

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

ADMISSION POLICY 2016-2017

The Admission Policy of the Governors of St Augustine's School is as follows:

The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

The School's Admission Number for the school year beginning in September 2016/17 is 30.

If the number of applications exceeds the admission number, the governors will give priority to applications in accordance with the criteria listed, provided that the governors are made aware of that application before decisions on admissions are made (see Note 1 below). If there is oversubscription within a category, the governors will give priority to children living closest to the school determined by shortest distance (see Note 4).

A map of the parish boundary is available at the school and parish.

1. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) who are in the care of a local authority (children in care) or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents) (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989), and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
2. Baptised Catholic children living within the Parish of St Augustine's who have a brother or sister (see Note 3 below) in the school at the time of admission
3. Baptised Catholic children living within the Parish of St Augustine's
4. Other Baptised Catholic children who have a brother or sister in the school at the time of admission
 - a. Other Baptised Catholic children
6. Non-Catholic children (see Note 2 below) who are in the care of a local authority (children in care) or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents) (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989), and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
7. Non-Catholic children who have a brother or sister in the school at the time of admission
8. Non-Catholic children

Note 1

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that names the school must be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to other applicants. This is not an oversubscription criterion.

Note 2

In all categories, for a child to be considered as a Catholic, evidence of Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Church will be required. For a definition of a Baptised Catholic see the Appendix. Those who face difficulties in producing written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest.

Parents making an application for a Catholic child should also complete the school's supplementary information form (SIF). Failure to complete the SIF may affect the criterion the child's name is placed in.

Note 3

For Catholic and non-Catholic children the definition of a brother or sister is:

- A brother or sister sharing the same parents;
- Half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one common parent;
- Step-brother or step-sister
- Adopted or fostered children.

Note 4

Distances are calculated on the basis of a straight-line measurement between the applicant's home address and the school main gate. The local authority uses a computerised system, which measures all distances in metres. Ordnance Survey supply the co-ordinates that are used to plot an applicant's home address within this system.

In a very small number of cases it may not be able to decide between the applicants of those pupils who are qualifiers for a place, when applying the published admission criteria.

For example, this may occur when children in the same year group live at the same address or if the distance between the home and school is exactly the same, for example, blocks of flats. If there is no other way of separating the application according to the admissions criteria and to admit both or all of the children would cause the legal limit to be exceeded, the local authority will use a computerised system to randomly select the child to be offered the final place.

The home address of a pupil is considered to be the permanent residence of a child. The address must be the child's only or main residence for the majority of the school week. Documentary evidence may be required.

Where care is split equally between mother and father, parents must name which address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place and proof may be requested.

SCHOOL ENTRY

Parents must, by law, ensure that their child is receiving suitable full-time education from the beginning of the term following the child's fifth birthday, when they will have begun to be of compulsory school age. Whilst a child may start school in September following their fourth birthday, a parent may choose to defer their child's admission until the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday; however, the child's entry may not be deferred beyond the academic year for which the parent's original application was accepted.

The parent of a child whose birthday falls in the summer term who wishes to defer their child's admission to primary/infant school until the beginning of the following academic year (when the child

will have begun to be of compulsory school age) will therefore need to make a separate application for a place in Year 1 at the school. Any reception place offered following an application made in the 2016/17 admission round will be withdrawn if the child does not take up that place during the 2016/17 academic year.

Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Applications for children to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group

If parents wish for their child to be considered for admission to a class outside of their normal age group, they should make an application for the normal age group in the first instance. Parents should then submit a formal request to the Governing Body. This request should be in the form of a written letter of application outlining the reasons why you wish for your child to be considered to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group, and enclosing any supportive evidence and documentation that you wish to be taken into account as part of that request. The Governing Body will consider applications submitted and advise the parents of the outcome of their application before the national offer day, having taken into account the information provided by the parents, the child's best interests and the views of the Head Teacher.

If parents are considering submitting an application for their child to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group, it is strongly recommended that they also read the DFE Guidance which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission>

NURSERY

Parents must apply on the local authority form for a place in Reception Class. Attendance at a nursery does not automatically guarantee that a place will be offered in main school.

APPEALS

Parents who wish to appeal against the decision of the Governors to refuse their child a place in the school may apply in writing to Chair of Governors. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel.

REPEAT APPLICATIONS

Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time outside the admissions round. Parents do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the admission authority has accepted a second application from the appellant because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission.'

LATE APPLICATIONS

Late applications will be dealt with according to the local authority co-ordinated scheme.

WAITING LIST

Parents whose children have not been offered their preferred school will be informed of their right of appeal and will be added to their preferred schools waiting list.

The Local Authority will send voluntary aided and foundation schools their waiting lists following the offer of school places.

Waiting lists for admission will remain open until the 31 December 2016 and will then be discarded. Parents may apply for their child's name to be reinstated.

Waiting lists will not be fixed following the offer of places. They are subject to change. This means that a child's waiting list position during the year could go up or down. Any late applicants accepted will be added to the school's list in accordance with the order of priority for allocating places.

Inclusion on a school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available. It may be that those already offered places may accept them, thereby filling all available places.

IN YEAR FAIR ACCESS POLICY

The governing body have adopted the LA fair access policy for admission of previously excluded or hard to place children.

APPLICATIONS OTHER THAN THE NORMAL INTAKE TO RECEPTION CLASS

An application should be made to the Governing Body of the school.

There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to this school.

APPENDIX

DEFINITION OF A "BAPTISED CATHOLIC"

A "Baptised Catholic" is one who:

- has been baptised into full communion (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 837*) with the Catholic Church by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various ritual Churches in communion with the See of Rome (i.e. Latin Rite, Byzantine Rite, Coptic, Syriac, etc, Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1203*). Written evidence* of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place (Cf. *Code of Canon Law, 877 & 878*).

or

- has been validly baptised in a separated ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the *Right of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church*. Written evidence of their baptism and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases, a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the *Rite of Reception* took place (Cf. *Rite of Christian Initiation, 399*).

***WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF BAPTISM**

The Governing bodies of Catholic schools will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Baptism or Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of "Baptised Catholics". A Certificate of Baptism or Reception is to include: the full name, date of birth, date of baptism or reception, and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of baptism or reception.

Those who would have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to their parish priest who, after consulting the Vicar General, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

Those who would be considered to have good reason for not obtaining written evidence would include those who cannot contact the place of baptism due to persecution or fear, the destruction of the church and the original records, or where baptism was administered validly but not in the Parish church where records are kept.

Governors may request extra supporting evidence when the written documents that are produced do not clarify the fact that a person was baptised or received into the Catholic Church, (i.e. where the name and address of the Church is not on the certificate or where the name of the Church does not state whether it is a Catholic Church or not.)