



A joint Catholic & Church of England Academy

Admissions Policy

2026/2027



Status	Statutory
Responsible Authority	Local Academy Council
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Responsible Person	Mrs D Worthington (PA to the Principal)
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Statement of Intent

Hope Academy is an academy for pupils of all faiths and none and a member of the All-Saints Multi-Academy Trust. We are a joint (11-16) Catholic/Church of England Academy with a specialism in the Environment and Sustainability. The admission number for the Academy will be 270 pupils in Year 7.

The Academy has agreed to follow the coordinated admission arrangements determined by St Helens Local Authority.

Admission Arrangements for Year 7 in September 2026

To apply for a place in Year 7, applicants have to complete their home local authority Common Application/Preference Form. The closing date is 31 October 2025.

If the Academy receives fewer applications for places than it has places available all applicants will be admitted.

If the Academy receives more applications than there are places available, the following criteria will be used to decide which children are admitted.

Oversubscription Criteria

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria and applied as they are set out below, after the admission of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans, where Hope Academy is named on the Plan or Statement.

(a) 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

(b) After the application of criterion (a) the remaining places will then 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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** (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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• St Mary's Catholic Junior School (Newton)• All Saints Catholic Primary (Golborne)	50% of the remaining places in order of priority to: (i) Children who attend the associated Church of England and Community schools <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 Catherine’s Catholic Primary (Lowton)
- St Lewis’ Catholic Primary
- St Paul of the Cross RC Primary

**For a child to be considered as a Catholic, evidence of a Catholic baptism (ie Baptismal Certificate) or reception into the Church will be required, in accordance with the Archdiocesan Advice on this matter. A copy of this Advice may be obtained at the school.*

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. Brothers or sisters includes stepchildren, half brothers or sisters, foster or adopted children who are living at the same address as 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 6 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) Other children

Tie Break

In the event of any oversubscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above then places will be offered first to children whose *family home is nearest the Academy. The measurement shall be done in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) as determined by the Governing Body and measured by the Local Authority.

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.



Waiting List

The Academy will operate its waiting lists in accordance with St Helens local authority's co-ordinated admissions schemes.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in paragraph 3(a) – (f) above. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria and not on the date on which applications were received.

Admission Appeals

If it is not possible to offer a child a place in the Academy parents have the right to appeal to an Independent Appeal panel. The 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.

Definitions for Admission

The following definition is used in the admission arrangements.

Home Address

This is the confirmed permanent address (before allocation procedures begin) where the child and parent, or person with responsibility, normally live. If parents or legal guardians live at different addresses and both have parental responsibility the address on the Child Benefit record will normally be used, but the Academy reserves the right to request other proofs as fit the individual circumstances to determine the child's permanent address. Where appropriate parents/legal guardians may also be required to provide proof of address in the form of a recent council tax bill, a utility bill, a tenancy agreement or exchange of contracts to confirm change of address. Applicants should not state a childminder's or other relatives address.

In Year Applications for the Academic Year 2026/2027

In year applications are applications for parents to transfer their child between secondary schools.

Subject to any provisions in the St Helens Local Authority's co-ordinated in year admissions scheme, the Academy will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child unless one of the permitted reliefs apply. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria in paragraph 3 a-f above shall apply. Parents whose application is turned down are entitled to appeal.

To apply for a place applicants have to complete the in year common application/preference form issued by the St Helens Local Authority.

Educated outside of normal school age

If a parent wishes their child to be educated out of their normal age group they must discuss this with the Principal before applying for a place. The decision rests with the school as admission authority as per the School Admissions Code.

Footnotes

¹ A 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.

² 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.