



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSION POLICY – 2017/18

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School was founded by the Sisters of Mercy to provide education for children of Catholic families; it is in the trusteeship of the Diocese of Southwark. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeates every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education is fully supported by all families in the school.

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 rights of parent who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

The governing body has responsibility for admissions to this school and, having consulted with the local authority and other admission authorities, intends to admit 45 pupils to the Reception class and 30 FTE to the Nursery class (*NB. Admissions to the nursery are based on the same criteria as admissions to the main school*).

Oversubscription Criteria

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, the Governors will offer places using the following criteria in the order stated:-

1. 'Looked after' Catholic children or looked after children in the care of Catholic families and previously looked after Catholic children who have been adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.
2. Baptised Catholic children, evidence of baptism will be required.
3. Children enrolled in the catechumenate. Evidence of enrolment in the catechumenate will be required.
4. Other 'looked after' children and other previously looked after children who have been adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.
5. Children who are members of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Evidence of Baptism will be required.
6. Children of families 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.

7. Children who are members of other faiths. Evidence of membership of the faith provided by a priest, minister or religious leader of the designated place of worship will be required.
8. Any other children.

The following order of priorities will be applied when applications within any of the above categories exceed the places available and it is necessary to decide between applicants.

- I. For Category 2 above – the strength of evidence of commitment to the faith as demonstrated by the level of the family’s Mass attendance on Sunday’s. This evidence must be provided by the parents/carers 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 Form; firstly those who attend Mass weekly, then once or twice a month etc.
- II. A brother or sister on the school roll at the time of admission. Evidence of the relationship may be required.
- III. Social, pastoral and medical needs which make the school particularly suitable for the child in question. Strong and relevant evidence in the form of a letter must be provided by an appropriate professional authority (e.g. qualified medical practitioner, education welfare officer, social worker or priest)
- IV. Proximity to the school from the Candidates home address, the distance measured in a straight line from the School entrance. Evidence of residence may be required. Where the last remaining space is to be allocated and two or more children are deemed to live at the same distance from the school, the place will be decided by the drawing of lots.

Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

- a. Catholics include members of the Ordinariate and the Latin and Oriental Rite Churches that are in union with the Bishop of Rome. Reference to other Christian denominations refers to denominations that are full members of Churches Together in England.
- b. A “brother or sister” means children who live as brother and sister including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers or sisters. It would not include other relatives (e.g. cousins).
- c. Home refers to the permanent home address at which the child lives for the majority of his/her time.
- d. Looked after children are those in the care of a public authority and are in public care. Applications made under this criterion must be accompanied by details of circumstance and professionally supported evidence (e.g. from an appropriate social worker).