

Information for parents planning to apply for a place at a Faith Secondary School in 2024 and 2025

Deciding on the right choice of secondary school for your daughter/son can be very stressful. We know that for a number of parents in Halewood and Hunts Cross their first choice will be one of the Church of England Faith Schools in Liverpool, as this type of provision does not exist in Knowsley. This is especially true if you child has attended and benefitted from the education provided by a Faith primary school.

We want as many of our local children as possible to achieve their first choice of secondary school, but this very much depends on you, the parents/carers

The three most popular choices are St Hilda's, Archbishop Blanch and St Margaret's

Each of these has slightly different selection criteria but they **all** expect a very high level of church attendance, usually an absolute minimum of three weeks out of four throughout the year, (allowing for annual holidays) for a minimum of two years, and sometimes longer. The schools use quite complicated points systems which take into account the attendance of parents **and the child** who is applying for the place

NB attendance by grandparents is only taken into account if they are classed as the child's main carer and not otherwise.

You can view the current admissions criteria for 2023 on each school's website, along with the 2023 application forms. The criteria may change slightly for 2024 or 2025 but it is worthwhile looking now so you have an idea of what is expected.

(The situation for 2023 applications has been even more complicated by the fact that many churches were closed or had limited openings during most of 2021)

Recording Church Attendance

Each of the churches in the Team (St Hilda's, St Mary's and St Nicholas') has a QR code clearly on display for you to scan with your phone to record your attendance at a church service. You can do this at any of the three churches.

Full points will only be awarded with a minimum of 75% attendance. Please be mindful of this when applying.

If for any reason you are unable to scan the code, there will be a signing in sheet. Please record the date, your name, your child's name and an email contact address or mobile number

DO NOT use the signing in sheet as well as scanning the QR code as that leads to some confusion with recording data correctly. The signing in sheet must only be used in an emergency as creates a great deal of work for the person recording this information. Your most accurate way of recording is via QR code.

You must only scan the code only when attending a main service (St Hilda's 11 am or 4pm Sunday; St Nicholas' 11am or 6.30pm Sunday or 9.15 Thursday; St Mary's 10.30am Sunday)

The recording system is quite sophisticated and will pick up attempts to scan at other times and in other places and this could lead to you being blocked from using the system.

Only parents/main carers of the child who is applying should scan the code.

For children, attendance at Junior Church/P2 services counts as church attendance. Attendance at after school clubs (Jam/ Boss or uniformed organisations) does not.

Each of the Faith Schools has a supplementary form on which the minister is asked to confirm church attendance and it is the recorded scans of the QR codes which will be used as evidence for this. So please remember to scan the code if you are in church.

If you are applying for a place at another Faith School: St David's or one of the Roman Catholic Secondary schools, you will need to check their admissions criteria separately.

As a regular attender it is helpful if that you are on Jethro which is the churches database for storing information and where information can be sent directly to you. If you are not already on Jethro you can pick up an application form at any of the three churches

From next year we will be asking you to advise us in advance if you wish to apply for a place at a Faith secondary school place to give us chance to collate the data from the QR codes.

Please Remember

We have no control over the admissions criteria which each school chooses to adopt and can only provide the information they ask for and ultimately that information is provided by you and your church attendance.

And finally

If your child does achieve a place at one of the Liverpool Faith secondary schools, they should be entitled to a travel pass from Knowsley Council (that could change with restrictions on expenditure) but do make sure you apply and appeal if the application is turned down. We can provide supporting letters for appeals