

Understanding Preference Criteria at Roncalli College

At Roncalli College, we are proud to be part of the Catholic education network within the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch. Our school is a *special character or integrated* school. This means our Catholic faith and values are at the heart of everything we do.

What does “preference” mean?

Simply put, students with *preference of enrolment* are those who have a recognised connection to the Catholic Church. This most commonly means the student has been baptised Catholic, or their family/extended family has an active relationship with the Catholic Church.

How is preference confirmed?

Preference is confirmed either by a Catholic priest, usually from your local parish, or the South Canterbury Preference Committee – which can easily be organised through the college office. They will verify that your family meets one of the criteria set by the Church.

What are the main criteria for preference enrolment?

A student may be granted preference if they meet one or more of the following:

1. The child has been *baptised or is being prepared* for baptism in the Catholic Church
2. The child’s parents/guardians have already allowed one or more of its siblings to be baptised in the Catholic faith
3. At least one parent/guardian is a Catholic
4. A significant *familial* adult undertakes to support the child’s formation in the faith and practices of the Catholic church (eg. This may be a local grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc. who is involved in their parish and actively involved in the child’s upbringing)
5. One or both child’s non-Catholic parents/guardians is preparing to become Catholic

Why is this important?

As a Catholic school, Roncalli College is required to give priority to students with preference so that we can preserve and strengthen our Catholic identity and community.

What about students without preference?

Roncalli College is able to enrol a small number of students who do not meet preference criteria. These places are limited (up to 5% of the roll) and are allocated at the discretion of the College in accordance with our enrolment policy

Our commitment to all families

We warmly welcome all students and whānau who join our community. All families, whether preference or non-preference, are expected to respect and support the Catholic values and special character of Roncalli College.

If you have any questions regarding preference eligibility, please contact the office on (03) 688-6003. We will endeavour to help support you through this process.