



Great Aycliffe
Catholic Schools'
Federation

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Admissions Policy 2015-2016

Ratified by Governors	
Review Date	March 2014
Person Responsible	HT

St. Mary's RC Primary School Central Avenue Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham. DL5 5NP Tel. 01325 300339	Planned Admission Number: 30	Serving the parish of Catholic Parish Holy Family, Great Aycliffe and Shildon
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This Admissions policy has been formally adopted by the governing body of Great Aycliffe Catholic Schools' Federation which is the governing body of the school and therefore is the Admissions Authority.

How and When to apply

Applications must be made on the Local Authority Common Application Form. All forms must be returned by the closing date set by Durham County Council.

Late Applications

Any applications received after the closing date will be accepted but considered only after those received by the closing date.

Oversubscription Criteria

Children who have a statement of **Special Educational Need** which names our school will be admitted to the school.

Where there are insufficient places available to meet all parental preferences, priority will be given to applications in the following order:

(First priority in each category will be given to children who will have older siblings attending the school in September 2015).

1. Looked after Catholic children in the care of the local authority or children that were looked after by the local authority and immediately after that became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order, (see definitions.)
2. Catholic Children whose home address is within the parish(es) served by the school.
3. Catholic Children whose home address is outside of the parish(es) served by the school.
4. Looked after children in the care of the local authority or children that were looked after by the local authority and immediately after that became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order, (see definitions.)
5. Children, who are baptised or dedicated members of other Christian Churches as recognised by Churches Together in England (see note 4).
6. Children of other faith traditions.
7. Other children.

If applicants are seeking admission under criteria 1, 2 or 3 above, they must provide evidence of Baptism or letter of support from their parish priest.

If applicants are seeking admission under criteria 5 or 6 above, they must provide a letter of support to confirm their church membership from their minister or faith leader, or suitable equivalent.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

1. Definition of Catholic

Children who have been baptised as Catholics or have been formally received into the Catholic Church. All applicants seeking admission under criteria 1, 2 or 3 will be asked to provide evidence that the child has been baptised as a Catholic or has been received into the Catholic Church. A baptismal certificate or a letter from their priest confirming their baptism or reception into the Catholic Church will suffice.

2. Definition of Looked After Child

A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time the application for admission to school is made and whom the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the date of admission.

An Adoption Order is an order made under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

A Residence Order is an order outlining the arrangements as to the person with whom the child will live under Section 8 of the Children Act in 1989.

A Special Guardianship Order is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians, (Section 14A children Act 1989.)

3. Definition of Sibling

Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

4. Churches Together in England

See www.churches-together.org.uk for further details on membership.

5. Tie-breaker

Where there are places available for some, but not all applicants within a particular criterion, distance from home address to the school entrance will be the deciding factor. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the front door of the child's home address (including flats) to the main entrance of the school, [using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system], with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Right of Appeal

Where a parent has been notified that a place is not available for a child, every effort will be made to help the parent to find a place in a suitable alternative school. Parents who are refused a place have a statutory right of appeal. Further details of the appeals process are available by writing to the Chair of Governors at the school address.

Home Address

It is the parental address which will be used in applying the admission criteria. This means that, when stating your choice of school, you should give the parental/guardian address at the time of application. The address of childminders or other family members who may share in the care of your child should not be quoted as the home address.

Waiting Lists

If your child has been refused admission, you can request that your child's name be placed on the school's waiting list. If places become available, we will consider all relevant applications based on the waiting list which will be maintained for the full academic year.

Application Information

It is very helpful to have an early indication of the number of children to be admitted to the Reception class in the following September. However, it must be stressed that formal written applications for admission must be made on the form provided by the Local Authority and returned to them by the stated date. Places will then be allocated by strict application of the above criteria, with no reference to the date of application. Parents will be notified as to whether or not their child has been allocated a place on a date to be advised by Durham Local Authority.