



The Blue Coat School, Oldham

(Proud to be part of the Cranmer Education Trust)

**Admissions: Guidance for Parents 2020
For Year 7 Entry in 2021**

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Admissions: Guidance for Parents

Blue Coat School is a Church of England Academy and a comprehensive school. The Admissions Authority is The Cranmer Education Trust. As of September 2021 the Admissions Authority will admit 243 pupils to Year 7.

In line with the Admissions Code of 2014, children with a Statement of Special Educational Need/Education, Health and Care Plan, where the school is named on that document, will be offered places first before any oversubscription criteria are applied.

The Admission Number of 243 is then divided into a 219 (the former Foundation places) and a 24 – the number of additional places created in 2013/14.

For the first 219 places, the following oversubscription criteria apply:

In line with the Admissions Code of 2014, **Looked-After Children/Previously Looked-After Children/Children who are in the care of the Local Authority who are members of the Church of England** have first priority. Evidence that the child and/or the family is a member of the Church of England must be provided by their Church of England clergy. In the case of children in care who have experienced upheaval and distress, a history and pattern of church attendance is not required. Following the Admissions Code of 2014, the definition of a Looked-After Child includes those who were in care but have since been adopted or become subject to a residence order or a special guardianship order. Adoptive parents / guardians / carers should attach copies of the relevant documentation certifying adoption / residence order / special guardianship to the Supplementary Form so that the Admissions Committee can award the place.

Thereafter, as a Church of England school, the Blue Coat school gives **priority to active Church of England families whose faith commitment is shown in the attendance of the child and one parent/legal guardian at worship over a period of time which puts them at the heart of their church**. Attendance at church/place of worship must be verified by the applicant's vicar/incumbent. If the parish is in interregnum the church warden should verify the attendance. **Church attendance via school assemblies should not be taken into account**, as it does not constitute a regular family commitment.

There are five categories, and five statements about the child and parent/legal guardian's attendance at worship. The vicar/incumbent must sign next to the description which most closely applies. If the parish is in interregnum, the church

warden must sign the description which most closely applies. The parent/legal guardian must countersign that s/he has seen and agreed with the category.

After priority has been given to active Church of England families, in line with the Admissions Code of 2014, the governing body then gives **priority to all other Looked-After Children/Previously Looked-After Children/Children in the care of the Local Authority**. This includes Looked-After Children who were in care but have since been adopted or become subject to a Child Arrangement Order or Special Guardianship Order. Adoptive parents/guardians/carers should attach copies of the relevant documentation certifying Adoption/Child Arrangement Order/ Special Guardianship to the Supplementary Form so that the Admissions Committee can award the place.

Priority is then given to the children of staff employed at The Blue Coat School, (Egerton School, Oldham, OL1 3SQ), who have been employed for a minimum of two years and/or were recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage. The Headteacher must verify.

The school is committed to Christian ecumenism and as such gives next priority to active members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, including membership of Greater Manchester Churches Together groupings, who are at the heart of their church. There are five statements about the child and parent/legal guardian's attendance at worship, and the minister/pastor/priest/elder must sign next to the description which most closely applies. The parent/legal guardian must countersign that s/he has seen and agreed with the category. Membership of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland can be supported by reference to the national website; however, where the church is part of a Greater Manchester Churches Together grouping, it is the responsibility of the applicant's parents or guardians to **provide evidence** of this membership.

The school is committed to inter-faith dialogue and community cohesion within a multi-cultural society, and as such gives priority after active Christian families to active members of a faith other than Christian, which is a member of the UK Inter-Faith Network who are at the heart of their faith's worship. As attendance at collective worship is different for members of faiths other than Christian, and following consultation with the Oldham Inter-Faith Forum, confirmation by the leader of worship that the child and family are active and practising member of their faith, and that that faith is a member of the UK Inter-Faith Network, are accepted by the Governing Body as evidence to meet criterion 14. The parent/legal guardian must countersign that s/he has seen and agreed with the category. It is the responsibility of the leader of worship to provide evidence of membership of

the UK Inter-Faith Network. The Network's website provides a comprehensive list.

If there are more applicants than places available, the tie-break will be random allocation.

The process for random allocation in both of categories 14 and 15 is electronic and is overseen by a responsible person independent of the school. Details are available on the school website www.blue-coat.org

The school is committed to serving all young people and after active members of a faith other than Christian which is a member of the UK Inter-Faith Network welcomes all other children. If there are more applicants than places available within category 14, the tie-break will be random allocation. Likewise, if there are more applicants than places available within category 15, the tie-break will be random allocation. Details of the process are available on the school website www.blue-coat.org

The governors allocate places to applicants in the order set out in the admissions policy, working from statement 1 – 15, in that order.

Tie-breaks

The school's admission number is 219 children in each year group. If the admission number of 219 is reached within categories 3-13, the following tie-break(s) will be used in whichever of the categories 3-13 is under consideration at the time.

- i. Children who have a sibling attending the school as of 1st September 2021 will be admitted first within the category. The definition of sibling includes: brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, adopted brother, adopted sister.
- ii. If a further tie break needs to be applied between children with siblings as defined above, it will be geographical proximity using a straight line between the home postcode and the school postcode.
- iii. If all children with siblings can be admitted within the category the tie-break will be geographical proximity using a straight- line between the home postcode and the school postcode.

If that number (219) is reached within category 14, the tie-break will be random allocation.

If that number (219) is reached within category 15, the tie-break will be random allocation.

- 1) **The additional 24 places** are reserved for children from families who are active members of a faith other than Christian, which is a member of the UK Inter-Faith Network who are at the heart of their faith's worship, and for all other children. The additional 24 places will be allocated first to Looked-After Children/ previously Looked-After Children/Children in the care of the Local Authority who are members of a faith other than Christian which is a member of the UK Interfaith Network. This must be supported by corroborating evidence attached to the supplementary form. (The definition of a looked-after child includes those who were in care but have since been adopted or become subject to a Child Arrangement Order or Special Guardianship Order). Thereafter places will be allocated to children whose parent(s)/ legal guardian(s) show evidence that the child and family are active members of a faith other than Christian which is a member of the UK Inter-Faith Network. For children in category 14, confirmation that the child and family are active and practising members of their faith, and that the faith is a member of the UK Inter-Faith Network, must be given by the leader of worship. If the additional admission number of 24 is reached in category 14, the tie-break will be random allocation. If the admission number of 24 is reached in category 15, the tie-break will be random allocation.

Children of staff who are employed at The Blue Coat School

The Governing Body will award places for Year 7 to the children of staff who have had a contract of employment at The Blue Coat School site for a minimum of two years, or were recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage, and who will remain in employment at the school in the year that their child enters Year 7. In exceptional cases, where there is demonstrable skills shortage, to secure the best teacher for the school the Governing Body may offer places to the children of newly appointed staff.

The Application Process

There are two forms to complete for application to Blue Coat. The first is the Common Application Form from your Local Authority which lists the three school preferences. If you do not submit this form, you will not have applied. All Local Authorities will have a different deadline, and it is the parents' responsibility to ensure the Common Application Form is returned on time. The second is the Supplementary Form which provides supplementary evidence about faith commitment which enables the governors to apply the oversubscription criteria. **This must be returned to school by 30th October 2020.** Parents are asked to include a small stamped-addressed envelope with the Supplementary Form so that we can acknowledge receipt. The responsibility for the return of the Supplementary Form rests with the applicant's parent(s)/ legal guardian(s).

We recommend that

1. Parents/legal guardians discuss the form fully and openly with their vicar or leader of worship to ensure that the category is fair and accurate.
2. Please bear in mind that the vicar/leader of worship may have several applications to complete, and that she/he will need to check records. You should allow him/her at least four clear weeks to complete the form.
3. If your parish is in interregnum, you will need to discuss the completion of the form with the Church Warden(s) who can confirm attendance. If this is the case, you should enclose a brief covering letter.
4. If you moved into your parish/to your church/place of worship recently, or if you and your child attend more than one church/ place of worship, you will need to obtain additional supplementary form(s) from the school for completion with your previous vicar/leader of worship.
5. Please remember that a sibling connection in the school is only used as a tie-breaker within categories 3-13 which reflect the applicant child and parent/legal guardian's attendance, and that places cannot be awarded to younger children on the basis of the elder brother or sister's attendance. A sibling connection does not apply in categories 14 or 15 where places are awarded by random allocation.

What has the pattern of admissions been in the past?

Admissions Law has changed considerably, so it is difficult to make direct comparisons. The following information is offered as an indication of patterns and trends. Please note, between 2007 and 2014 The Blue Coat School had an admissions number of 218.

1. In 2007 all Anglican applicants were admitted. 13 applicants from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland were admitted.
2. In 2008 only Anglicans up to and inclusive of Criteria 4 were admitted.
3. In 2009 only Anglicans up to and inclusive of Criteria 4 were admitted.
4. In 2010 all Anglican applicants were admitted. 8 applicants from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland were also admitted.
5. In 2011 all Anglican applicants were admitted. 9 applicants from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland were also admitted.
6. In 2012 all Anglican and Churches Together applicants were admitted. 4 applicants from faiths other than Christian that are members of the Inter-Faith Network also received places.
7. In 2013 all Anglican applicants were admitted. 8 applicants from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland also received places.
8. In 2014 all Anglican applicants were admitted. 10 applicants from Churches

Together in Britain and Ireland were admitted and 22 applicants from faiths other than Christian that are members of the Inter-Faith Network also received places.

9. In 2015 only Anglican applicants up to Criteria 6 with a sibling link were admitted. 25 applicants from faiths other than Christian that are members of the Inter-Faith Network also received places.
10. In 2016 all Anglican applicants were admitted. Eleven applicants from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland also received places, as did 25 applicants from faiths other than Christian that are members of the Inter-Faith Network.
11. In 2017 only Anglicans up to and inclusive of Criteria 3 were admitted. 25 applicants from faiths other than Christian that are members of the Inter-Faith Network.
12. In 2018 only Anglicans up to Criteria 5 with a sibling link were admitted, as were 25 applicants from faiths other than Christian that are members of the Inter-Faith Network.
13. In 2019 only Anglicans up to Criteria 5 without a sibling link were admitted, as were 24 applicants from faiths other than Christian that are members of the Inter-Faith Network.
14. In 2020 only Anglicans up to Criteria 4 without a sibling link were admitted, as were 24 applicants from faiths other than Christian that are members of the Inter-Faith Network.

Waiting List

Where we have more applications than places, the oversubscription criteria will be used. Children who are not admitted will have their name placed on a waiting list. The names on this waiting list will be in the order resulting from the application of the admissions criteria. Since the date of application cannot be a criterion for the order of names on the waiting list, late applicants for the school will be slotted into the order according to the extent to which they meet the criteria. If the applicants are in category 14 or 15, the waiting list for each of these categories will be re-randomised, in line with legal requirements. Thus, it is possible for a child who moves into the area later to have a higher priority than one who has been on the waiting list for some time. If a place becomes available within the admission number, the child whose name is at the top of the list will be offered a place. This is not dependent on whether an appeal has been submitted.

Appeals

Where the governors are unable to offer a place because the school is oversubscribed, parents have the right to appeal to an Independent Admission

Appeal Panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, as amended by the Education Act, 2002. **Parents should notify the Clerk to the Governors at the school within 14 days of receiving the letter refusing a place.** Parents/legal guardians will have the opportunity to submit their case to the panel in writing and also to attend in order to present their case. Parents/legal guardians will normally receive 14 days' notice of the place and time of the hearing.

Please note that this right of appeal against the governors' decision does not prevent you from making an appeal in respect of any other school.

Fraudulent Applications

If the governing body discovers that a child has been awarded a place as a result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent/legal guardian (for example a false claim of involvement in a place of worship) which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, then the governing body is required to withdraw the offer of the place. The application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.



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