



2019 ADMISSIONS

REVIEWED:
NEXT REVIEW:

Our Mission Statement

To be the best you can be

To achieve these aims the school will:-

Work to create a sense of belonging between school, community and Parish

Listen to the views of others in our school community

Work to create a happy and secure environment where everyone is welcomed, valued and respected.

Endeavour to give all pupils opportunity to succeed at every level in the curriculum.

Offer positive and honest appraisal of achievement and challenge us all to be better

Place a high value on love and laughter.

St Mary's Catholic First School Dorchester

Admissions Policy of St Mary's Catholic First School

At St Mary's we aim to increase the knowledge, experience, understanding and confidence of our children. We establish an awareness of moral values and social behaviour patterns. We foster a happy atmosphere, where children and parents feel comfortable and where our Catholic values are striven for and accepted.

Applications

The School caters for approximately one hundred and fifty six children and admits pupils in the autumn term. The Published Admission Number is 30.

The governors welcome applications for places in the school from all children.

Whilst preference is given to catholic children if places are oversubscribed, the school population is made up of children from a whole spectrum of religious and non religious persuasions. The Governors are pleased to have such a varied intake and would positively encourage such diversity.

Applications for Reception Year entry for the academic year starting September must be formally registered with the LA before the date stated on the County Registration form for consideration by the admission authority. Parents may apply for admissions to any year group via the Dorset Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme or on-line via www.dorsetforyou.com.

Waiting Lists

It is always necessary to complete a Local Authority Common Application form to apply for a school place. Registering interest with the school before the admissions round guarantees neither a place nor priority within the oversubscription criteria. Offers of places will be made by the Local Authority on the school's behalf.

If the school is oversubscribed for children due to start in the Reception Year in 2019-2020, a waiting list will be maintained for this year group only. The position on the list will be determined by applying the published over-subscription criteria and not by date of receipt. This will mean a position will change if a later application is received from someone with higher priority according to the over-subscription criteria. The existence of a waiting list does not remove the right of appeal against any refusal of a place from any unsuccessful applicant.

Names will only be removed from the list if a written request is received, or if the offer of a place that becomes available is declined. The waiting list will close on 14th December 2019. At that time parents of pupils on existing lists must confirm in writing their wish to be placed on a newly constructed waiting (or continued interest) list.

Reception Class Admission Timetable

According to the law, children have a statutory right to be admitted to school full-time at the start of the school year following their fourth birthday.

Children who are five between 1st September and 31st August the following year will be admitted to Reception class at the beginning of the autumn term on a full time basis. St. Mary's acknowledges that this may be too much for some children and in this case would urge parents to choose part-time education (full days on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) for the first autumn half term. The expectation is that all children will attend full time from the autumn half term, however parents have the right to request part time admission until their child reaches compulsory school age.

Deferment

Where an offer of a place is made to a child below compulsory school age, parents have the right to defer their child's entry to school until later in the school year. The place is held for that child and is not available to be offered to another child. Entry may not be deferred beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which admission is sought.

Where a child does not take up the place offered on a full/part time basis when agreed, that place will be considered vacant and offered to another child.

Oversubscription Criteria

In the event that places are oversubscribed, applications will be ranked according to the categories set out below:

1. Child in care¹
2. Catholic children or children of at least one Catholic parent
3. Children who have a sibling² in the school at the time of admission
4. Children who are members of another recognised Christian Church
5. Children who are members of another recognised faith tradition
6. Other children of whatever background whose parents' preference for the school is because they wish their child to experience a faith-centred education
7. All other children whose parents express a preference for the school for whatever reason.

Where this school is named in a child's Statement of Special Educational Needs, the governing body recognizes a duty to admit the child to the school before any of the above criteria are applied.

If two or more applications within category 2 are tied, priority will be given firstly to children who will have a sibling² in the school at the time of admission. If there are still too few places to satisfy preferences expressed within any of the priority order categories above, places will be allocated on the basis of the child's closeness to the school (defined by straight line measurement using a Geographical Information based

¹ A "Child in Care" means any child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. A child who was "previously a Child in Care" means a child who after being Looked After became subject to an Adoption Order under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, a Residence Order under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 or Special Guardianship Order under Section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

² This means a brother or sister, half brother or half sister, step brother or sister, adopted brother or sister or the child of a 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.

system which identifies an Easting and Northing for the home address and the school building and calculates the distance between the two locations).

In the event of oversubscription, applicants may be asked to produce evidence to support their application in respect of categories 2 to 6 above. (See details in APPENDIX ONE attached hereto)

Children of multiple births are allowable exceptions to infant class size regulations and in the event of such an application, the school will, if reasonably practicable and subject to the above criteria, make its admission decision taking this also into account.

Appeals

Parents have a right of appeal to the Governing Body of a refusal of an application for a school place. Details of the appeals procedure are sent out with all refusal letters.

APPENDIX ONE

Evidence requested to assist the Governors in applying the Oversubscription Criteria

Category 2 - Catholic children or children of at least one Catholic parent

Evidence – Baptismal Certificate or signature of a Catholic priest confirming his knowledge of the child's or parent's baptism.

Category 4 – Children who are members of another recognised Christian Church

Evidence – Signature of a minister of religion testifying to this fact.

Category 5 – Children who are members of another recognised faith tradition

Evidence – Signature of a minister of religion testifying to this fact.

Category 6 – Other children of whatever background whose parents' preference for the school is because they wish their child to experience a faith-centred education.

Evidence – Signature of parent(s) making that statement.