

St. John Fisher Catholic School Admissions Policy, September 2012 admissions

2012 Admissions Cover Sheet

School Name	St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School	
Address	(Years 7-9)	(Year 10-13)
	79 Maidstone Road Chatham ME4 6P	Ordnance Street Chatham ME4 6SG
Telephone Number	01634 335787	01634 335757

The following documents form the schools final and determined 2012 admission arrangements.

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School (hereafter known as “the School”) strives for a school community built on the teachings of the Catholic Church as encapsulated in the schools ethos and mission statement. The schools admission policy, as such, provides for entry for all students, with preference given to those who adhere to the Catholic faith.

1. Practice

- Admissions to the school are made by the school governing body.
- Admission to the school is based on the principle of non-selection
- The school caters for children of all abilities, including those with special educational needs
- Those students with statements of special educational needs, who name the school as an option will be offered places first
- The school’s planned admission number is 180

2. Annual Year 7 Intake

1. Applications will be dealt with in accordance with the Medway co-ordinated secondary admission scheme. *(Full details will be set out in the Medway secondary admissions booklet which will be given to parents of year 6 by primary schools).*
2. Parents who wish to apply for admission to the School must complete the Medway common application form (CAF) and return it to their child’s primary school by the required date.
3. In addition to completing the CAF, parents must send/take a copy of the School’s supplementary form with a copy of their child’s baptismal certificate, if applicable, to the School by the same date.
4. Ministers of Religion should be asked to fill in the relevant part of the form confirm the applicant’s religious commitment, if applicable.
5. Offers of places will be posted to parents by the LA, on behalf of the governing body.
6. A waiting list will operate for year 7 according to the co-ordinated scheme.

3. Appeals

Parents whose applications for places are unsuccessful may appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel set up in accordance with sections 88 and 94 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing and must set out the reasons on which the appeal is made. Appeals should be made to the Admissions Appeal Clerk at the school address. Parents/Carers have the right to make oral representations to the Appeal Panel.

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4. Admission into Years 8-11 and Year 7 after the start of the Academic Year

1. All applications for admission for students in year 8 to 11 and for year 7 after the start of the academic year will be referred to the LA and dealt with according to the co-ordinated scheme.
2. Parents of children who have not been offered a place at the school may ask for their child's name to be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list will be operated using the same admissions criteria listed above. Placing a child's name on the waiting list does not guarantee that a place will become available. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place.

5. Oversubscription

If the number of preferences received via the co-ordinated scheme exceeds the planned admission number of 180 then subsequent places will be offered using the following oversubscription criteria:

1. All looked after Children
2. All Children baptised in the Catholic Church
3. All non-Catholic children who have attended a Catholic primary feeder school, that is:
 - English Martyrs', Strood
 - St Augustine of Canterbury, Rainham
 - St Benedict's, Lordswood
 - St Edward's, Sheppey
 - St Mary's, Gillingham
 - St Michael's, Chatham
 - St Peter's, Sittingbourne
 - St Thomas More, Walderslade
 - St Thomas of Canterbury, Rainham
 - St William of Perth, Rochester
4. Children baptised in other Christian denominations that are part of Churches together in England. Evidence of Baptism (or dedication) provided by a priest or a minister of a dedicated place of worship will be required.
5. Children of other faiths.
6. Other children in the following order:
 - those eligible for free school meals
 - all other children.

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Notes

For each category, the following criteria will be used:

- a. Those pupils with a brother or sister already attending the school. (*“brother or sister” means children who live as brother and sister, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers or sisters. It would not include other relatives e.g. cousins. Families are defined as being the child’s natural or adoptive parents or officially designated carers. It would not include grandparents or other relatives unless they are officially designated carers.*)
- b. Child’s health reasons. Medical evidence must be provided which demonstrates a specific health reason that requires the child to attend the preferred school.
- c. Distance from the school, which will be measured by the shortest available safe walking route between home and school as measured by Medway Council’s Geographical Information System.

Looked after children are those in the care of a public authority and are in public care. Applications made under this criterion must be accompanied by the details of circumstance and professionally supported evidence (e.g. from an appropriate social worker).

6. Sixth Form

1. Planned admission to the Sixth Form is 185. All pupils will be expected to support fully the distinctive Catholic Ethos of the sixth form.
2. For Advanced, Advanced-Subsidiary and Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education courses, the minimum entry requirement is five A* to C grades at GCSE. Some courses will require a student to have gained at least a ‘B’ grade in that subject before study at A-level can commence, e.g. Physics and Chemistry.
3. There are no minimum entry requirements for Level Two courses.
4. The Governing Body is the Admissions Authority. The Head of Sixth Form will advise but the final discretion is with the governors.
5. All courses are subject to availability and timetabling constraints.

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Supplementary Form for those seeking admission to St John Fisher Catholic School.

Name of Child: _____

Date of birth: _____

Child's Religion: _____

Parents/Carers with whom the child lives:

Name(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

POSTCODE _____ Tel: _____

Name of Parish Priest/other priest/minister: _____

Parish/Church: _____

Parish Priest: Please provide evidence in support of this application:

- The above named family/child are/is known to me
- Mass attendance is regular (at least 3 times a month)
- I have seen a copy of the child's baptismal certificate
- The child is enrolled in the Catechumenate

Signed (Parish Priest): _____

VERY IMPORTANT: Send, with this form, a copy of your child's baptismal and birth certificate.
DO NOT SEND THE ORIGINAL.

Declaration:

In applying for a place at St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School I am accepting that my child will receive religious instruction in accordance with the Faith of the Catholic Church.

I am applying for a place at St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School. I confirm that all the above information is correct.

Signed (parent/carer) _____ Date: _____