

ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH CATHOLIC ACADEMY
ADMISSION POLICY AND ARRANGEMENTS 2024/2025

St Edmund Arrowsmith is a Catholic academy in the Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust. The Trust is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions. The co-ordination of admissions arrangements is undertaken by the local authority. For the academic year commencing September 2024, the Trust has set the academy's admissions number at 210.

Our principal role as a Catholic academy is to participate in the mission of the Catholic Church by providing a framework which will help children to grow in their understanding of the Good News and in the practice of their faith. The academy will help the children develop fully as human beings and prepare them to undertake their responsibilities as Catholic in society. The academy asks all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the academy community. This does not affect the rights of parents who are not of the faith of this academy to apply for and be considered for a place here.

ADMISSIONS TO THE ACADEMY will be determined by the Local Governing Board. Parents must complete a local authority preference form or apply online via the website www.knowsley.gov.uk/academyadmissions. If you wish to have your application considered against that academy's faith/denomination criteria then you should **ALSO** complete the Supplementary Information Form which is available from the academy or to download from the local authority website. All preferences listed will be considered on an equal basis and, where there are more applications than the number of places available, the following set of OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA will be applied:

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 sibling in the academy at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children resident in the parishes of St Leo, Our Lady Immaculate & St Joseph, Our Lady Help of Christians, St Luke, St John Fisher, St John Vianney, Holy Family Cronton, St Aidan, St Aloysius, St Agnes and St Columba's.
4. Other baptised Catholic children.
5. Other children who have a sibling in the academy at the time of admission.

6. Children attending one of the following Catholic feeder primary schools in the parishes named in criterion 3 above:

Holy Family, Cronton	St Columba's
Holy Family, Halewood	St John Fisher
Our Lady's, Prescot	St Joseph
St Aidan's	St Leo's
St Aloysius	St Luke's
St Andrew the Apostle	St Mark's
St Anne's	

7. Children attending Prescot and Whiston Community and Church of England primary schools
8. 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.
9. Children of other faiths. An appropriate Faith Leader would need to confirm in writing that the applicant is a member of their faith group.
10. 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 academy. Distance will be measured by the local authority which will carry out straight line measurements ('as the crow flies') using a computerised Geographical Information System (GIS) based on the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and national grid co-ordinates for the academy and home address.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health Care Plan that names the academy will be offered place without using the admission criteria and will count as part of the academy's published admission number.

Notes:

- a. All applications submitted before the national closing date will be considered equally and included in the local authority initial allocation of academy places. Applications received after the national closing date will be processed in accordance with the Knowsley admissions scheme for schools and academies detailed in the Knowsley 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. All applicants are required to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) in order to provide faith information if they wish their child to be considered within a faith criterion of the oversubscription policy. The SIF should be completed in addition to the home local authority application form (preference form) and returned directly to the academy by the closing date of 31 October. Applicants who complete an academy SIF but do not name the academy on the local authority common application form will be disregarded. Applicants who do not complete a SIF will still be considered for a place in the academy but cannot be considered as a faith applicant.

Definition of a Baptised Catholic

For a child to be considered as a Catholic evidence of a Catholic Baptism is required. 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 Local Governing Board/IEB will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Reception before applications for academy 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.

- d. "Children of other Christian denominations" means: children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledging God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above. All members of Churches Together in England and of CYTŪN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis. Other faiths are defined as organisations whose values are based on faith and/or beliefs, which have a mission based on social values of a particular faith.

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- e. Home address is considered to be the address where the child normally lives. Applicants should not state a childminder's or other relative's address. It may be necessary to carry out checks to confirm addresses given are genuine and parents may therefore be asked to provide documentary evidence of their child's home address.
- f. Sibling is defined in these arrangements as full, half or brother or step-brothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit. This does not include cousins or other family relationships.
- g. A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the Admission Criteria. The waiting list does not consider the date the application was received or the length of time a child's name has been on the waiting list. This means that a child's position on the list may change if another applicant is refused a place and their child has higher priority in the admissions criteria. The waiting list will be retained until at least the end of December of the relevant year of the admissions process.
- h. For 'In Year' applications received outside the normal admissions round, if places are available they will be offered to those who apply. Direct application to the academy can now be made under this heading. If there are places available but more applicants than places then the published oversubscription criteria for the relevant year group

will be applied. A waiting list for those who have not been offered a place will be kept until the end of the relevant academic term.

- i. If a parent wishes their child to be educated out of their normal age group they must discuss this with the Headteacher before applying for a place. The decision rests with the academy as admission authority as per para 2.17 of the Admissions Code.

If there is more than one application for an available place reference will be made to the oversubscription criteria.

- j. If an application for admission has been turned down by the local governing board/IEB, parents can appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Parents must be allowed at least twenty academy days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to submit that appeal. Parents must give reasons for appealing in writing and the decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on the Governors.
- k. The local governing board/IEB reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a academy place where false evidence is received in relation to the application.