 2 above:

St Bernadette's	St Joseph's, Wrightington (Lancashire LA)
St Cuthbert's	St Mary's, Birchley (St Helens LA)
St James'	St Teresa's, Upholland (Lancashire LA)
St Marie's	
5. Members of an Eastern Christian Church not in full communion with Rome. (see note 4)
6. Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion.
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader.
8. Any other children.

If it is not possible to offer places for all applications within any criteria above then places will be allocated to the children who live nearest to the school. The distance will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address to a central point at the school using Wigan Council's Geographical Information System (GIS) which is based on ordnance survey. In the event of distances being the same for two or more applicants where this distance would be last place/s to be allocated, we will use a system to randomly pick who will be offered a place.

Notes:

- a. All applications will be considered at the same time and after the national closing date. Applications received after that date will be **treated as late applications** and will not be considered until **after** the main allocation of places has taken place. The only exception to this will be applications for looked after children that are received by the date stated in the Local Authority Admissions Booklet.



- b. 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, child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Applications must be supported with appropriate evidence that the child has been adopted from state care.

- c. For a child to be considered as a Catholic evidence of a Catholic Baptism is required. Baptism should take place before the closing date for applications. A Baptised Catholic can also be defined as one who has been baptised by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various Churches in communion with the See of Rome (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church 1203). Written evidence of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place.

Or

A person who has been baptised in a separate ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Written evidence of their reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the Church in which the Rite of Reception took place.

The Governing Body will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of 'Baptised Catholics'. A Certificate of Reception is to include full name, date of birth, date of reception and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of reception.

Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to the parish priest who after consulting with the Episcopal Vicar, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the church.

Important:

In addition to the Local Authority application form, parents who wish their application to this Catholic school to be considered against the priority Faith criteria should **also** complete the school's supplementary faith form. If the school is oversubscribed, failure to complete the supplementary faith form may result in your application for a place in this school being considered against lower priority criteria, as the Governing Body will have no information upon which to assess the application on the basis of the applicant's baptism and/or membership of a Faith community. You can get the supplementary faith form from the school, and you must return it to the school by the closing date, 31 October 2026. If your child attends an associated primary school, supplementary forms will be sent to parents via this route.

Information about the 2026 Intake

For details on the total number of preferences received, and how places were allocated in each criterion, as listed on page 31, please contact the school.

School Name: **St.Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School,
Ashton-in-Makerfield (Maintained by Wigan LA)**

Head Teacher: Mr M Dumican

Address: Rookery Avenue
Ashton-in-Makerfield
Wigan
WN4 9PF

Telephone: 01942 728651

Website: **www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk**

Age Range: 11 – 16

Admission Number for Year 7 in September 2027: **240**

The following information has been taken from the School's Admissions Policy and Arrangements document.

Oversubscription Criteria for 2027

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the Governing Body will apply the following oversubscription criteria:

Please note the following point: All reference to Catholic children means baptised Catholic children.

Within each of the criteria below the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- (i) Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school.
- (ii) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment.
1. Looked after children and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children who are resident in the parishes of St Oswald & St Edmund Arrowsmith; St Wilfrid's, Ashton-in-Makerfield; Our Lady Immaculate, Bryn; The Blessed English Martyrs', Haydock; St Benedict's, Hindley; St John Rigby; Holy Family, Platt Bridge and St Aidan's, Winstanley; or former parish of Sacred Heart, Hindley Green.
3. Other baptised Catholic children.
4. Children attending one of the following Catholic Partner Primary Schools in the parishes named in criterion 2 above: English Martyrs', Haydock, St Aidan's, Holy Family, Platt Bridge, St Benedict's, Our Lady Immaculate, St Oswald's, Sacred Heart Hindley Green, St Wilfrid's. Page 47 of 68 Apply online until 31 October 2026 at Secondary schools (wigan.gov.uk).
5. Member of an Eastern Christian Church not in full communion with Rome
6. Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion.
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader. 8. Any other children.

If it is not possible to offer places for all applications within any criteria above then places will be allocated to the children who live nearest to the school. The distance will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address to a central point at the school using Wigan Council's Geographical Information System (GIS) which is based on Ordnance Survey. In the event of distances being the same for two or more applicants and where this distance would be last place/s to be allocated, we will use a system to randomly pick who will be offered a place.

Notes:

- a. All applications will be considered at the same time and after the national closing date. Applications received after that date will be **treated as late applications** and will not be considered until **after** the main allocation of places has taken place. The only exception to this will be applications for looked after children that are received by the date stated in the Local Authority Admissions Booklet.
- b. 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, child arrangements order or special guardianship order.
A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Applications must be supported with appropriate evidence that the child has been adopted from state care.
- c. For a child to be considered as a Catholic evidence of a Catholic Baptism is required.
Baptism must take place before the closing date for applications.
A Baptised Catholic can also be defined as one who has been baptised by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various Churches in communion with the See of Rome (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church 1203). Written evidence of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place.

Or

A person who has been baptised in a separate ecclesiastical community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Written evidence of their reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the Church in which the Rite of Reception took place.

The Governing Body will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of 'Baptised Catholics'. A Certificate of Reception is to include full name, date of birth, date of reception and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of reception.

Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to the parish priest who after consulting with the Episcopal Vicar, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the church.

Important:

In addition to the Local Authority application form, parents who wish their application to this Catholic school to be considered against the priority Faith criteria should complete the school's supplementary form. If the school is oversubscribed, failure to complete the supplementary form may result in your application for a place in this school being considered against lower priority criteria, as the Governing Body will have no information upon which to assess the application on the basis of the applicant's baptism and/or membership of a Faith community. You can get the supplementary information form from the school, and you must return it to the school by the closing date, 31 October 2026. If your child attends an associated primary school, supplementary forms will be sent to parents via this route.

Information about the 2026 Intake

For details on the total number of preferences received, and how places were allocated in each criterion, as listed on page 33, please contact the school.



Waiting-Lists and Appeals

Waiting-Lists

If your preference for a St Helens school or academy is refused, your child's name will automatically be placed on that school's or academy's waiting-list. **However, we strongly recommend that you consider carefully the school in which a place has been offered to your child, even if it was not one of your preferences.** For schools outside St Helens, you will need to check with the appropriate Local Authority.

Please note:

- The Local Authority keeps waiting-lists for St Helens schools in priority order according to the published oversubscription criteria and not on the date on which applications were received.
- Your child's position on the waiting-list may change depending upon withdrawals, late applications or people moving address etc.
- When prospective pupils withdraw, places vacated are filled by children from the waiting-list. If the appeals process leads to the admission of pupils beyond the published admission number, places which are later given up will not be offered to those on the list until numbers fall below the published admission number.
- The waiting-list will operate until the end of the autumn term, i.e. **31 December 2027**. If a parent still wishes to be considered for a place after the waiting-list has ceased, it will be necessary for them to re-apply as an in-year transfer (see page 38).

Appeal Procedure

If you are not allocated a place at your preferred school, you have the right to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel.

Before the Appeal

You will normally be given 10 days' notice of the date and place of the hearing. The majority of appeals for the Year 7 intake are heard in April and May. Whilst you are awaiting your appeal, it is important that you consider alternative schools (including the one that has been offered for your child) in case your appeal is unsuccessful.

The Appeal Hearing

You are advised to attend the hearing, where you will be given the opportunity to put your case and ask questions. The appeal panel will normally allow you to be accompanied by a friend or to be represented. If you do not attend, the panel will consider the appeal on the basis of written statements.

The Appeal Panel's Decision

The clerk to the appeal panel will send the panel's decision to you in writing.

If your appeal is unsuccessful, you cannot appeal for that school again in the same academic year, unless there is a significant change in your circumstances.

Before lodging an appeal, you may find it helpful to speak with an officer from the Admissions Section on 01744 678360.

Community Schools and Academies (Outwood Academy Haydock, Rainford High, Rainhill High and The Sutton Academy)

If you are appealing for the above schools/academies in St Helens, you lodge your appeal by completing the appeal form that is enclosed with the decision letter. You should complete and return the appeal form as soon as possible.

Catholic Schools, Catholic Academy and Joint Faith Hope Academy

If your preference for St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Academy has been refused, you may appeal against the decision of the Governing Body by requesting an appeal form from:

The Archdiocesan Schools' Department
Liverpool Archdiocesan Centre for Evangelisation
Croxteth Drive
Liverpool L17 1AA
Telephone: 0151 522 1071

In the case of De La Salle, St. Cuthbert's Catholic High School, and Hope Academy, please contact the schools for an appeal form.



Transfer Between Secondary Schools

Secondary Education Establishments with entry at age 14+ (Year 10)

There are a number of establishments which provide education for young people from the beginning of Year 10. These are University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools: University Technical Colleges (UTCs) are set up by universities and businesses and specialise in one or two technical subjects. At GCSE they offer a similar curriculum to a typical 11-18 secondary school, including the basics of English and Maths, as well as their specialist subject.

Studio Schools are similar to UTCs in that they have employer involvement in the curriculum and focus on developing skills needed for employment, involving personal coaching and work experience, alongside a similar curriculum to a typical 11-18 secondary.

Below is a list of the UTCs and Studio Schools within a reasonable travelling distance of St Helens:

Liverpool

Liverpool Life Sciences - UTC

41 Greenland Street, Liverpool L1 0BS

Telephone: 0151 230 1320

Email: student.services@lifesciencesutc.co.uk

Website: <https://lifesciencesutc.co.uk>

The Studio School

41 Greenland Street L1 0BS

Telephone: 0151 230 1330

Email: admin@thestudio-liverpool.co.uk

Website: <https://thestudioliverpool.uk>

Warrington

UTC Warrington

Dallam Lane, Warrington WA2 7NG

Telephone: 01925 737067

Email: info@utcw.co.uk

Website: <https://utcw.co.uk>

The application period is the same as for Year 7 admission - September 26 for September 27 entry (pupils must be in Year 9 in 2026/27).

If you decide that you would like to apply for a place at any of these schools/colleges for your child, you will need to complete an application form. You will need to apply direct to them, and details are on their website. If you have any queries concerning what provision is on offer, please contact the relevant school/college

In-Year Transfers

It is inadvisable for a child to transfer between schools except at the normal admission age or because of a change of address. If you wish to change your child's school for reasons other than a house move, you should consider this decision very carefully, bearing in mind that other schools may be full and that the upheaval may damage your child's progress. We recommend, therefore, that you discuss any concerns with your child's current head teacher to try to sort out any issues.

Also, any school move in Years 10 and 11 is likely to be difficult. There may be problems matching the curriculum, especially if the pupil has already begun option courses. Please make enquiries, before embarking on a move, that your preferred school can accommodate chosen GCSE subjects and options. If your child is in Year 10 or 11 at the time of the move, the Authority will try to help him or her complete his/her GCSE course at the same school by assisting with transport costs. Normally, this would be in the form of a season ticket for public transport. However, if the length of the journey is unreasonable, you should seek a place at a school nearer to the new address. Please contact the School Transport Team on 01744 678360.

If you decide to move your child, it is essential that you get a place at a new school before he or she leaves his or her current school.

Application Form

Parents who wish to transfer their child to a St Helens school or academy can apply online via the website: www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions. Alternatively, a copy of the application form can be obtained from the Admissions Section. Contact: 01744 678360 or email: schooladmissions@sthelens.gov.uk

Applications for schools outside St Helens

If you want to apply for a school outside St Helens, you need to contact the relevant Local Authority (contact details for neighbouring Local Authorities on page 51).

Applications for the start of the school year

If you wish to transfer your child to a new school at the beginning of the autumn term, you should complete an application form early in June and return it as soon as possible.

Fair Access Protocol - Admission of Vulnerable and Challenging Children

Legislation requires all Local Authorities to have a Fair Access Protocol. The main purpose of the protocol is to ensure that all schools in an area admit their fair share of children with challenging behaviour. All schools must participate in their Local Authority's protocol.

Under the terms of the protocol, schools are required to admit pupils who meet the criteria, even if the year group concerned is full. For that reason, admission appeal panels will not view the fact that the protocol has obliged the school to admit over its admission number as an indication that more admissions will not cause difficulties for the school.

For more information, please call: 01744 678360.

General Information and Advice

School Transport Policy

It is parents/carers responsibility to secure their child’s regular attendance at a school and to ensure that their child is able to get to and from school by whatever means is available to them.

Whilst parents/carers have a right to express a preference for their child to attend a primary or secondary school of their choice, the Local Authority does not have any legal responsibility to provide transport if the school is not their “nearest qualifying school”.

If an eligible pupil is attending the “nearest qualifying school”, the Local Authority has a duty to provide assistance with transport as per the Education Act 1996, and the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

The “nearest qualifying school”, is taken to mean the nearest in-borough school to the pupils home address, with available places that provides education appropriate to the age, ability and aptitude of the pupil.

A copy of the full Home to School Transport Policy is available on our website. It sets out the way St Helens Council exercises its duties and powers under the legislation and provides information for parents/carers regarding assistance with transport.

The Local Authority has a duty to provide assistance, to eligible pupils who are St Helens residents.

Statutory Distance Criteria

Secondary Pupils - Year 7 up to Year 11;

Assistance with transport will usually be provided to those pupils who are attending the nearest in-borough qualifying school within borough with available places, where the measured walking distance between home and school is more than three miles.

Low Income Criteria

Secondary Pupils - Year 7 up to Year 11;

For those pupils who are entitled to free school meals, or whose families are in receipt of the maximum Working Tax Credit, assistance will be awarded if they are attending any one of the three nearest qualifying secondary schools providing those schools are more than two miles and less than six miles.

Religion or Beliefs

For those pupils who are attending a school on the basis of religion or beliefs, and are either entitled to free school meals, or whose families are in receipt of the maximum Working Tax Credit, assistance will be awarded if they are attending the nearest school, providing the distance between home and school is more than 2 miles and not more than 15 miles.

Special Needs Transport

A pupil’s EHC Plan or Statement of Educational Needs will state if assistance with transport is required from home to school. For those pupils who cannot access public transport, alternative transport assistance will be offered.

Sustainable Mode of Travel Strategy

Each academic year, Local Authorities have to update and publish their Sustainable Mode of Travel Strategy (SMOT). The document informs parents of the range of policies and initiatives that have been implemented to support sustainable school travel.

The key objectives of SMOT are:

- To inform parents and children of the travel options available to them for travelling to and from school
- To develop an understanding of the access to education issues facing both St Helens as a whole and individual schools
- To promote sustainable modes of travel to and from school.

The full document is available to view on St Helens Borough Council’s website.

Applying for Transport

Applications can be downloaded from the St Helens website at: <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/school-transport-assistance> or alternatively contact:

People's Services, School Transport Team, PO Box 512, St Helens WA10 9JX.
Tel: 01744 678361, schooltransport@sthelens.gov.uk

If you are not a St Helens resident, you should contact your own Local Authority regarding assistance with transport costs.

General School Holiday Dates

Academic Year 2027-2028

PLEASE NOTE: These are the general holiday dates for 2027-2028, and dates should be confirmed with individual schools before any family holidays are booked.

Close	Re-open
	Morning of Wednesday 1 September 2027
Evening of Friday 22 October 2027	Morning of Monday 1 November 2027
Evening of Friday 17 December 2027	Morning of Tuesday 4 January 2028
Evening of Friday 18 February 2028	Morning of Monday 28 February 2028
Evening of Friday 7 April 2028	Morning of Monday 24 April 2028
May Day Monday 1 May 2028 (Bank Holiday)	
Evening of Friday 26 May 2028	Morning of Monday 5 June 2028
Evening of Thursday 20 July 2028	

Entrance of Pupils for Public Examinations

The public examination which most pupils enter at the end of their fifth year (Year 11) is the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE). In many schools, there are other examinations for which pupils are entered. Full information is available in the prospectus for each school. The school is responsible for ensuring that the pupil is entered for the appropriate examinations.

The Authority funds the cost of only one examination in any one subject in the same examination sessions. Parents may be required to pay the fee for any repeated examinations in the same subject at the same level.

Pupils usually enter public examinations in subjects which they have been studying at school. Head teachers may be able to make arrangements for candidates who have been studying privately to be entered for an examination, provided that the school is an examination centre for that subject and that the candidate has complied with any syllabus requirements regarding coursework assessment. The fees for such entries must be paid for by the candidate or parent.

Charging for School Activities

Schools cannot charge for activities during school hours which are an essential part of the curriculum. However, schools may ask for voluntary contributions to help with the cost. The Local Authority has issued guidance to governing bodies concerning charging for school activities. Parents should contact the individual schools for more details about their policy.

Sixth Form Admission Arrangements for 2027-28

Cowley International College

Students on roll at the school are required to apply for a place in the sixth form, as are students from other schools.

The entry requirements for admission to the sixth form shall be the same for students on roll in Year 11 at the school and external applicants.

Applicants from outside the school will be accepted if a place is available and the applicant meets the same criteria as those applying internally.

Pupils will be admitted into the sixth form at the start of the autumn term in each school year, although there may be some occasions when students transfer during an academic year.

Entry Requirements

Cowley International College:

Qualifications at 16	Typical Course Programme
Modest GCSE results	Foundation Level 3 course (BTEC) (including resits in Mathematics and English Language)
Minimum of 5 GCSE's or equivalent graded 9-4 (including Mathematics and English Language)	Level 3 courses (A level)
Minimum of 4 GCSE grades 7-9	Cowley Honours Programme
Minimum of 5 GCSE's grades 8-9	Cowley Scholars Programme

Method of Application

Prospectuses and application forms are published during the autumn term prior to admission, and are available to all who request them by contacting the school. Candidates will also be able to apply online via the school's website.

The Sixth Form Open Evening for 2027 entrance will be held in the 2026 autumn term.

Application forms must be received by the closing date publicised in the school's prospectus. When the sixth form is undersubscribed, all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted.

Post-16 Oversubscription Criteria

If more applications are received than the number of places available, the following criteria, in order of priority, will be used for deciding how places will be allocated:

- 1) Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but then became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order¹. This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted²;
- 2) children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of likely admission. The brother or sister must be on the school roll in Years 7-11. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters, or a child of the parent/carer's partner and, in every case, who is living at the same address and is part of the same family unit.
- 3) other children.

¹A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions.

²A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

Tie-Break

The measurement shall be done by the Local Authority, on behalf of the school, in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) based on Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and the National Grid co-ordinates for the family home and the school. Home address shall be defined as the address of the primary carer of the child, who is in receipt of child benefit.

Where the tie-break does not distinguish between applicants, e.g. children living in the same block of flats, random allocation will be used. This will be done by drawing lots and supervised by someone independent of the school.

Where the final place in a year group is offered to one of twins (or triplets etc.), the tie-break will not apply as the other twin etc. will be admitted, even if that means going above the admission number.

Appeal Procedure

Any student refused admission to the sixth form has the right of appeal to an independent appeals panel. The school's decision letter will give reasons why the application was refused, including details of how, and to whom, to make an appeal and where to obtain further information.

Rainford High:

Applications for admission into year 12 are administered by the school.

Rainford High has capacity for 300 pupils in the sixth form. Applicants from outside the school will be accepted if a place is available and the applicant meets the same criteria as those applying internally.

The normal entry requirements for Rainford Sixth Form are 5 level 5 or above GCSEs. However, dependent on the course of study, the school will consider candidates with less. For further advice, please contact the school.

Method of Application

Prospectuses and application forms are published during the autumn term prior to admission, and are available to all who request them by contacting the school. Candidates will also be able to apply online via the school's website.

The Sixth Form Open Evening for 2027 entrance will be held in the 2026 autumn term.

Application forms must be received by the closing date publicised in the school's prospectus. When the sixth form is undersubscribed, all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted.

Post-16 Oversubscription Criteria

If more applications are received than the number of places available, the following criteria, in order of priority, will be used for deciding how places will be allocated:

- 1) Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but then became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order¹. This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted²;
- 2) children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of likely admission. The brother or sister must be on the school roll in Years 7-11. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters, or a child of the parent/carer's partner and, in every case, who is living at the same address and is part of the same family unit.
- 3) Children of staff at the school in either of the following circumstances
 - a) the member of staff is employed by the trust and assigned at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and/or
 - b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- 4) Other children.

¹A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions.

²A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

Tie-Break

The measurement shall be done by the Local Authority, on behalf of the school, in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) based on Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and the National Grid co-ordinates for the family home and the school. Home address shall be defined as the address of the primary carer of the child, who is in receipt of child benefit.

Where the tie-break does not distinguish between applicants, e.g. children living in the same block of flats, random allocation will be used. This will be done by drawing lots and supervised by someone independent of the school.

Where the final place in a year group is offered to one of twins (or triplets etc.), the tie-break will not apply as the other twin etc. will be admitted, even if that means going above the admission number.

Appeal Procedure

Any student refused admission to the sixth form has the right of appeal to an independent appeals panel. The school's decision letter will give reasons why the application was refused, including details of how, and to whom, to make an appeal and where to obtain further information.

Rainhill High School:

Applications for admission into Year 12 will be administered by the school.

Rainhill High has capacity for 200 pupils in the sixth form. Applicants from outside the school will be accepted if a place is available and the applicant meets the same criteria as those applying internally. The school will be able to admit up to 20 external applicants in total in Year 12. However, it may exceed this number if demand for available courses can be met.

Both internal and external pupils wishing to enter the sixth form will normally be expected to have met the minimum academic entry requirements for the sixth form. If either internal or external applicants fail to meet the minimum course requirements, they will be given the option of pursuing alternative courses for which they do meet the minimum academic requirements.

Entry Requirements

Entry into Rainhill High Sixth Form requires a minimum of 5 grade 4 GCSE's or equivalent (including English Language and Mathematics).

Process of Application

Prospectuses and application forms are published during the autumn term prior to admission, and are available to all who request them by contacting the school. Candidates will also be able to apply online via the school's website.

The Sixth Form Open Evening for 2027 entrance will be held in the 2026 autumn term.

Application forms must be received by the closing date publicised in the school's prospectus.

When the sixth form is undersubscribed, all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted.

Post-16 Oversubscription Criteria

When there are more external applicants that satisfy any academic entry requirements than the number of post-16 places available (either on a particular course or for the sixth form as a whole) and after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan, where Rainhill High is named on the Plan, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- 1) Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but then became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order¹. This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted²;
- 2) children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of likely admission. The brother or sister must be on the school roll in Years 7-11. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters, or a child of the parent/carer's partner and, in every case, who is living at the same address and is part of the same family unit.
- 3) children who express a preference for a place in the sixth form of the school.

¹A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions.

²A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

Tie-Break

The measurement shall be done by the Local Authority, on behalf of the school, in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) based on Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and the National Grid co-ordinates for the family home and the school. Home address shall be defined as the address of the primary carer of the child, who is in receipt of child benefit.

Where the tie-break does not distinguish between applicants, e.g. children living in the same block of flats, random allocation will be used. This will be done by drawing lots and supervised by someone independent of the school.

Where the final place in a year group is offered to one of twins (or triplets etc.), the tie-break will not apply as the other twin etc. will be admitted, even if that means going above the admission number.

Appeal Procedure

Any student refused admission to the sixth form has the right of appeal to an independent appeals panel. The school's decision letter will give reasons why the application was refused, including details of how, and to whom, to make an appeal and where to obtain further information.

The Sutton Academy

Applications for Admissions into year 12 will be administered by the Academy.

The Academy has capacity for 180 pupils in the sixth form. Applicants from outside the Academy, will be accepted if a place is available and the applicant meets the same criteria as those applying internally.

In addition to the sixth form’s minimum academic entry of 5 GCSEs including level 4 or above in Maths and English, pupils will need to satisfy minimum entrance requirements for the courses for which they are applying. If either internal or external applicants fail to meet the minimum course requirements, they will be given impartial advice and guidance and the option of pursuing any alternative courses for which they do meet the minimum academic requirements.

Process of Application

Prospectuses and application forms are published during the autumn term prior to admission, and are available to all who request them by contacting the Academy.

The Sixth Form Open Evening will be held for 2027 entrance in the 2026 autumn term.

Application forms must be received by the closing date publicised in the Academy’s prospectus.

When the sixth form is undersubscribed, all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted.

When there are more applicants that satisfy any academic entry requirements than the number of post-16 places available and after the admission of pupils with an Education Healthand Care Plan, where The Sutton Academy is named, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- 1) Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but then became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order¹. This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted²;
- 2) children who have a brother or sister at the Academy at the time of likely admission. The brother or sister must be on the Academy roll in Years 7-11. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters, or children of the parent/carer’s partner and, in every case, who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit.
- 3) other applicants who have expressed a preference for the Academy.

¹A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions.

²A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

Tie-Break

In the event of any oversubscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above, the Academy will offer places first to children whose family home is nearest the school. The measurement shall be done by the Local Authority in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) based on Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and the National Grid co-ordinates for the family home and the Academy.

Where the tie-break does not distinguish between applicants, e.g. children living in the same block of flats, random allocation will be used. This will be done by drawing lots and supervised by someone independent of the Academy.

Appeal Procedure

There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for internal pupils refused transfer and external applicants refused admission.



Welfare Services

16-19 Bursary Fund

The 16-19 bursary fund is a government-funded scheme to encourage those students who are considered most in need to stay on in full-time education after reaching 16. Such students can apply for a bursary of £1,200 a year. Speak to your school, college, academy or training provider about how to apply for a bursary. They each have their own application process.

Free School Meals

Every secondary school provides a midday meal for pupils. For the current cost of a daily meal, please check with the individual school. Schools offer cafeteria-style facilities.

Your child will be entitled to a daily meal, free of charge, up to the cost set by the school if you (or your partner) are in receipt of any of the following:

From the start of the 2026/27 academic year, the eligibility rules have been extended to include all children from households who are in receipt of Universal

Credit regardless of household earnings.

As a result of these changes, there is a requirement for eligibility to Free School Meals to be checked once a year as previous protections will end. We are currently in the process of checking eligibility for all applications ahead of the start of the 2026/27 academic year.

From September 2026, free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit element)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Pupils are only eligible for a free school meal where both a claim has been made and the eligibility has been verified by the Local Authority or the school where they are enrolled.

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also receive free school meals.

Should your child finish a phase of education i.e. primary (Year 6) or secondary (Year 11), you will need to reapply for Free School Meals.

For more information about free school meals, you should contact the Revenues and Benefits Section on: 01744 676789 or email: educationbenefits@sthelens.gov.uk

Pupil Premium

Your child's school will also receive additional funding if you are in receipt of a qualifying award listed above. It is therefore important that you claim free school meals and the pupil premium even if your child does not wish to take a school meal or receives an infant free school meal.

Children with Special Educational Needs

Admission of children outside their normal age group

As a general principle, the Local Authority believes that children should be educated within their chronological peer group. The National Curriculum enables schools to modify both the curriculum offered and the assessment procedures in order to meet individual needs. Inclusion, therefore, should be promoted through curriculum differentiation within the classroom, rather than by moving the child into another year group.

The School Admissions Code makes it clear that it is school admission authorities who are responsible for making the decision on which year group a child should be admitted to but they should make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. Therefore, the Local Authority has drafted a separate protocol for the admission of children outside their normal age group. A copy of this protocol that explains how applications will be processed is available on the Council's website, at: **www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions**

Discussing Parental Concerns

Parents who consider that their child may have special educational needs should initially contact their child's head teacher to discuss their concerns. The Local Offer for families who have a child with a special educational need can be referred to on the Council's website:

<https://new.sthelens.gov.uk/SEND>

For further information, you should contact the Additional Needs Section, PO Box 512, St Helens WA10 9JX.

Special Educational Provision

A formal assessment under the 2014 Children and Families Act may be undertaken if there is reason to believe that a child's educational needs are so significant or complex that some form of special provision needs to be made. Parents or a professional involved with the child can refer to the Authority for a formal assessment.

Parents are encouraged to contribute their views about the child's needs as part of the assessment. Advice is also obtained from the child's school, a medical officer, an educational psychologist and any other person whose opinion the parents or the Authority considered would be useful.

Parents are kept informed and consulted throughout the assessment process.

Following an assessment, the Authority may be required to make special provision to meet a child's educational needs. This may be in the child's mainstream school or in a special school. Copies of detailed information about each special school maintained by the Authority may be obtained from the school concerned or from:

The Additional Needs Administration Service, People's Services, PO Box 512, St Helens WA10 9JX.

Pupils with an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP)

Where a pupil has an EHCP and the Authority has named a school in that EHCP, the relevant admissions authority has a duty to admit the child to the school. This applies to all types of school.

If your child has an EHCP and attends a mainstream primary school, their Annual Review will take place late in Year 5. It is very important that you return your parental preference form by the closing date for a place at a mainstream secondary school. Please do not wait until the new EHCP is issued by the Local Authority.

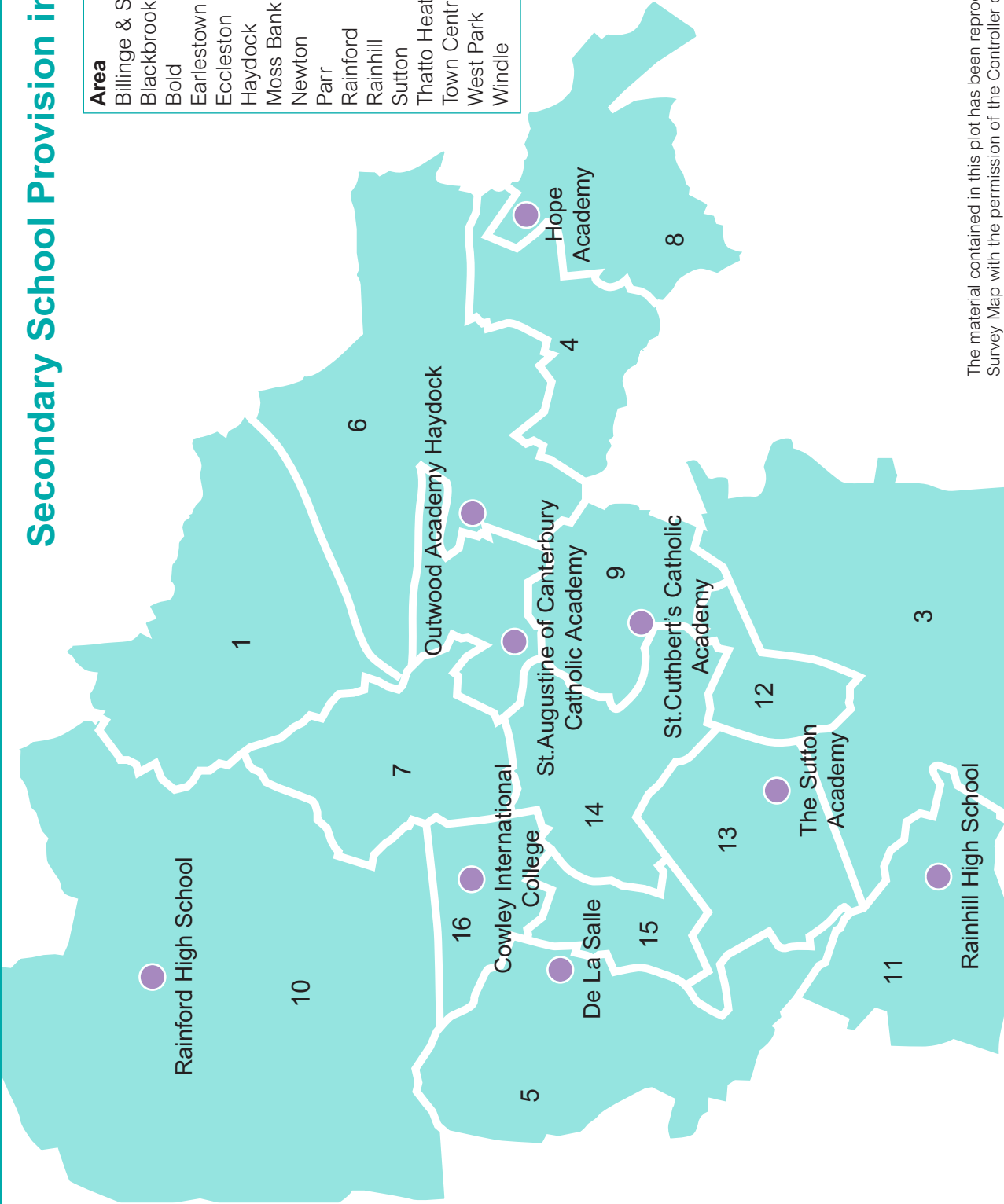
Enquiries relating to the Authority's policies or the placement of children who have been assessed should be directed to: The Director of People's Services, POBox512, St Helens WA10 9JX.

Telephone enquiries should be made to the Additional Needs Section on: (01744) 671054 or email: sendadmin@sthelens.gov.uk.



Secondary School Provision in St Helens

Area	Id
Billinge & Seneley Green	1
Blackbrook	2
Bold	3
Earlestown	4
Eccleston	5
Haydock	6
Moss Bank	7
Newton	8
Parr	9
Rainford	10
Rainhill	11
Sutton	12
Thatto Heath	13
Town Centre	14
West Park	15
Windle	16



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Contact Points for other Local Authorities

- Halton**
School Admissions Team
PO Box 317
Runcorn WA7 9BZ
0151 511 8601/0151 511 7271
schooladmissions@halton.gov.uk
- Knowsley**
Education Improvement Team
Knowsley Council
PO Box 21 Municipal Buildings,
Archway Road, Huyton, Knowsley L36 9YU
0151 443 3372/5142/5143
schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk
- Lancashire**
School Admissions
Pupil Access Team
Lancashire County Council
School Improvement Service
Room C37, Level 2, County Hall
Preston PR1 0LD
01772 532189
www.lancashire.gov.uk
- Liverpool**
Children & Young People's Service
Cunard Buildings, Water Street
Liverpool L3 1AH
0151 233 3006
liverpool.gov.uk/admissions
- Sefton**
School Admissions
School Support Services
Magdalen House
30 Trinity Road
Bootle L20 3NJ
0151 934 3590
admissions@sefton.gov.uk
- Warrington**
School Admissions,
Education Services,
East Annexe, Town Hall
Sankey Street, Warrington WA1 1UH Contact Centre:
01925 446226 schooladmissions@warrington.gov.uk
- Wigan**
School Organisation Team
People Directorate
Wigan Council
PO Box 100
Wigan WN1 3DS
01942 489013
schoolplaces@wigan.gov.uk

Secondary Admission Form Part 1 Academic Year 2027/2028



To be completed by parents whose child resides in the Borough of St Helens and is due to start Secondary School in September 2027. It is important that the accompanying Information for Parents booklet is read BEFORE this form is completed. Only one application per child should be made.

Section 1

Your Child's Details

Surname.....

Date of Birth

D

D

M

M

Y

Y

Y

Y

Legal surname, if different from above.....

First Name(s).....

Sex (please tick) Male ☐ Female ☐

Home Address.....

Postcode

Daytime telephone number (if any)

Email

Current Primary/Junior School

Does your child have an EHC Plan? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is your child looked after? Yes ☐ No ☐ If 'yes', which Local Authority?

Name of social worker:

Contact Number:

Was your child previously looked after? Yes ☐ No ☐ If 'yes', you will need to provide evidence to support this.

Evidence enclosed is a copy of:

☐ Adoption Order

☐ Residence Order

☐ Special Guardianship Order

Section 2

Preferred Secondary Schools or Academies

Please name up to three schools/academies in order of preference, these can be schools/academies both in and outside St Helens Local Authority. If you state a preference for a school outside St Helens Local Authority, please ensure that you are aware of the admission arrangements for that school; these will be in the booklet of the Local Authority in which the school is situated.

	NAME OF SECONDARY SCHOOL	If brother or sister presently attend, state name and date of birth
1		
2		
3		

Section 3

Reasons for Preference

If you wish to give a reason why you prefer the schools/academies you have listed, please do so below. You can attach additional sheets if required.

Preference 1

Preference 2

Preference 3

Section 4

Applicants for Rainford High School Only

If your child does not fall into category 1-3 of Rainford High's oversubscription criteria, do you wish to be considered under category 4: a member of staff at the school? Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'yes' please provide evidence that you have either been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

Applicants for Catholic Secondary Schools and Hope Academy Only

If any of your three stated preferences is for a Catholic Secondary School or Hope Academy, please ANSWER the questions below. **(Please note the completion of a supplementary information form is required for some denominational Secondary schools. These can be located via the schools websites and must be returned to the school office no later than 31st October).**

1. Is your child Baptised Catholic? Yes ☐ No ☐

Date of Baptism

Church of Baptism

Catholic Parish of residence

Please note:

If your child is Baptised Catholic and attends a Catholic primary school, the Admissions Committees of St Helens Catholic secondary schools will confirm this with the primary school. For all other Catholic applicants, a copy of a Catholic Baptismal Certificate should be attached to the application form.

2. Is your child baptised in another Christian Faith? Yes ☐ No ☐

Date of Baptism

Church of Baptism

3. Is your child a member of another Faith group? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please note:

If the schools you have named on the form give priority to applicants of other Faiths and your child is a member of another Faith, proof, in the form of the Baptismal Certificate or a letter from an appropriate religious leader or minister, should be submitted with the application form.

Applications for Hope Academy Only

If your child does not fall into categories a-d of Hope Academy's oversubscription criteria, do you wish their application to be considered under category e: church attendance? Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'yes', please attach a letter from the appropriate Minister of Religion or religious leader to confirm church attendance.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Secondary Admission Form
Part 2
Academic Year 2027/2028



Child's name Date of Birth

Section 5

Parent/Carer's details

Mother/Carer's name Father/Carer's name

Home Telephone Home Telephone

Daytime Telephone Daytime Telephone

Mobile Telephone Mobile Telephone

Address Address

Data Privacy

The information provided on this form will be processed in accordance with the Local Authority's School Admissions Privacy Notice. Information will be treated as confidential and will be used only for the purpose of processing your child's application for a school place in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

The Privacy Notice and data protection legislation puts in certain safeguards regarding the use of personal data by organisations including the Department for Education (DfE), local authorities, police and HM Revenue and Customs. The data protection legislation gives rights to those individuals whose data is held. These include:

- The right to request access to the data that is being held by contacting the Council Data Protection Officer – dataprotection@sthelens.gov.uk
- The right to request the reason why the data is being held and what it is being used for.
- The right to request data to be removed (although without the information, the Home to School Transport Application cannot be processed).
- The right to request the Local Authority to correct or amend any incorrect information.
- The right to know who the data may be shared with.
- The right to know how long the data can be held before it is destroyed.

A copy of the full privacy notice is available on the School Admissions Webpage. By signing this declaration you are declaring that you have read and understood the terms of the notice.

If you have any concerns about how the Local Authority is handling your data, you can contact: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF

Signature of Parent/Carer

I am the parent or have parental responsibility for the child named on this application. I have noted the information in the current Secondary Education: Information for Parents booklet and the checklist below.

Signature (Parent/Carer) Date PTO

Application Checklist

Please ensure that you have:

Section 1: Child’s Details

- ☐ The address that must be given is where the child and parent, or person with parental responsibility, normally live. If parents are separated and the child spends time at each parent’s address, the address used shall be that of the main carer. The Local Authority will use the address of the parent who is in receipt of child benefit for this. It may be necessary for the Admissions Section to carry out checks to confirm that addresses given are genuine. You may, therefore, be asked to produce further documentary evidence of your child’s address.

Section 2: Preferred Schools

- ☐ Please refer to page 8 of the booklet. If your child has an older brother or sister at the school you have named as a preference, please give their details.

Section 3: Reasons for Preference

- ☐ You may state any reasons you wish in this section. You do not have to state a reason if you do not wish to.

Section 4: Applications for Catholic and Other Faith Schools

- ☐ If any of your three stated preferences is for a Catholic Secondary School or Hope Academy, please answer the questions in this section and forward the documentary evidence that is requested.

If you apply for a voluntary aided faith school outside St Helens, please check whether the school requires you to complete a supplementary information form.

Section 5: Parent/Carer’s Details

- ☐ Please complete this section (ensure that you include the child’s name and date of birth at the top of the page) – the Admissions Section needs this information to contact you in case of a query. **Please remember to sign and date your form before returning it.**

Returning the Admission Form/Proof of Receipt

If your child attends a St Helens primary school, please return the form to that school by 31 October 2026. The school will sign the tear-off slip at the bottom of the form and return it to you as proof of receipt. Please keep this as it is your proof of application.

If your child does not attend a primary school in St Helens, then you should send your completed form to the Admissions Section, PO Box 512, St Helens WA10 9JX and a receipt will be issued.

Please note: If you apply online an email receipt will be sent to you.

For school use only

Date received by school:
(school stamp)

Address checked on SIMS:

Yes ☐

No ☐

Receipt issued:

Yes ☐

Proof of Receipt

I acknowledge receipt of your request that your child..... be considered for
a secondary school place at High School

Signed Primary School..... Date

(head teacher)

*Please retain this slip until the outcome of your application is known.

Where to get more help and information

The information contained in this booklet is important. If you need any further help in applying for a secondary school place, please contact:

Admissions Section

Admissions Section, PO Box 512, St Helens WA10 9JX
01744 678360

Other useful telephone numbers

School Transport

01744 678361

Merseytravel

0151 330 1342

Special Educational Needs

01744 671054

Free School Meals

01744 676789



Contact Centre:

Town Hall, Corporation Street, St Helens
WA10 1HF

Tel: 01744 676789

Minicom: 01744 671671

www.sthelens.gov.uk/contactus

Please contact us to request a
translation of Council information into
Braille, audio tape or a foreign language.

Proviso

The information contained in this booklet is applicable to the school
year 2026/2027 and was correct as at 31 August 2026. It should not
be assumed, therefore, that there will be no changes:

- (1) before the start of or during the 2027/2028 school year, or
- (2) subsequent years



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

People's Services
School Admissions Section
PO Box 512
St Helens
WA10 9JX

Tel: 01744 678360

schooladmissions@sthelens.gov.uk
www.sthelens.gov.uk

