



THE DEANERY

Church of England High School and Sixth Form College

Admission to The Deanery Church of England High School **Frequently Asked Questions**

How do I apply for a place at The Deanery?

You need to apply via the Local Authority's online application process.

If your child attends church at least once a month, on average, in the preceding 12 months before the application is made, we have a separate Supplementary Information Form ('Church form'), that you can have completed. This form is on the Admissions page of our website.

What is the deadline for applications?

The deadline to apply for a place at secondary school and to submit supplementary Church forms is 31st October each year.

What happens if I apply late?

Your application will still be accepted but will be treated as a late application, which will reduce your chance of gaining a place at The Deanery.

Will I stand more chance if I put The Deanery as my first preference?

The Deanery operates an 'equal preference' system, meaning places are offered purely on the strength of how well children fit the admissions criteria.

Schools cannot give preference to those children who list the school as their first choice, nor rule out those who placed it lower down their list. In fact, the Local Authority do not tell us where The Deanery was ranked in a child's preferences.

Should I apply for more than one school?

It is strongly recommended that you use all of your preferences to maximise your chances of being offered a place at one of your preferred schools.

Do you give priority if a sibling (brother/sister) is already at The Deanery?

Applications from siblings (brothers/sisters) of pupils already on roll at The Deanery are given priority within our Admissions policy, providing the sibling is on roll at the time of application. Evidence of the sibling relationship or address may be requested. We also consider step-brothers or step-sisters who reside at the same address as the child who is applying.

My child attends church. How do I apply under the Christian church criteria?

We ask that our Supplementary Information Form ('Church form') is completed and signed by your vicar/priest/faith leader to confirm that your child has attended church **at least once a month**, on average, in the 12 months prior to the closing date specified on which the application is submitted. This form should be returned to the school.

The Deanery is a Church of England High School. Can I only apply if I am an Anglican?

We accept applications for all religions, or from children with no religion; please see our policy for details of the application criteria.

I do not agree with the attendance pattern that my place of worship has confirmed.

If you disagree with this you will need to approach your place of worship to discuss further.

My vicar/priest/faith leader will not complete a Church form. Will it affect my application?

We can only accept your application under the Christian route if worship is verified by a vicar/priest/faith leader. If you are unable to provide a 'Church form', your application will be considered under Criterion 6, which is determined by distance.

I have not been able to attend church due to personal circumstances, will this be taken into consideration?

Unfortunately, personal circumstances will not be taken into consideration at the application stage.

Are you usually oversubscribed?

Yes, in which case we use oversubscription tiebreaks (see policy). For our September 2025 intake, we received 748 applications for 250 places.

I live within walking distance of the school, does this guarantee my child a place?

The Deanery does not operate a catchment area.

Do you have feeder schools?

No, our intake for Year 7 in September 2025 came from 45 different primary schools.

Can I apply if I do not live in the Wigan Council area?

Yes, you can enter The Deanery as a preference with your own Local Authority.

When and how will I find out which school my child has been allocated?

1st March is National Offer Day and you will be notified by your Local Authority.

What happens if I do not get any of my school choices?

Should you not get any of your 3 choices of schools, your child will be offered a place at the nearest school which has places available.

If I do not get a place at The Deanery, can I appeal?

Yes; you can submit an appeal which will be heard in May/June.

Will my child be placed on a waiting list if they did not secure a place?

Yes, all children who applied to The Deanery for admission in September and did not secure a place will be placed on a waiting list until 31st December of the same year.

What happens if a place becomes available?

If a place becomes available it will be offered to child at the top of the waiting list, which is ranked in accordance with our Admissions policy.

How were your places allocated for September 2025?

Places for our Year 7 in September 2025 were allocated as follows, once places had first been allocated to pupils who have an Education Health and Care plan which names the school:

		Places
	Children with an Education Health and Care Plan, as long as the EHCP names The Deanery	7
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	2
Criterion 2	Children of staff at the school who are employed on a permanent contract and have a) been employed for 2 or more years or b) been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there was a demonstrable skill shortage, at the time of application.	1
Criterion 3	Children who will have an older brother or sister at The Deanery Church of England High School at the time of application, including the Sixth Form.	86
Criterion 4	Children who are regular worshippers at a Christian church, as long as this is confirmed by the church leader (such as the vicar, priest, minister, faith leader) using the supplementary information form)	93
Criterion 5	Children who express a preference for a place at the school.	61
	Total	250

How far away did the last child live who was offered a place under Criterion 5?

Places in Criterion 5 were allocated to the 61 pupils living nearest to the school. The last of these places was allocated to a pupil living 1.117 miles from the school.

Does this distance change every year?

The distance changes every year, depending upon the number of applications we receive in the other categories.

Current Y7	1.117 miles
Current Y8	1.09m
Current Y9	1.112m
Current Y10	0.811m
Current Y11	1.28m

As you can see, over the last 5 years we have never been more than 1.3 miles away from school to home under our final category.

Do children come in for a taster day if they are allocated The Deanery?

Children who are successful in securing a place at The Deanery are invited to a taster day in the summer term before they start with us.