

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Admissions Arrangements, 2017/2018: agreed by the Governing Body on Monday 23rd November 2015.

Our Lady's Primary School is a voluntary aided school in the Diocese of Southwark. It is in the trusteeship of the Diocese. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. The school exists primarily to serve the Catholic community and Catholic children always have priority of admission. However the Governing Body also welcomes applications from those of other denominations and faiths who support the religious ethos of the school.

30 Pupils will be admitted to the Reception Year in 2017/2018. Although parents may wish to defer their child's school place until the start of the term following their fifth birthday the School does have the facilities to admit these children at the beginning of the academic year in which their birthday falls.

The maximum number of pupils in any Key Stage 1 class (Years R, 1 and 2) for each academic year is 30. This conforms to the Government's policy of limiting infant class sizes to a maximum of 30 pupils.

1. The Governors plan to admit 30 children born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 inclusive without reference to ability, race, gender or class to the school in September 2017.
2. Before the application of oversubscription criteria, children with an Education, Health and Care Plan which names the school will be admitted. As a result of this the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.
3. Priority will be given to an applicant who is a member of a practising Catholic family who submits a Supplementary Form, and for whom there is a clerical reference confirming his/her regular religious practice. ***For Categories B and C below, the strength of evidence of commitment to the faith as demonstrated by the level of the family's Mass attendance on Sundays. 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.***
4. In accordance with the Coordinated Admissions Arrangements, all applications will be ranked according to the following criteria, applied in order, and places will be offered on behalf of the Governors by the Local Authority in the ranked order, with Category A having the highest priority, followed by Category B, and so on.

Category A

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 who have become the subject of a residence or guardianship order.

Category B

Catholic children, a baptismal certificate or evidence of reception into the Catholic Church must accompany the Supplementary Form.

Category C

Children enrolled in the catechumenate. Evidence of enrolment in the catechumenate will be required.

Category D

Other looked after children and other previously looked after children who have been adopted or who have become the subject of a residence or guardianship order.

Category E

Children who are members of Eastern Orthodox Churches. Evidence of baptism will be required.

Category F

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 dedicated place of worship will be required.

Category G

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

Category H

The child of an applicant who expresses a wish for the child to attend the school.

5. Where within any of the above categories one or more applicants would otherwise be ranked equally, the following criteria shall be applied in order:

- a) *Sibling priority*: A child who will have a brother or sister in the school at the start of the year of admission. Evidence of the relationship may be required.
- b) *Social/Medical*: Medical, health, social and special access reasons will be applied in accordance with the school's legal obligations, in particular those under the Equality Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Equally this priority will apply to children whose parents'/guardians' physical or mental health or social needs means that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Such claims will need to be supported by written evidence from a suitably qualified medical or other practitioner who can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and the particular school.

c) *Proximity*: The distance from home to school, measured in a straight line, is shorter than that of other applicants. We use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using Ordnance Survey address point data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by Ordnance Survey. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. Where the last remaining place 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.

6. Explanatory notes:

"Catholic baptised" is used to mean holy baptism into the Catholic Church. Catholics include members of the Ordinariate and the Latin and Oriental Rite Churches that are in union with the Bishop of Rome; a baptismal certificate or evidence of reception into the Catholic Church for the child must accompany the supplementary information form; "parent" is used to mean a person exercising parental responsibility under the 1989 Children Act;

"children in Local Authority care" means a child for whom the local authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents/carers (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) or who is the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act. This applies equally to children who immediately after being looked after by the local authority become subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. (As defined by Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or Section 8 or 14A of the Children Act 1989);

"sibling" means – natural brother or sister (including adopted siblings)
step-brother or sister
foster brother or sister
those who live as brother or sister in the same house.

7. **Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) –**

The admissions of pupils with an EHCP are dealt with by a completely separate procedure. The procedure is integral to the making and maintaining of EHCPs by the pupil's home local authority. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the SEND code of practice. Pupils with an EHCP naming the school will be admitted without reference to the above criteria.

8. The timing of the stages of the admissions process will follow that of the Kent Coordinated Scheme for Primary Admissions: The dates of relevant events are:

Prospectus available for parents: *November 2016*

Closing date for receipt of applications: *January 2017*

Notification of allocation decisions: *April 2017*

9. Admission of children below compulsory school age – The governors

will provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to the school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year; parents may also request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

10. Parents whose applications for places are unsuccessful may appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel set up in accordance with section 85(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing and must set out the reasons on which the appeal is made. Appeals should be made to the Admissions Appeal Clerk at the school address, by the date specified in the Kent Coordinated Scheme for Primary Admissions. Parents/Carers have the right to make oral representations to the Appeal Panel.

- a) the admission of additional children would not breach the infant class size limit; or
- b) the admission arrangements did not comply with admissions law or had not been correctly and impartially applied and the child would have been offered a place if the arrangements had complied or had been correctly and impartially applied; or
- c) the panel decides that the decision to refuse admission was not one which a reasonable admission authority would have made in the circumstances of the case.

11. After a place has been offered the school reserves the right to withdraw the place in the following circumstances:

- 1. when a parent has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time; or
- 2. when a parent has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information; or
- 3. the admission authority offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent.

12. Parents of children who have not been offered a place at the school may ask for their child's name to be placed on a **waiting list**. The waiting list, which will be maintained until July 2018, will be operated using the same admissions criteria listed above. Placing a child's name on the waiting list does not guarantee that a place will become available. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place.

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Supplementary Information Form

This form should be completed when applying for a place in a Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Southwark. Please complete and sign the form below and, if you are Catholic, hand it to your parish priest or the parish priest at the church at which you normally worship. He will add his reference in Part 2 and forward the form to the school to which you wish to apply. If you are not a Catholic, please hand the form to your minister or equivalent who will add his or her reference in Part 3.

Note: You must also complete and return a Common Application Form (available from the school and/or Local Authority)

PART 1 (To be completed by all parents or carers)

School to which you are applying: _____

Address of school: _____

Surname of child: _____ Date of birth: _____

Christian/forename(s) of child: _____

Religion/Denomination: (eg Roman Catholic) _____ Boy Girl

Date and place of Baptism (if applicable): _____

Parents' names: _____

Parents' religions/denominations: _____

Home address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

Contact telephone numbers: _____ (Mother/Father/Carer)

If **Catholic**, indicate which Mass you normally attend: Saturday at _____ (time)
or Sunday at _____ (time)

Parish in which you live (eg Holy Innocents, Orpington) _____

Usual place of worship (if different): _____

How long have you worshipped there? _____ years. If you have recently moved to the parish please give details of your previous parish

How often do you attend Mass? weekly once or twice a month less often

Please add here any other information you may feel is relevant to this application in relation to the school's admissions policy in respect of exceptional medical, social or pastoral needs of your child that make only this school suitable for them. Strong and relevant evidence must be provided by an appropriate professional authority (eg qualified medical practitioner, education welfare officer, social worker or priest). (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

I confirm that the information we have given on this form is accurate and truthful:

Signed: _____ Parent/carers Date: _____

PART 2 (To be completed by Catholic priests only)

A. For all schools:

I am satisfied that the child is a baptised Roman Catholic or a Church that is in full communion with Rome

Yes No

B. For schools requiring evidence of practice:

| <u>PARENT/CARER</u> | <u>CHILD</u> |
|--|---|
| Are the parents known to you? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | Is the child known to you? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Regular attendance at Mass (i.e. weekly) <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular attendance at Mass (i.e. weekly) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Occasional attendance at Mass (i.e. once or twice a month) <input type="checkbox"/> | Occasional attendance at Mass (i.e. once or twice a month) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Irregular attendance at Mass (i.e. less than once a month) <input type="checkbox"/> | Irregular attendance at Mass (i.e. less than once a month) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| How long have the parent(s) attended your church? _____ | How long has the child attended your church? _____ |

I am satisfied that the child is enrolled in the catechumenate Yes No

Please comment, if appropriate, **only** to clarify the Mass attendance above:

Priest's name: _____ Parish (or ethnic chaplaincy): _____

Address: _____ Tel.: _____

Parish stamp or seal

Priest's signature: _____

Date: _____

PART 3 (To be completed only by ministers of other denominations or faiths)

Non-Catholic parents/carers from other denominations or faiths should hand this form to their minister or equivalent asking them to complete the section below and return it as soon as possible to the school indicated over.

I confirm that this family are members of our faith community The family is not known to me

Name of minister: _____ Denomination/faith: _____

Parish or faith community: _____

Address: _____ Tel.: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Instructions to the priest, minister or other faith leader:

Please complete and return this form by..... to the Clerk to the Governors at the Catholic school indicated overleaf.