



*Learning and Growing Together Unique in God's Eyes*

## **ADMISSIONS POLICY 2017/2018**

### **Admissions Criteria for St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School**

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School  
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#### **Introduction**

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School is a voluntary aided Catholic co-educational day school. The school was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The school is conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with the canon law and teachings of the Catholic Church and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton trust. It was founded to provide a Catholic education for children in the parish of St John the Baptist. A map of the parish of St John the Baptist is available from the school office for inspection. The expected number of pupils on roll is 210, ranging from 4 to 11 years of age.

We offer all children the opportunity for full time/part time education from September, regardless of when their birthday falls. Parents have the right to defer their child's admission to school until the term following their fifth birthday, when, s/he reaches statutory school age. The decision about whether a child attends part-time or full-time must be reached in discussion with the Headteacher of this school (and, if appropriate, staff at the child's pre-school setting).

The school offers a Catholic education. The governors ask that parents applying for places for their children will accept and uphold the Catholic character and ethos of St John the Baptist School and respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not Catholics to apply for and be considered for a place.

Having consulted with the Diocese, Local Authority, other admission authorities and other relevant groups, the governors intend to admit into the reception class, in September 2017, up to 30 pupils without reference to ability or aptitude.

\* If you would like this document translated, please contact the school office.

## **Oversubscription Criteria**

Where the number of applications for admission exceeds 30, and after the admission of pupils with a statement of special educational needs/an Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where the school is named on the statement/EHCP; the governors will offer places using the following criteria in the order stated:

The criteria will apply for the new Reception class intake, and for admission to all classes throughout the school:

1. Baptised Catholic looked after children or Baptised Catholic previously looked after children (see note a).
2. Baptised Catholic children living, at the time of application, in the parish of St John the Baptist, and whose families attend Sunday Mass. Evidence of Baptism will be required (see note b).
3. Baptised Catholic children living, at the time of application, outside the parish of St John the Baptist, and whose families attend Sunday Mass. Evidence of Baptism will be required (see note b).
4. Other Baptised Catholic children. Evidence of Baptism will be required (see note b).
5. Other looked after children or previously looked after children (see note a).
6. Baptised children who are members of Eastern Orthodox Churches. Evidence of Baptism will be required. (See note b).
7. Children who are members of other Christian denominations that are part of 'Churches Together in England'. Evidence of Baptism (or dedication) provided by a priest or minister of a designated place of worship will be required.
8. Children who are members of other faiths. Evidence of membership of the faith provided by a priest, minister or religious leader of a designated place of worship will be required.
9. Any other children.

## **Priority within the Oversubscription Criteria (Tiebreakers):**

**The governors will apply the following order of priorities within any of the above criteria, when applications exceed the number of places available:**

- i. Exceptional social or medical need which make the school particularly suitable for the child in question. Strong and relevant evidence must be provided by an appropriate professional authority (e.g. qualified medical practitioner, education welfare officer, social worker or priest) (see note c).
- ii. For Oversubscription Criteria 2 and 3 - The strength of evidence of practice of the faith as demonstrated by the level of the family's Mass attendance on Sundays (see notes f and g). This evidence must be provided by the parent/carer and be endorsed by a priest at the church(es) where the family normally worship. Applications will be ranked in the order shown on the Supplementary Information Form i.e. firstly those attending Mass weekly or at least 3 times a month, then once or twice a month, then less than once a month.
- iii. For Oversubscription Criteria 6, 7, and 8 - The strength of evidence of practice of the faith as demonstrated by the level of the family's attendance at services. This evidence must be provided by the parent/carer and be endorsed by the minister/faith leader at the family's designated place of worship. Applications will be ranked in the order shown on the Supplementary Information Form i.e. firstly those who attend services weekly or at least three times a month, then once or twice a month, then less than once a month, then those who do not attend.
- iv. A sibling on the school roll at the time of admission. (See note d).
- v. Distance from home (the address at which the child resides) to the school (closest proximity receives highest priority) (see note e)). Evidence of residence may be required.

## **Admission Procedure**

The governing body of St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School is responsible for determining the admission arrangements of the school, including the priority of admissions to the school when the school is oversubscribed. When the application deadline has closed, the Local Authority (LA) provides to the school a list of all applicants who have applied to the school. The school will then rank the applications in strict accordance with its published admission criteria, and provide the LA with the ranked list. The LA is responsible for co-ordinating the allocation of places in its area, and for offering places to parents on behalf of the school governors on the common offer date.

To apply for a place at this school, you should complete and return the following two forms:

1. The **Common Application Form (CAF)**

All applications for places **must** be made on the Common Application Form which is available either from the Local Authority (where the parent lives) or on that Local Authority's website. For a valid application, the CAF **must** be returned either in the paper form or online before the published closing date. The closing date for the 2017-18 intake is 15 January 2017.

## **2. The school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF)**

This is available from the school office, school website and the local authority website. The information on the SIF helps the governors to put all applicants in order of priority; in line with the published admissions criteria.

\* Please note that while completion of the SIF is not mandatory, if a completed SIF is not received, the governing body will only be able to consider the application based on information provided to the Local Authority on the CAF. Unless you are applying under criterion five or nine, if a completed SIF is not received, this could result in being allocated a lower priority ranking.

The completed SIF must be returned to the school office before the published closing date. You are advised to make a copy of both forms for your records.

### **Late Applications**

All applications and supplementary information forms must be submitted on or before the published closing date.

Late applications (those where it is reasonable that a parent could have submitted an application by the closing date) will only be considered by the governors when all on-time applications have been processed.

If all places have been filled, parents will be offered the opportunity of placing their child's name on the waiting list. They should do so by writing to the admissions clerk at the school (Mrs Mouyor Mckenna).

Parents have the right to appeal against the decision not to offer their child a place.

### **Waiting Lists**

If the school is oversubscribed, 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. The waiting list will be ranked in line with the oversubscription criteria each time a child is added to the list. The waiting list will be maintained for one academic year. Parents must contact the school in writing each year, if they wish for their child's name to be kept on the list.

Parents have the right to appeal against the decision not to offer their child a place.

### **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 (Mrs Mouyor Mckenna) at the school address. Parents/Carers have the right to attend the Appeal Panel hearing.

### **In-Year Admissions**

The oversubscription criteria in this admissions policy will also apply to applications made outside the normal age of entry to primary education (Reception Year) e.g. admission to any class in the school (R – Y6) during the year.

Please ensure that you contact the school and the Local Authority when making a 'mid-year' application.

## **Offer of a Place**

Allocation letters for reception class admissions 2017-18 will be posted by the Local Authority on the common offer date of 17 April 2017. If you apply on-line you will be notified by email on that afternoon.

## **Visiting the School**

We encourage parents to visit our school in order to find out more about how we work and the education we offer. Parents are welcome to attend our information meeting, held in November each year or to arrange a visit by contacting the school office. Such visits, however, do not form part of the process of deciding which children are to be offered a place at the school.

## **Giving us Incorrect Information**

If a parent/carer is found to have supplied false or incorrect information to gain a place at this school, the governing body reserves the right to withdraw any offer of a place even if the child has already started school. An example of false or incorrect information would be the use of an address that is not the child's normal residence.

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### **Notes (these form part of the admission arrangements):**

- a) 'Looked after children' are children who are registered as being in the care of the Local Authority or provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a) e.g. fostered or living in a children's home, at the time an application for a school is made. 'Previously looked after children' means such children who have previously been in the care of a Local Authority or provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a) and who have left that care through adoption, a 'child arrangement order' (in accordance with Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) or special guardianship order (in accordance with Section 14A of the Children Act 1989).
- b) '**Baptised Catholic**' describes a member whose Church of Baptism is 'in communion with the See of Rome'. The Catholic Church comprises the Latin Rite (Roman Catholics) and the Eastern or Oriental Rite (composed of Catholic (Uniate) Churches—see below). This will be evidenced by a certificate of Baptism in a Catholic Church or certificate of reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.

<b><i>Eastern or Oriental Rite Catholic Churches in Full Communion with Rome</i></b>	
ALEXANDRIAN	Coptic, Ethiopian (Gheez)
ANTIOCHIAN	Malankrese, Maronite, Syrian
ARMENIAN	Armenian
CHALDEAN (EAST SYRIAN)	Chaldean, Syro-Malabar
CONSTANTINOPOLITAN (BYZANTINE)	Albanian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Georgian, Greek (Hellenic), Greek-Melkite, Hungarian, Italo-Albanian, Krizevci, Macedonian, Romanian, Russian, Ruthenian, Slovak (Greek), Ukrainian (Greek)

*Notes: 1. Eastern Orthodox Churches, including the Coptic Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Russian Orthodox Churches, are NOT in full communion with the See of Rome. 2. 'Ordinariates' are members of the Latin Rite. 3. Anglicans describing themselves as 'Anglo Catholics', are members of the Anglican Communion and therefore not in communion with the Holy See. Please refer any queries to the Catholic Schools Service.*

- c) **Exceptional medical need:** If the child has a serious medical condition/disability, such that the parent feels the child must go to this particular school, this must be specified on the Supplementary Information Form. Governors can only consider applications under this category if supporting evidence is attached, e.g. a letter from a registered health professional, setting out the particular reasons why this school is the most suitable and the difficulties that would be caused if the child attended another school. Governors will make their decision based on the medical evidence provided by the child's medical consultants. Governors will consult the LA's medical advisers and only agree to a priority placement if the medical advisers consider it necessary for the child to attend this school. Governors will also take into account any information on exceptional medical need that is provided by the Local Authority from the Common Application Form.

**Exceptional social need:** If parents feel there are sensitive, individual and serious family circumstances, perhaps involving the support services (e.g. social care) these may be considered at the time of the application for a school place. This will need to be specified on the Supplementary Information Form and evidence provided, e.g. a report from social services or from a priest detailing why this school is the most appropriate placement for the child, given the circumstances of the case. Governors will also take into account any information on exceptional social need that is provided by the Local Authority from the Common Application Form.

- d) **Siblings:** For admission to this school, a sibling is defined as a brother or sister (i.e. another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), or a half-brother/ half-sister or a step-brother/ step-sister or an adoptive or foster brother/ sister, living at the same address. A child will be given sibling priority if they have a sibling at the school at the time of the child's admission. Governors will also take into account any information on siblings provided by the Local Authority from the Common Application Form.
- e) **Distance:** Home to school distance will be measured by the shortest route from the child's home to the main entrance gate of the school; using the Local Authority's specialist School Admissions computer software based on Ordnance Survey and Postal Address data.

A child's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only/main residence and not an address that is sometimes used due to certain domestic/special arrangements. The address must be the pupil's home address that applies at the closing date for applications and which is either owned by the child's parent, parents, or guardian OR leased or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement. If parents live separately but share responsibility for the child, and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, the 'home address' will be regarded as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of weekday nights. If two addresses are provided, the Local Authority will decide which address should be used as the main residence for the purpose of processing the application as they only accept one current address. Parents/Carers must notify the school about any address changes during the application deadlines to ensure all applications are treated in the same way.

A block of flats has a single address point reference, so applicants living in the same block will be regarded as living the same distance away from the school. In the unlikely event that any two or more children live equidistant from the school, for example in the same block, and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child receives the place.

- f) **Parents/carers/family members:** The terms 'parent' or 'carer' are used for all persons who legally have responsibility for the child. Where the admission arrangements refer to parents or the family's attendance at Mass, it is sufficient for just one parent/carer to attend.
- g) **Practice:** The definition of Catholic practice for the purpose of admission to this school is membership of the Catholic Church (see note b) above and attendance at Sunday Mass (this includes the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening as well as other Masses on Sunday), evidenced by a priest.
- h) **Deferred entry:** Admission authorities are required to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. The parent/carer has the following options where the governing body has offered such a child a place at the school. The parent/carer can decide either:
  - I) That the child starts school full-time in the September following their fourth birthday with their natural academic cohort; or
  - II ) To defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made; or
  - III) That the child starts school on a part-time basis until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

i) **Admission of children outside their normal age group:**

Please note that it is the view of the Government, the Diocese, the LA and the Governing Body of this school that a child is educated alongside his/her age equivalent peers, in almost all cases.

Should a parent/carer request to have a decelerated entry to school i.e. to start later than other children in their chronological age group, they must initially apply for a school place in accordance with the deadlines that apply for their child's chronological age.

As an example, a request to the school for a summer born child (i.e. between 1 April to 31 August), to be admitted to the reception class in the September following their fifth birthday, must be made prior to or during the application process for the child's normal year group. An application also needs to be made to the LA for a school place in the correct year group. This will ensure that parents/carers are not disadvantaged for a preference school place in the event the request is refused.

If the request is accepted, the application for the normal year group may be withdrawn before a place is offered. The parent/carer will be required to apply in the usual way the following year, along with the cohort of applicants for that year group. It should be noted

that the application will not receive priority over or above any other applicant for this year group and the application will be considered in line with the published admission criteria applicable for that year of entry alongside all other applicants to the school.

In relation to the request, decisions are made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interest of the child. The governing body will expect the parent/carer to supply them with appropriate information and evidence. What the governing body will take into account will include:

- Views of parent/carer
- Information relating to the child's academic, social and emotional development, where relevant
- Medical history and the views of a medical professional
- Any previous history of being educated outside of their normal age group
- If the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- Views of the Head Teacher of the school.

Please note that parents/carers do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular age group. It is the governing body who, having considered the circumstances of each individual case will make a decision. The governing body will set out clearly for the parents/carers concerned the reasons for their decision in each case.

If the parent/carer is unhappy with a decision about which year group their child will be admitted to, the following applies. Parents/carers who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent admission appeal panel. However, there is not a right of appeal if the child has been offered a place and it is not in the year group the parent/carer would like.

In such cases, the parent/carer could make a complaint through the school's complaint procedure.

If a parent/carer requests to have an accelerated entry to school i.e. to start earlier than other children in their chronological age group, they must initially apply for a school place at the same time that other families are applying for that cohort. If the governing body agrees for the child to have an accelerated entry, the application will be processed. If it is not agreed for the child to have an accelerated entry, they will be invited to apply again in the following year for the correct cohort.

- j) **Infant Class sizes:** Current infant class legislation spells out that infant classes (Yr R, Yr 1 and Yr 2) must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single school teacher. Additional children may only be admitted under limited exceptional circumstances. One of these exceptions is where it is a child whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is allocated the final place in an infant class. This school will allow this exception wherever logically possible.
- k) **Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs/Educational, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) naming the school on the statement/EHCP:**

These children are admitted under a separate procedure.

## **FOR INFORMATION**

In 2014 using the admissions criteria for 2014/15, the number of children admitted under each category was as follows:-

Category 1 – 0	Category 5 - 0	Category 9 - 7
Category 2 – 18	Category 6 - 1	
Category 3 - 0	Category 7 - 2	
Category 4 - 0	Category 8 - 2	

In 2015 using the admissions criteria for 2015/16, the number of children admitted under each category was as follows:-

Category 1: 0	Category 5: 0	Category 9: 7
Category 2: 20	Category 6: 0	
Category 3: 0	Category 7: 2	
Category 4: 0	Category 8: 1	

### **Reminders:**

When making an application, please check that you have you have completed:

- The Local Authority's Common Application Form (CAF) – returned to the LA.
- The School's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) – signed by priest / minister and returned to the school (where appropriate).
- Evidence of Baptism / dedication– sent to the school (where appropriate).