



Holy Family Catholic High School

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Headteacher: Mr M Symes BA(Hons), NPQH

Monday, October 12, 2020

FAO Year 6 Parents

Holy Family Catholic High School - Admission Criteria and Q&A calls

Dear Parent,

I hope you are all well and safe and that your son/daughter is enjoying being back at school again. This letter is to provide you with some information about our school and changes to our admission criteria, to help you make your decision when choosing the right high school for your child.

'Virtual Open Evening' and personal Q&A telephone calls

Normally, children from St. Benedict's would have had at least 4 days in the summer of Year 5 and the start of Year 6 at Holy Family to help them with their transition to high school. Also, you would have had the chance to visit us on our open evening and open mornings. Sadly, we've not been able to do any of these this year.

Instead, we have now visited all our year 6 children and held a Q&A with them, and they had lots of questions! We've also put together two videos on our website which will help them, and you get to know our school a little better. The two videos, 'Virtual Open Event' and 'Virtual Open Event – Information video', are in the 'About Us' section of the website or in the 'Admissions' tab.

As we can't meet up in person, we would like you to know that we are here if you would like us to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have. The best way is through arranging a telephone call with either myself or Mr Westbury, who is our Assistant Headteacher overseeing Key Stage 3. We are available from 9am to 7pm, Monday to Thursday, and 9am to 5pm on Fridays, until the end of term. You can also email us with any questions you may have.

If you would like to book a telephone call, please contact Mrs Harris on 0151 932 6106 to make the arrangements or you can email s.harris@holyfamilyhighschool.co.uk. Also, please call if you need any help with the application process.

Admission Criteria change

In previous years, some children from St. Benedict's, who were Catholic but did not live in one of the linked parishes, had missed out on a place at Holy Family because they lived too far away. We felt that this was unfair, as the children had taken part in lots of transition events and were being denied the opportunity to go to Holy Family with their classmates from primary school. This year, we have changed our admission criteria to favour Catholic

children from our linked primary schools over 'other Catholic children', even if they don't live in one of the parishes. This gives these children a much greater chance of being offered a place in Year 7. Also, last year, we had a very high number of Catholic siblings (Criteria 2). This year we know that this figure is much lower, again, increasing the chances of being offered a place in Year 7.

The changes to the criteria are highlighted below:

1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children resident in the parishes of English Martyrs'; Holy Family, Ince Blundell; Our Lady of Compassion, Formby; Our Lady of Victories, Hightown; Our Lady Queen of Peace; St Benet's; St Jerome's, Formby; St Mary's, Little Crosby and St William of York, Thornton.
4. ***Baptised Catholic children attending a linked parish primary school - English Martyrs, St Jerome's, Our Lady of Compassion, St Mary's Little Crosby, Our Lady Queen of Peace, St William of York, St Benedict's.***
5. Baptised Catholic children of current staff:
6. ***Other baptised Catholic children.***

Finally, I know how difficult it is to decide which high school is right for your child and this has been made even harder without the chance to visit and meet the staff at the high schools. I may be biased, but I'm very proud of what we stand for here at Holy Family. Lots of our staff have moved their children to our school and I think that says a lot about how much they value what we do. Whatever you decide, good luck with your decision and I hope your child gets to enjoy Year 6 as much as they can.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Symes

Headteacher