

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
incorporating
WEST CUMBRIA CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM CENTRE



ADMISSIONS POLICY 2020 - 2021

Approved by: Mr J McQuirk, Chair of Governors	Date: January 2019
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Admission to Year 7 and In-Year Transfers

St Benedict's School is an 11-18 co-educational Roman Catholic Secondary School under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Lancaster. As a Voluntary Aided school, the Governing Body of St Benedict's School is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions. The co-ordination of admission arrangements is undertaken by the Local Authority.

For the school year commencing September 2020, the Governing Body has set the Year 7 admission number at 190.

Our identity as a Catholic school and the inspiration we receive from the life of St Benedict shapes our ethos and spirit, placing the developing child at the centre of everything we do. We aim to provide a vibrant experience of Christian community where everyone can flourish. Cooperation, consideration, mutual respect and care for each other determine the quality of our relationships. The Governors recognise that the first responsibility of the school is to serve the Roman Catholic community for which it was established. This is focused on the nominated parish communities and the associated Roman Catholic primary schools which are partners in providing for those communities. In establishing the oversubscription criteria, the Governors have also taken note of the emphasis placed on supporting children in public care, as detailed in the Code of Practice produced by the Department for Education.

St Benedict's School's nominated parishes are as follows:

- St Begh's Whitehaven
- St Benedict's, Mirehouse, Whitehaven
- St Joseph's, Frizington
- St Mary's, Cleator
- St Mary's, Egremont
- St Mary's, Kells

St Benedict's School's associated Roman Catholic Primary Schools are as follows:

- St Begh's, Whitehaven
- St Bridget's, Egremont
- St Joseph's, Frizington
- St Patrick's, Cleator Moor

- St Mary's, Kells

Allocation of places will be in accordance with parental preference as far as possible. The limitations on this will be those provided for by Section 86(2) of the Education Act 1998, which states that an Authority need not comply with the parental preference for reasons which include:

- where to admit the child would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources;
- where the child has been permanently excluded from two or more schools.

It is obviously inefficient to have year groups at one school overcrowded while other schools have spare places.

All preferences listed on the Local Authority Preference Form will be considered on an equal basis.

Where St Benedict's School receives more applications than it has places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be applied in order of priority once, within the Published Admission Number, places have first been allocated to children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), which names the school:

- (a) Roman Catholic children who are looked after children or previously looked after children [See notes 1 & 2]
- (b) Any Roman Catholic child.
- (c) Other children who are looked after children or previously looked after children [See note 2]
- (d) Other children in an associated Roman Catholic Primary School
- (e) Other children with a sibling in the school at the time of admission [See note 3]
- (f) Other children

Decisions on admission to the school in Year 7 for September 2020 will be made in accordance with the above criteria. Late applications will be considered in the light of whether any places remain available. [See notes 4 & 5]

Oversubscription Criteria

If in any category there are more applications than places available, priority will be given on the basis of proximity to the school. The closest measured distance in a straight line from the front door of the applicant's address to the main entrance door of St Benedict's School (which shall be the door to the school on the eastern gable wall within the Winter Grden of Campus Whitehaven) will be the deciding factor in these cases. This will be decided using the measurements provided by the Local Authority (Cumbria County Council).

If there are two or more children equidistant and only one place remaining the school will either:

- use a random lottery, picking names out of a hat in the presence of an independent witness, as the final tie-breaker; or
- where twins, triplets or children from other multiple births are resident at the same address, and allocating the final available place to one of them would mean some

sibling(s) being excluded, then all will be allocated a place at the school.

For children who are the subject of shared parental custody the school will use the address which is the child's main place of residence.

Parents/Carers who change address before their child takes up the place allocated, and who would consequently prefer a different school, should inform the School Admissions Team immediately on 01228 221582. If the move has not been completed, supporting evidence such as a solicitor's letter or a letter from the Housing Department will be needed.

Waiting Lists

Following national allocation day (1st March 2020) a waiting list will operate. This will remain open until 31st December 2020.

Late Applications

If an application is received after the deadline (31 October 2019), this will be considered late. Late applications will be considered after the allocation of places and notified after the main allocation date (1 March 2020), unless exceptional circumstances apply, e.g. hospitalisation of a parent or a family has just moved into the area. In such cases, evidence will be required.

In-Year Transfers

Where a parent or carer wishes to change school for any reason that is **not** caused by a change of address, governing body will not offer a place at the school before the first day of term following receipt of form SA8 (request for an in year place). Applications received after the start of the school year will only be considered if places on the requested courses are available and if the student meets the academic entry requirements of the course. If the point of application for admission is after the October half-term other factors will be considered before deciding whether or not to admit a student, these include:

- Is there continuity of subject, exam specification and exam board?
- The student's progress grades from their current post 16 provider
- The likelihood of the student being able to catch up missed work.

Appeals

The parents/carers of students, who are not offered a place, have the right to appeal against non-admission.

Notes:

1. A 'Roman Catholic' child is one who has been baptised into the Roman Catholic Church or who has subsequently been formally received into the Roman Catholic Church. In both instances, evidence of such baptism or reception will be required.
2. 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 (see definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). A previously looked after child is one who has ceased to be looked after because they were adopted or have become subject to a residency order or special guardianship order.
3. Sibling is defined as a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carers partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as the sibling. Older children can be considered to 'qualify' a younger child under the sibling link in priorities (e) and (i) of the criteria provided proof is available

to demonstrate that the children are permanently resident at the same address and part of the same family unit.

4. If in any year St Benedict's School receives more applications for places than there are places available the Local Authority will operate a waiting list on behalf of the school. All unsuccessful applications will be automatically added to the waiting list. The child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above.
5. Parents/Carers have a statutory right to submit an appeal for a place at their preferred school if their application for a place has been unsuccessful. An appeal form should be automatically sent by the Local Authority if they have been refused a place. See link to Cumbria County Council Council for full information on the admissions and appeals procedures:

Admission to Sixth Form

The West Cumbria Catholic Sixth Form Centre is an integral part of the school and students who have been educated at St Benedict's School, Whitehaven & St Joseph's School, Workington during Year 11, will automatically be eligible for the Sixth Form so long as they meet the minimum entry requirements. The A level courses are 2-year courses and must be completed by the date of the student's 19th birthday.

Applications are welcomed from students who attended other high schools and wish to apply for a place at St Benedict's Sixth Form. To be admitted to St Benedict's Sixth Form, all students must meet the minimum entry requirements.

The Planned Admissions Number (PAN) is 80.

Any student who has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), which names St Benedict's Sixth Form, will be admitted to Year 12 provided they meet the minimum entry requirements.

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Parents/Carers who change address before their child takes up the place allocated, and who would consequently prefer a different school, should inform the School Admissions Team immediately on 01228 221582. If the move has not been completed, supporting evidence such as a solicitor's letter or a letter from the Housing Department will be needed.

Application for places is based on meeting the individual requirements of the courses that the student wishes to pursue.

Minimum Entry Requirements for Year 12

Our post 16 curriculum is designed to give students the highest academic qualifications which will allow them to pursue university degree level study or higher level apprenticeship study. The process of careers information advice and guidance begins early and continues throughout year 11 to help students understand the entry requirements for A level study and to help them make informed choices.

Our minimum entry requirement is published annually on our website.

Subjects where the minimum grade of a 6 is non-negotiable in allowing entry onto an A Level course are:

- Biology – Chemistry – Physics
- Maths/Further Maths
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Computer Science

For students who have studied GCSE Combined Science they must achieve a Grade 6 in order to gain access to Biology, Chemistry or Physics A Level. In addition, students will also need to have a grade 6 in the specific component of the Science A Level they are choosing to study. For all other A Level and Technical subjects we would suggest a grade 6 or equivalent is more likely to lead to success at A Level. However, students may access a range of A Levels with a grade 4 or above.

Students enter St Benedict's Sixth Form at 16 and pursue a two year course leaving at 18. In rare instances a student with particular circumstances may be admitted to the sixth form at 17 to complete a two year course of study as long as all entry requirements are met. In such cases decisions will be made on an individual basis.

Where a student at St Benedict's Year 12 wishes to change A level courses, they have a three week period from the September start date in which to request this change.

We are funded as an 11-19 school. Therefore admissions beyond this range must be referred to an FE establishment, and will not be considered by the school.

To enrol as a full time student, applicants must enrol for study pathways which incorporate a minimum of 540 guided learning hours each year. Usually this involves studying three A levels combined with other qualifications which **may** include resit GCSE Maths or English, Extended Project or Core Maths.