



St Mary's Catholic High School

This document explains how places were allocated at the school for admission to Year 7 in September 2026.

Admission number (number of places available) – 260

Number of preferences received on time (by the closing date) – 558

How places were allocated

St Mary's Catholic High school is a Voluntary Aided School.

All applications were processed using the 'equal preference' system as explained in the 'Applying for a Year 7 place 2026/27 booklet'.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan which names the school. Places offered – 3

Within each of the criteria below the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

1. Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child, which can most appropriately be met at this school.
2. (ii) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment (not including the Sixth Form).
3. Children living closest to the school.

Criterion 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.

Places offered under this criterion – 3

Criterion 2. Catholic children resident in the parishes of St Edmund Arrowsmith, St John Rigby and St Margaret Clitherow or former parishes of Ambrose Barlow, St Joseph, Sacred Heart Atherton, Sacred Heart Leigh, Holy Family, Twelve Apostles, Our Lady of the Rosary, St Richard's and St Gabriel's.

Places offered under this criterion – 90

Criterion 3. Other Catholic children.

Places offered under this criterion – 5

Criterion 4. Children attending one of the following Catholic partner primary schools in the parishes or former parishes named in criterion 2 above. Holy Family, Boothstown; Sacred Heart, Atherton; Sacred Heart, Leigh; St Ambrose Barlow; St Gabriel's; St Joseph's; St Richard's; Twelve Apostles.

Places offered under this criterion – 81

Criterion 5. Members of an Eastern Christian Church not in full communion with Rome.

Places offered under this criterion - 6

Criterion 6. Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion.

Places offered under this criterion – 35

Criterion 7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader.

Places offered under this criterion – 2

Criterion 8. Any other children.

Places offered under this criterion – 35

1. *Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child, which can most appropriately be met at this school - 0*
2. *The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment - 12*
3. *Children living closest to the school - 23*

Tie Breaker

Places in criterion 8.3 were allocated to the 23 pupils living nearest to the school. The last of these places was allocated to a pupil living 1.694 miles from the school.

Applications received after the closing date of 31 October 2025 are deemed to be late and only considered after applications received on time. Changes of preferences received after the closing date are also classed as late applications.

For details of how the waiting list operates and how to appeal, please see the information sheet 'Waiting Lists and Appeals'.