



St Mary's Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School, Northchurch

Admissions Policy and Application Procedure for Academic Year 2020/21

Social and Medical Need Applications

The Governing Body allows children for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a particular social or medical need to go to the school to apply for a place under rule 3. Social and medical need applications will be considered by a panel of governors and must be supported by evidence. Parents who are making a social and medical need application should state their reasons via the Hertfordshire County Council Website in support of their online application.

Successful applications for social and medical need (rule 3) will include the following at the time the parent applies for a place:

1. Evidence that the child or their parent or carer can demonstrate a wholly exceptional social or medical need to attend the school and that **only** St Marys school can meet the child's social or medical needs
2. Where there are other schools nearer to the child's home address, why each of these schools is unable to meet the child's needs
3. Recent independent and objective evidence establishing the parent's, carer's or child's social or medical need to attend the school (this may be from a GP, educational psychologist, social worker, police officer or other professional) or relevant family circumstances.

Applicants should note:

1. Social and medical need applications will only be considered at the time of initial application, unless there has been a significant and exceptional change of circumstances within the family since the initial application was submitted. **Information received after the closing date will only be considered if there is a significant change of circumstances.**
2. All Hertfordshire Local Authority schools are able to work with children with special educational needs and severe medical needs. It is therefore unlikely that applications on these grounds alone will succeed in demonstrating that **only** St Mary's Church of England Primary School Northchurch can meet the child's needs.
3. In medical cases applicants must provide a clear explanation of why the child's or parent's or carer's severity of illness or disability makes attendance at only St Mary's Church of England Primary School Northchurch essential
4. Applications on the basis of domestic arrangements, for example child care arrangements, will **NOT** succeed without evidence supporting compelling social and medical reasons.
5. Applications under rule 3 that fail to satisfy the governors that there is a compelling social or medical need to admit the child will be processed at the next highest admission criteria. Parents applying under rule 3 are therefore advised to also state on Supplementary Information Form 1 the next highest criteria under which the child would qualify.
6. Documentary evidence to support the application will be required by the Governors.
7. A panel of governors will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to meet the requirements of this rule on a case by case basis.

Out-of-Year-Group applications

1. Where an application for Medical and Social Need is being made for a child for whom the parent or carer is also asking the school to consider an Out-of-Year-Group application (see **Out-of-Year-Group Admission Pack** then documentary evidence that admissions authorities of all schools nearer the child's address (usually the Local Authority) have declined an Out-of-Year-Group application will be necessary for the application to be considered under medical and social need to be approved. It is for this reason that the Governing Body advises any parent applying for an Out-of-Year-Group place at St Marys to also

apply independently for an Out-of-Year-Group place to the admissions authorities of all primary /infant schools nearer the child's home address.

2. Parents should note that the criteria for Social and Medical Need will be applied separately and independently from the criteria for Out-of-Year-Group applications. Children applying under Social and Medical Need who are not also applying for an out of years place will be treated equally to those who are.

How to apply for social and medical needs:

1. Complete Supplementary Information Form 1 entering rule 3.
2. Also enter the next highest ranking rule that could apply in case the school declines the social and medical need
3. In the online application via Hertfordshire County Council website please give the reasons in writing why you believe the child qualifies under this rule.

If you need more advice please contact the school.