

ARCHBISHOP BLANCH SCHOOL



Archbishop Blanch
SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2024

POLICY WRITTEN BY:

HEADTEACHER

DATE POLICY PREPARED:

December 2021

DATE FIRST RATIFIED BY GOVERNING BODY:

December 2021

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

December 2023

**Community, Compassion, Forgiveness, Friendship,
Thanksgiving, Trust**



Archbishop Blanch School

Admissions Policy for entry from September 2024

Archbishop Blanch School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School. Girls are admitted to Year 7 at the age of 11, and boys and girls to Year 12 at the age of 16. Archbishop Blanch does not have a sibling criterion, this means that no preference is given to applicants who have a sibling in current Years 7 -13.

How many pupils will be admitted?

In September 2024 the Governing Body will admit 190 girls into Year 7. Parents may apply under Faith and/or Aptitude criteria. Where the number of applications exceed the number of applicants the oversubscription criteria will apply.

Places will be offered to children (and will count against the 132 students to be admitted in the Faith Criteria) with a Statement of Educational Healthcare Plan (EHCP) where, following consultation with the Local Authority, the school is named in the EHCP.

All applicants who are successfully allocated a place at Archbishop Blanch School will be expected to support & engage in Archbishop Blanch School's Christian ethos and practices.

Oversubscription Criteria - Places will be offered to:

Criteria A1: Children Looked After by the Local Authority and adopted children who were previously looked after by the Local Authority (or those who have become subject to a residence or special guardianship order).

Criteria A2: Children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be so as a result of being adopted.

"Looked after" means that the child was (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. This criteria also includes looked after children and all previously looked after children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Criteria A3: Children of staff at the school may be offered a place under the following criteria:

- A place may be offered to a child of staff continuously employed at the school for two years or more at the time of application to the school is made.
- The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage or a need to retain staff in that area.

Places allocated in criteria A1,A2 and A3 will reduce the number of places available in Criteria B1

Criteria B1: Christian applications* 132 places (Subject to the number of places allocated above)

**Christian church means any church which is designated under the Ecumenical Relations Measure nationally by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York or locally by the diocesan bishop, or is a member of churches Together in England, or the Evangelical Alliance, or a partner church of Affinity*

Criteria B2: Non-Christian applications (sub-divided below): up to 22 places

B2a - Muslim up to 20 places

B2b - Other World Faith up to 2 places

Other World Faiths include (but are not limited to) Buddhism, Hinduism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Judaism, Mormonism, Sikhism, Unitarianism. Validation for faiths not listed will be confirmed by the Diocese of Liverpool.

The period specified for attendance at worship for 2024 admissions is 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2023.

During the period specified for attendance at worship churches have been closed or limited capacity for public worship has been in effect, so it is not possible to calculate fairly or accurately the points available for attendance at worship. Therefore, where points are allocated for 2020, they will be given up to 20th March 2020, with no points available for any applicant for 2021.

Criteria C: Local Applicants up to 28 places

Distance from the Child's permanent home address to the main entrance of Archbishop Blanch School will be used to determine which children are admitted in this category. The distance will be measured by straight line distance between the child's permanent home address and Archbishop Blanch School using the local authority's computerised measuring system. All applications who have expressed a preference for a place at Archbishop Blanch School will be considered in this criteria according to distance, the closest 25 applicants will be allocated a place.

Criteria D: Applications for those with an aptitude for Music up to 8 places

Parents wishing to apply for an aptitude place must submit their aptitude forms by the XXXXXXXXXXXX Music aptitude tests will take place on week commencing Monday xxxxxxxxxxxx. Test results will be posted out on the xxxxxxxxxxxx to enable parents to make an informed decision before they submit the Local Authority and Archbishop Blanch School's own Supplementary Information Form.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF APPLICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED AT ARCHBISHOP BLANCH SCHOOL IS 31st OCTOBER 2023. National offer day for secondary Schools is 1st March 2024 Letters will be posted to parents by the Local Education Authority.

Who will get the places in each category?

The Governors will offer places to pupils whose parents have filled in both the online Archbishop Blanch Supplementary Information form and named Archbishop Blanch School as one of the schools on their own Local Authority Form. In the event of more pupils applying in each category than there are places, the following over-subscription systems will be used to decide who gets the places.

Christian Applications (Criteria B1)

Information will be gathered from an appropriate official of religion to confirm attendance of the parent and child at church. A points system will be used to score each application form.

Christian Self Certification Applications

If, and only in exceptional circumstances, an applicant cannot obtain written confirmation of attendance at church from a minister or religious leader, the governors may accept the parents'/carers' self-certification of their family's church attendance. In this instance, you are required to submit as much supporting evidence as possible *e.g. certificate of reception into the church, baptism, communion and confirmation certificates*. Other evidence **MUST** include *altar server certificates, letters of support from Sunday School or Children's Liturgy, Eucharistic Minister etc.* Without this supporting evidence to reinforce Self Certification, your application cannot be considered under this category.

Should two or more girls secure exactly the same number of points in each of the areas where points are awarded, the selection tie-break as to which girl(s) are offered a place will be determined by straight line proximity of the permanent home address to the school; the distance will be measured using the Local Authority's computerised system.

Muslim Applications (Criteria B2a)

Information will be gathered about attendance at worship of a parent and child from an appropriate official of religion. A points system will be used to score each application form. Should two or more girls have secured exactly the same number of points in each of the areas where points are awarded, random selection will be used by a draw to determine which girl(s) is/are offered a place. In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admission arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

Other World Faith applications (Criteria B2b)

Information will be gathered about attendance at worship of a parent and child from an appropriate official of religion. A points system will be used to score each application form. Should two or more girls have secured exactly the same number of points in each of the areas where points are awarded, random selection will be used by a draw to determine which girl(s) is/are offered a place. In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for

that worship, the requirements of these admission arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

Local applications (Criteria C)

Places will be allocated using the Local Authority distance measuring system. If two or more children live the same distances from school and there is only one place remaining, random allocation will be used to determine admission.

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Aptitude applications (Criteria D)

A test will be used to determine whether or not aptitude (not ability) in Music has been demonstrated. Pupils who have not shown aptitude will be considered under other appropriate criteria i.e. *faith or expressed interest*. (Voice or instrument can be considered when applying for Music Aptitude)

Should girls achieve identical scores in the aptitude test any points awarded under the religious criteria (if an application has also been made under this category) will determine who is admitted, with higher scores having priority over lower scores, and with Christians given priority over Non-Christian Faith applicants. In the event that we are unable to separate applications, the selection tie-break as to which girl(s) are offered a place will be determined by straight line proximity of the permanent home address to the school; the distance will be measured using the Local Authority's distance measuring system.

What happens if I am refused a place?

In the event of parents being refused a place for their child, they have the right of appeal to an Independent panel. Information explaining how to appeal will be sent to unsuccessful applicants on request or can be downloaded from www.abblanch.com for any particular child, only one appeal will be considered per academic year, unless there have been significant and substantial changes to the child's circumstances. Unsuccessful applicants can request to be placed on a waiting list which will be maintained until the end of the first academic term (December 2024). Applicants will be placed and ranked in accordance with the points scored and in line with the published oversubscription criteria.

Can I apply for admission part-way through a school year?

Applications for a transfer to a Year Group between Years 7 – 11 will be considered in accordance with the Local Authority guidelines. If the year-group in question is full, the application will be refused and parents will be given the opportunity to appeal against the school's decision through the appeals process.

Can I apply for admission for pupils outside the normal school age range?

Applications are welcome from pupils outside of the normal school age group in accordance with Local Authority guidelines. For applications to Archbishop Blanch of this nature please contact the Headteacher in writing.

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSIONS INTO THE SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form Statement of Principles

Archbishop Blanch is a Christian school founded within the Church of England. As a school, we believe wholeheartedly in our vision statement:

"We aim to 'not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth,' (1 John 3:18), as we serve not only each other but the wider community through charitable causes."

Whilst religious commitment is not a requirement for admission into Sixth Form, all students are expected to participate in the celebration and worship that is part of our school life.

The majority of students from Year 11 will continue their studies at Archbishop Blanch. Interest from external applicants is very welcome and arrangements can be made to tour the school during our advertised open evening each academic year.

Sixth form courses are very demanding, therefore excellent attendance (minimum 97%) is expected throughout the period of study. Individual guidance meetings will also support students to make the correct course choices and allow for discussion on future aspirations to ensure the needs of each individual are fully met.

Academic qualifications and experience are important factors in determining a student's suitability for a course. Different courses have their own admissions criteria which will be discussed at the guidance meeting. This is to support the transition from level 2 to level 3 qualifications. For entry onto A Level courses, a minimum of 5 GCSEs grades 9 - 5 (including English Language and Maths) will be required. All students must meet the entrance criteria for their chosen courses. Admission is by application form and guidance discussion.

The planned admission number of external students to be admitted to Year 12 in September 2024 will not exceed 40. This is dependent on the number of internal Year 11 students progressing to Year 12, preference will be given to these students. The oversubscription criteria for external applicants who meet the academic standards required for the course choices is as follows:

Where the number of external applicants who have reached the minimum entry requirements for a course exceeds the places available then the following criteria will be used to decide the allocation of places:

- Looked after children or children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).
- Meeting the specific entry criteria for their chosen course where places are still available on the programme.
- Should a tie breaker be needed then random allocation will be used which is supervised by someone independent of school.

When the limit for places is reached, applicants will be placed on a waiting list which will be maintained until the last Friday in September. Should admission to the Sixth Form be refused, applicants will be provided with details of the statutory appeal procedure. Both applicants and their parents may submit an appeal.

Application Form for 6th form

Application forms for Archbishop Blanch sixth form can be found in the sixth form section of the website.

ALLOCATION OF POINTS FOR FAITH APPLICATIONS

The term 'parent' in this context is considered to be a parent, grandparent, carer/legal guardian of the girl in question.

The period specified for attendance at worship for 2024 admissions is 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2023. During the period specified for attendance at worship churches have been closed or limited capacity for public worship has been in effect, so it is not possible to calculate fairly or accurately the points available for attendance at worship. Therefore, where points are allocated for 2020, they will be given up to 20th March 2020, with no points available for any applicant for 2021.

CHRISTIAN APPLICATIONS

	On average WEEKLY	On average TWICE MONTHLY	On average MORE THAN ONCE A MONTH	On average ONCE A MONTH OR LESS
Child's attendance in 2023	12	10	8	6
Parental attendance in 2023	10	8	6	4
Child's attendance in 2022	10	8	6	4
Parental attendance in 2022	8	6	4	2
Both parent and child attending worship at least fortnightly in 2020				10
Both parent and child attending worship at least fortnightly in 2019				8
Anglican applicants				2
MAXIMUM POINTS AVAILABLE				60

Parents must provide the reference signed & stamped by the Minister at place of worship.

MUSLIM APPLICATIONS

Mosque Attendance Grade Descriptions for Parent/Guardian	
Grade A	The parent attends the Mosque on average weekly
Grade B	The parent attends the Mosque on average twice monthly
Grade C	The parent attends the Mosque on average more than one a month
Grade D	The parent attends the Mosque on average once a month or less
Grade that best describes the attendance of parent in 2023 and Mark allocated. Please circle A = 20 B = 15 C = 10 D = 0	
Parent demonstrated at least Grade B attendance in 2022:	YES= 10 NO = 0
Parent demonstrated at least Grade B attendance in 2020:	YES= 5 NO = 0
Parent demonstrated at least Grade B attendance in 2019:	YES= 5 NO = 0
MAXIMUM POINTS AVAILABLE	40

Parents must provide the reference signed and stamped by the leader of the Mosque.

OTHER WORLD FAITH APPLICATIONS

	On average WEEKLY	On average TWICE MONTHLY	On average MORE THAN ONCE A MONTH	On average ONCE A MONTH OR LESS
Attendance of parent & child in 2023	12	10	8	6
At least fortnightly attendance of parent/child in 2022	YES = 5		NO = 0	
At least fortnightly attendance of parent/ child in 2020	YES = 5		NO = 0	
At least fortnightly attendance of parent/child in 2019	YES = 5		NO = 0	
MAXIMUM POINTS AVAILABLE				27
Parents must provide the reference signed by the leader of the place of worship				