



ST AMBROSE COLLEGE - YEAR 7 ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2026

Admission Information

St Ambrose College (“SAC”) is a state-funded Catholic grammar school for boys aged 11-18 built on the vision and values of Blessed Edmund Rice. As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school’s activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school’s education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with the College admission arrangements.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the year commencing 1 September 2026 is 140. Applicants must have a date of birth between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015.

The entrance examination for Year 7 entry in September 2026 will take place at the College on Friday 19th September 2025.

Applications

Applications will open on **Wednesday 23rd April 2025** and will close at **midday on Monday 7th July 2025**. Late applications will not be considered until after 1st March 2026.

The online application form is available on the College website at: [Saint Ambrose College - YEAR 7 ADMISSIONS 2026](#)

On completion of the application form you will receive an automated acknowledgement followed by an email from the College within a few days. Please ensure that the correct email address is submitted on the application form. If you do not receive either acknowledgement, please email admissions@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk to ensure your application has been received.

You must also complete your Local Authority’s Common Application Form (CAF). In Trafford, this must be submitted to them by **31st October 2025**. If you reside outside of Trafford, please check the return date specified by your Local Authority. If you wish your child to be considered for a place at St Ambrose College, you must ensure that you have named it as a preference when completing your Common Application Form.

Information detailing examination arrangements will be sent during the week commencing 8th September. This will include a candidate sheet which will need to be completed and stamped by the applicant’s primary school to confirm identity. The applicant must bring the candidate sheet on the day of the exam complete with photographic ID. Failure to bring this form on the day will result in your child not being able to sit the exam on that day.



The Entrance Exam

The entrance exam consists of three tests:

Verbal Reasoning Paper (50 minutes) – multiple choice.

- Our assessment provider for this paper is GL Assessment and familiarisation papers can be found at: [Verbal Reasoning Familiarisation](#)

Maths Paper (35 minutes) – multiple choice.

- The Maths paper is prepared in-house and no sample or past papers are available.
- The Maths Paper will assess topics detailed in the National Curriculum for Key Stage 2 Mathematics up to and including those listed in the Year 5 programme of study
- Link to the National Curriculum for Key Stage 2 Mathematics:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335158/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_Mathematics_220714.pdf

English Paper (35 minutes) – multiple choice.

- The English paper is prepared in-house and no sample or past papers are available.
- The paper will include a Comprehension and other English elements.
- There is no creative writing element to the test.

Access Arrangements

You **must** indicate on your son's application form if there is a requirement for access arrangements. You should then arrange for the Access Arrangements Request form to be completed by your son's primary school and returned to the College with a supporting Education Healthcare Plan (EHCP), relevant official SEND Assessment Report or formal diagnosis detailing educational needs and adjustments that are required. **The deadline for receipt of the form and supporting evidence is midday on 7th July 2025.** Decisions regarding Access Arrangements will be communicated early September 2025.

Exam Results

The exam results are age standardised. Results will be sent to parents by no later than **24th October**. This is ahead of the deadline to complete the Common Application Form of **31st October 2025**.

A successful outcome will be achieved by those applicants who score 320 or above in the entrance exam "the qualifying score". Success in the entrance exam does not mean that your child will automatically receive a place at the College.



Oversubscription Criteria

If the number of applicants achieving the required standard for entry exceeds the Published Admissions Number, then the following over-subscription criteria will apply in the following order to decide which pupils to admit.

1. Baptised Catholic boys who are designated 'looked after children' or 'previously looked after children'.
2. Baptised Catholic boys who have a brother attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic Boys whose home address¹ postcode falls within a nominated Local Pastoral Area. Details are provided in the list of Nominated Local Pastoral Areas.
4. Other Baptised Catholic boys.
5. Other Boys who are designated 'looked after children' or 'previously looked after children'.
6. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church.
7. Baptised Christian boys who have a brother attending the school.
8. Christian boys practising in other Christian denominations supported by a minister's reference confirming that they are a full and active member of the Church².
9. Other boys

In the event of over-subscription within any one of the categories, priority will be given to those boys who are in receipt of Pupil Premium followed by boys who achieved the highest marks in the Entrance Examination. **Evidence of Pupil Premium must be provided at the time of application.** Where more than one boy has the same score in any category then priority will be given to the boy living the closest distance from the boy's home address to St Ambrose College. The distance from home to St Ambrose College will be calculated in a direct straight line from the child's permanent place of residence using co-ordinates held in Trafford's Local Land and Property Gazetteer (BS7666) and are available, on request, from Trafford's School Admissions Team. In cases where this data is not available, Royal Mail postal address Information may be used. In the case of a child living in a block of flats the coordinates for all flats in that block will be the same. If distance is tied selection would take place by a random draw witnessed by all concerned parties.

For applicants who move address to within the nominated pastoral area following application, and who submit an on-time application to their home local authority including St Ambrose College as a preference, the new address will not be considered prior to 1 March 2026 but may be considered following 1 March 2026.

¹ "Home address" means the address where the child normally and permanently lives on a full-time basis, not the address of any child-minder, grandparent or any other relative. In the case of parents who are separated, the application will also be considered from the address where the child lives, even though the child may regularly spend some time at another address. Where it is claimed that the child's residency is shared equally between two addresses parents may decide which address will be used for the purpose of the application.

² "Full and active" means a regular churchgoer who attends more than once a month, is known to the parish priest / minister and is involved in church activities.



Nominated Local Pastoral Areas

1 Saint Ambrose Deanery (Diocese of Shrewsbury)

The following Local Pastoral Areas include the following postcodes: All WA14, WA15, M31 and M33 postcodes.

St. Hugh and St John	West Timperley
St. Vincent de Paul's	Altrincham
All Saints	Ashton-on-Mersey
St. Margaret Ward	Sale
St. Joseph's	Sale
Holy Angels	Hale Barns
Our Lady of Lourdes	Partington
Holy Family	Sale Moor

2. Saint Ambrose Barlow Deanery (Diocese of Salford)

The following Local Pastoral Areas include the following postcodes: All M16, M21, M32 and M41 postcodes.

Our Lady's & St. Alphonsus	Moss Side/Old Trafford
St. Ann's & St. Hugh of Lincoln	Stretford
Our Lady and the English Martyrs'	Davyhulme/Urmston
St. Monica's	Flixton
St. John's and St Teresa's	Firswood / Chorlton

Supporting Evidence

To ensure that your son is placed in the correct Category for the purposes of over-subscription, the following evidence will need to be provided. Evidence can be uploaded on the Entrance Examination application form or emailed to admissions@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk.

Category	Definition	Evidence
1	Baptised Roman Catholic boys who are designated 'looked after children' or 'previously looked after children'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholic Baptism Certificate or Certificate of Reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. LAC/PLAC Evidence
2	Baptised Roman Catholic boys who have a brother attending the school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholic Baptism Certificate or Certificate of Reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. Details of brother
3	Baptised Roman Catholic boys whose home postcode falls within a nominated Local Pastoral Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholic Baptism Certificate or Certificate of Reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church.



4	Other Baptised Roman Catholic boys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholic Baptism Certificate or Certificate of Reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church.
5.	Other Boys who are designated 'looked after children' or 'previously looked after children'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAC/PLAC Evidence
6.	Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate of Reception into the Order of Catechumens; or Certificate of Baptism or Reception from an Eastern Christian Church.
7.	Baptised Christian boys who have a brother attending the school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian Baptism Certificate Details of brother
8.	Christian boys practising in other Christian denominations supported by a minister's reference confirming that they are a full and active member of the Church.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers reference (a blank form is available on the College website)
9.	Other boys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

National Offer Day

In accordance with the Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements, all parents will be notified of the outcome of their application by their Local Authority on or about 1st March 2026.

Appeals Procedure

Following 1st March 2026, any applicant refused admission has the right to appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Should you wish to Appeal you should email admissions@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk on that day for the relevant application form.

Please note that whilst the College issues the examination scores before 31st October 2025 to assist parents in making an informed choice when completing their Local Authority Secondary application form, you will be unable to appeal refused admission until **after** 1st March 2026 as no offers will be made until that day.

Waiting List

A waiting list for Year 7 admissions will be maintained until 31st December 2026 for those boys who have qualified through the entrance examination but have not been allocated a place initially due to over-subscription. If you wish your son to be added to the waiting list please contact School Admissions at Trafford Local Authority after your allocation letter has been received - your child will not be automatically included on the waiting list. The placing of a boy's name on the waiting list does not remove the right of appeal.



DEFINITIONS

Definitions

- A “looked after child” is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority, in the exercise of their social services functions (as defined in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). A “previously looked after child” is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order (as defined in Section 14A of the Children Act 1989). This also includes children who have been in a state of care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in a state of care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.
- “Brother” means any boy (full, half, step, adopted or foster brother) of admissions age who is residing permanently at the same address as the candidate and will attend St Ambrose College at the time of the proposed admissions.
- “Pupil Premium” refers to Pupil Premium and Service Premium. The Pupil Premium is additional funding paid annually to schools under Section 14 of the Education Act 2002 for the purposes of supporting the attainment of disadvantaged children. The Service Premium is additional funding paid annually to schools under section 14 of the Education Act 2002 for the purposes of supporting the pastoral needs of the children of Armed Services Personnel.
- “Catholic boy” means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic. All Catholic boys will be required to produce a copy of their Baptism Certificate or Certificate of Reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church when they complete the registration form to sit the entrance examination. **The Certificate must be dated prior to the date of application.** Any Baptism Certificate dated after the deadline for applications will not be considered prior to 1 March 2026 but may be considered following 1 March 2026.
- ‘Catechumen’ means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This should be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the Order of Catechumens. **The Certificate must be dated prior to the date of application.**
- ‘Eastern Christian Church’ includes Orthodox Churches and should be evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church. **The Certificate must be dated prior to the date of application.**

This document must be read in conjunction with the College [Admissions Policy 2026](#).

If you require further information please email admissions@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk.