



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School Admissions Policy 2016-17

Ratified by Governors	
Review Date	February 2013
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  St. Mary and St. Joseph, Great Aycliffe
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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.

### **Admission of Children below Compulsory School Age and Deferred Entry**

A child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday. A request may be made for the date at which a child, below compulsory school age, is admitted to the school, to be deferred to later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year. A child may take up a part-time place until the child reaches compulsory school age. Upon receipt of the offer of a place a parent should notify the school in writing, as soon as possible, that they wish to either defer their child's entry to the school or take up a part-time place.

### **Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group**

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Any such request should be made in writing to the headteacher of the school. The Admissions Authority will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the headteacher who has statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the Admissions Authority will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals.

### **Summer Born Children**

The parents of a summer born child, i.e. a child born between 1 April and 31 August, may request that the child be admitted out of their normal age group, to the reception class in the September following their fifth birthday and that that the child will remain in this cohort as they progress through school.

Parents who want to make this request should make an application for their child's normal age group at the usual time. The application to the local authority should include this request and in addition it should be made in writing to the headteacher of the school. The local authority will liaise with the governing body who will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the headteacher, who has statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the governing body will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals.

Parents will be informed of the outcome of the request before primary national offer day.

If the request is agreed by the governing body, the application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before a place is offered. If the request is refused, the parent must decide whether to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group, or to refuse it and make an in year application for admission to year one for the September following the child's fifth birthday.

Where a parent's request is agreed, they must make a new application as part of the main admissions round the following year.

One admission authority cannot be required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission out of the normal age group. Parents, therefore, should consider whether to request admission out of the normal year group at all their preference schools, rather than just their first preference schools.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

Children who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan or a statement of Special Educational Need where the school is named as the most appropriate educational setting for the child will be admitted.

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 2016).*

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, child arrangements 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, child arrangements or special guardianship order, (see definitions.)
5. Children, who are baptised or dedicated members of other Christian Churches.
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.

## **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 Child Arrangements 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. 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. In assessing home to school distance the LA measures by the shortest walking route. Routes are measured from the centre point\* of the child's house, or in the case of a flat from the centre point\* of the building, to the nearest school site entrance. A Geographic Information System (GIS) is used to identify and measure the shortest walking route. The GIS identifies routes on the Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network (ITN) and Urban Paths Network (UPN), which are national recognised datasets. The LA will not include any other routes. In all cases the GIS identifies the route to be measured by connecting in a straight line the centre point\* of the child's house to the closest point on the nearest route on the ITN/UPN.

\* In accordance with the co-ordinates of the Basic Land and Property Unit on the National Land and Property Gazetteer.

## **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 16 April 2016.