

Kent
Catholic
Schools'
Partnership



'Academies in Christ'
Part of the Archdiocese of Southwark

Primary Schools Admissions policy 2023-2024

1. Introduction

This policy applies to admissions to primary schools within the Kent Catholic Schools Partnership ("the Trust") from 1 September 2023. It has been agreed by the Trust Board, as the admissions authority, after due consultation including with the Archdiocese Education Commission and Kent County Council. The schools included are:

Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Maidstone
More Park Catholic Primary School, West Malling
Our Lady of Hartley Catholic Primary School
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, Tunbridge Wells
St Edwards Catholic Primary School, Sheerness
St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, Margate
St John's Catholic Primary School, Gravesend
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Aylesham
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Broadstairs
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Northfleet
St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School, Tonbridge
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Deal
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Whitstable
St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Sittingbourne
St Richard's Catholic Primary School, Dover
St Simon of England Catholic Primary School, Ashford
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Ashford
St Thomas' Catholic Primary School, Sevenoaks
Stella Maris Catholic Primary School, Folkestone

These schools are part of the Archdiocese of Southwark. Their mission is to provide a Catholic education for all Catholic children in their area and for any other child whose parent or carer wishes their child to have such an education.

2. Planned Admission Numbers

The Trust plans to offer the following number of places in year R in each school:

School	Planned Admission Number
Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Maidstone	30
More Park Catholic Primary School, West Malling	30
Our Lady of Hartley Catholic Primary School	30
Stella Maris Catholic Primary School, Folkestone	30
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, Tunbridge Wells	30
St Edwards Catholic Primary School, Sheerness	30
St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, Margate	45
St John's Catholic Primary School, Gravesend	120
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Aylesham	30
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Broadstairs	30
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Northfleet	30
St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School, Tonbridge	60
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Deal	30
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Whitstable	60
St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Sittingbourne	30
St Richard's Catholic Primary School, Dover	30
St Simon of England Catholic Primary School, Ashford	30
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Ashford	30
St Thomas' Catholic Primary School, Sevenoaks	30

3. Oversubscription criteria

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

The admission of pupils with with an EHC Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. The procedure is integral to the making and maintaining of EHC plans by the pupil's home local authority. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the SEND code of practice. All children whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names one of the schools will be admitted before any other places are allocated

In the event that any of the schools receives more applications than the planned admission number, places will be offered in rank order set through the following criteria:

1. Looked after Catholic children or looked after children in the care of Catholic families, previously looked after Catholic children who have been adopted or who become the subject of a residence or guardianship order, and Catholic children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A copy of the baptismal certificate or evidence of reception into the Catholic Church must accompany the Supplementary Information Form (SIF). *See notes 1 and 2.*
2. Baptised Catholic children. A copy of the baptismal certificate or evidence of reception into the Catholic Church must accompany the Supplementary Information Form (SIF). *See note 2.*
3. Other looked after children, previously looked after children who have been adopted or who have become the subject of a residence or guardianship order, and children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. *See note 1*
4. Children who will have siblings at the school at the date of entry. *See note 3*

5. Children of staff. See *note 4*
6. Children enrolled in the catechumenate and children whose families are members of other Christian denominations. See *note 5*
7. Children of other faiths. See *note 6*
8. Other children.

The following order of priorities will be applied when applications within any of the above categories exceed the places available and it is necessary to decide between applications within each category.

- i. Priority will first be given to children with a sibling (see note 3) in the school at the time of admission
- ii. **For Category 2 above for St Joseph's Primary, Northfleet and St Thomas' Primary, Sevenoaks ONLY:** If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the applications will be placed in rank order of the frequency and duration of the family's attendance at mass over the last three years. Firstly, those who attend Mass weekly, then once a month etc. This evidence must be provided by completion of the Supplementary Information Form by the child's parents/carers, endorsed by a priest at the Catholic church(es) where the family normally attends mass. If the family has moved very recently, the form can be signed by a priest at their previous church(es).

NB: The suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass was announced on 18th March 2020 by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. If a parent or carer attended Mass at a certain frequency at a particular parish (or parishes) prior to 18th March 2020 then they will be considered to have attended Mass in that parish (or parishes) at the same frequency since that time. This will remain the case until the Sunday obligation is reintroduced by the Bishops.
- iii. **For Category 6 and 7 above:** If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, priority will be given to those applicants who have shown commitment to their faith for at least three years. This evidence must be provided by completion of the Supplementary Information Form by the child's parents/carers, endorsed by a minister or faith leader of the faith community where the family normally attends. If the family has moved very recently, the form can be signed by a minister or faith leader at their previous place of worship
- iv. The proximity to the school from the applicant's home address, the distance measured in a straight line from the school entrance by the Local Authority. Distance for the purposes of these criteria is measured between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) 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 NLPG. Evidence of residence will be required. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. In the unlikely event that there are two or more applications of equal eligibility for the last available place at the school a random selection will be applied.

3.2 Notes

Note 1

Looked after children are children who, at the time of making an application to a school are:

A **looked after child** is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

A **previously looked after child** means such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangement orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and those children who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

A child is regarded as having been **in state care outside of England** if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organization, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

Note 2

Catholic children includes 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 must be provided with the Supplementary Information Form.

Note 3

Siblings are defined as natural and adopted brothers and sisters, and children who live as a brother and sister in the same house, including stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

Note 4

Children of staff applies in either or both of the following circumstances:

- Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made,
- Where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.

Note 5

Catechumens refer to a person who is preparing to become a Catholic usually by way of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and children of catechetical age. Younger children may be initiated through an adapted version sometimes referred to as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC). Evidence should be provided by a parish priest (or equivalent) and should state when the preparation started and when baptism or reception into the Catholic church will take place. The date of baptism or reception must be set and be prior to the date of admission.

Other Christian denominations are denominations that are members of Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance. Evidence of membership of the church or faith community must be provided by a minister or faith leader on the supplementary information form.

Note 6

Children of other faiths means children who are members of other world faith-based communities. Evidence of membership must be provided by a priest, minister or religious leader of a designated place of worship on the supplementary information form.

Note 7

Family means the child together with at least one parent or guardian attending Mass or the relevant form of worship.

Note 8

Home refers to the permanent home address at which the child lives for the majority of his/her time. It is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only or main residence and not an address at which your child might sometimes stay or sleep due to your own domestic or special arrangements. The address must be the pupil's home address on the day you completed the application form and which is either:

- owned by the child's parent, parents or guardian, or
- leased to or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement.

Proof of address will be requested at the time of acceptance of a place.

4. Supplementary Information Form

In addition to applying online through a local authority website or on a paper Reception Common Application Form (RCAF), all applicants must complete a Supplementary Information Form (available on the school websites or from each school's Admissions Officer), and send this to the Admissions Officer at the school by not later than 15 January 2023. Not doing so may lead to your child being placed in a lower priority category than they should.

EVIDENCE OF BAPTISM For Catholic, Other Christian or Other Faith children, a copy of a baptismal certificate or evidence of membership must accompany the Supplementary Information Form.

5. Application Procedure

All applications for entry to year R will be processed through the Kent County Council Co-Ordinated System see www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

In Year or Casual Applications

Applications made too late for the Kent co-ordinated system, In-year applications for year R and applications for entry to years 1-6 must be made on the IYCAF (In -Year and Casual application Form) available on school websites. The same policy and procedure (apart from the timetable) applies to these applications. This form must be sent to the school's Admissions Officer with a Supplementary Information Form. They will be considered under the same policy set out above.

6. Appeals

Parents whose applications for places are unsuccessful, may appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel set up in accordance with sections 88 and 94 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 sent to the Admissions Officer at the school address. Appellants have the right to make written and oral representations to the Appeal Panel.

7. Waiting List

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 criteria listed on Page 1 will be used to rank children on the waiting list. Placing a child's name on the waiting list does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place.

All schools participate in the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol to allocate places to vulnerable and other children in accordance with the School Admissions Code. Admitting pupils under the protocol may require the school to admit above the published admission number for the relevant year group and may mean that a child directed to the school by the Local Authority will take precedence over those children already on the waiting list.

The waiting lists for Year R will remain operational until at least the end of December 2023.

8. Requests for admission outside the normal age group ('summer born' children)

Parents of 'summer born' children (ie. whose fourth birthdays fall between 1 April and 31 August), may request not only that their admission is deferred until the following September, but also that their child is then admitted into Reception, not into the child's normal Year 1 age group. In deciding whether to agree to any such request, the Executive Principal/Headteacher will consider the child's best interests and will follow the provisions of the School Admissions Code and any Department for Education guidance; it will take into account the parents' views and any supporting evidence provided, but it is for the Executive Principal/Headteacher to decide in light of its knowledge and experience of the education of very young children whether to accept or decline the request. Parents of a summer born child who wish to defer the start of school until the child reaches compulsory school age and to request admission to Reception instead of to Year 1 should apply at the usual time BUT should include with the Supplementary Information Form a written request for admission out of the normal age group, explaining why it would be in the child's interests to be admitted to Reception rather than Year 1 and include copies of any relevant and appropriate professional evidence (eg from a Speech and Language Therapist or Educational Psychologist). The school will consider the request as soon as possible and will inform the parents of its decision before primary national offer day. If their request is agreed, their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before a place is offered. If their request is refused, the parents 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 1 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. The application will be treated in the same way as usual applications and will be subject to the Oversubscription Criteria for that year ie a place in the following year cannot be guaranteed.

9. Entry to years other than anticipated

If an application is made for admission other than to the child's expected year group, the Executive Principal/Headteacher will decide if this is educationally the best option for the child; the application will then be considered against the number on roll for that year group using the standard policy. The expectation is that children will be admitted in the year with their peers of the same age. Only in exceptional circumstances will this not apply, and this is at the discretion of the Executive Principal/Headteacher.

10. Admission of children below compulsory school age

Where a child below compulsory school age is offered a place at the school, they will be entitled to attend the school full-time in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents may defer their child's entry to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age, and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year the offer was made for.

Where the parents wish, children may attend part-time (3 days per week) until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

KENT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' PARTNERSHIP
ADMISSION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

This form should be completed and returned to: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

(insert academy address and telephone/email contact details)

CLOSING DATE for applications for entry into Year R in September 2023: **15th January 2023**

Please note failure to submit a completed Supplementary Information form when applying for a Catholic school place may result in your child's application not being placed in the correct category and could result in you not receiving an offer of a place for your child.

Please complete this form **and** the KCC online process at www.kent.gov.uk/ola or by completing a paper form called a Reception Common Application Form (RCAF).

For In-Year Applications - Applications made too late for the Kent co-ordinated system, In-year applications for year R and applications for entry to years 1-6 must be made on the IYCAF (In - Year and Casual application Form) available on school websites. This Supplementary Information Form must also be completed in full.

Before completing this form, please read the Admissions Policy and Procedure for 2023/2024 which can be found on the academy's website **here** [\(insert weblink\)](#).

Please also ensure that you have read the academy's Privacy Notice, which can be found on the academy's website **here** [\(insert weblink\)](#).

SECTION 1: CHILD'S INFORMATION

Child's Surname:		Child's Forename:	
Date of Birth:		Preferred Forename: (if different from above)	
Child's Home Address:		Post Code:	
		Religious Denomination: e.g. Roman Catholic	

SECTION 2: PARENT/CARER INFORMATION

	Parent/Carer 1	Parent/Carer 2
Title:		
Full Name:		
Relationship to Child:		
Telephone No.:		
Mobile No.:		
Email Address (Please print clearly):		
Address (if different from child's address):		
Post Code:		

SECTION 3: FURTHER INFORMATION:

Is your child a baptised Catholic ? Yes No

If yes, please detail the date and place of the baptism: _____

You must enclose a copy of your child's baptism certificate with this form. Photocopies are acceptable but will be retained by the academy.

To obtain a copy of your child's baptism certificate, please contact the parish priest of the Catholic Church where your child was baptised or received into the church.

*If you cannot obtain a copy of your child's baptism certificate, please contact the Admissions Officer for advice **(insert contact details for academy's Admissions Officer)**.*

If you have ticked yes, please ask your Priest to complete the "Reference for Mass Attendance" Form on page 5.

Catechumenates

If your child is not yet baptised but is enrolled in a programme and has a date for their baptism confirmed, please state the date here: _____

You must also obtain a letter from the parish priest confirming this information and your child's baptism date.

SECTION 3 CONTINUED:

Are you a current member of staff and been employed at the school for the last two years?

Yes No

If yes, please confirm your full name and employment start date:

If you are **not** a Catholic family:

Are you a member of another Christian denomination (please see note 5 of policy for the definition)? Yes
No

Are you a member of another Faith (see note 6 of the policy)? Yes No

Please ensure that you include a copy of the child's baptism certificate or proof of dedication (if applicable) with this form

Has your child and at least one parent/carer been a committed member of another Christian denomination or another faith for at least three years?

Yes No If you have ticked yes, please ask your minister or other senior figure in your faith community to complete the "Reference for Faith Membership" form on page 5.

YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION

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

Signed: _____ (Parent/Carer)

Date: _____

Parent/carer's full name (please print): _____

- Please return this Supplementary Information Form **in full** to the Admissions Officer at **(name of academy)** (not Kent County Council)
- For Year R entry in 2023 please return no later than 15th January 2023 in order that we may rank your application.
- Remember to send a copy of your child's baptismal certificate status and/or faith leader's reference (see last page), *if applicable*, to the Admissions Officer at **(name of academy)** along with this completed form.
- You must also complete the Kent County Council (or Medway Council) Reception Common Application Form (SCAF) and **either return that to your child's primary school or make an electronic application at: www.kent.gov.uk/ola by 15th January 2023**
- **For In-Year Applications** - Applications made too late for the Kent co-ordinated system, In-year applications for year R and applications for entry to years 1-6 must be made on the IYCAF (In -Year and Casual application Form) available on school websites. This Supplementary Information Form must also be completed in full.
- Please note that if you are not offered a place and submit an appeal, a copy of this form will be submitted to the Appeal Panel.

Thank you for completing this

For office use only:

Date Supplementary Form received by Admissions Officer: _____

Copy of Baptismal Certificate received: Yes No

Reference for Mass Attendance: Yes No

Reference for Faith Membership: Yes No

(Insert name of academy) uses a computerised administration system and is registered under the Data Protection Act. Access to information is strictly limited and protected. For further information, please read the Privacy Notices at *(insert academy's website address)*

Reference for Mass Attendance

St Joseph's Primary in Northfleet and St Thomas' Primary in Sevenoaks gives a degree of priority in admissions to children from Catholic families. If the number of Catholic applicants (category 2) exceeds the number of places available, the applications will be placed in rank order of the frequency and duration of the family's attendance at Mass over the last three years. Firstly, those who attend Mass weekly, then once or twice a month and so on. The purpose of this reference is for that practice to be confirmed by a priest at the church where the family normally worships.

To be completed by Parent/Carer:	
Name of child:	
Name of Parent(s)/Carer(s):	
Address:	
I confirm that we/my child have attended Mass (please tick):	Weekly: <input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly: <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly: <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally: <input type="checkbox"/>
For how long has your attendance followed this pattern of attendance:	_____ Years _____ Months

To be completed by Priest:	
I confirm that the above family are known to me and have attended Mass (please tick):	Weekly: <input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly: <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly: <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally: <input type="checkbox"/>
They have followed this pattern of attendance for:	_____ Years _____ Months
Any comments:	
Signed:	
Full name of Priest giving reference:	
Position in Parish or other Mass centre:	
Address:	
Email or mobile contact number:	

Reference for Faith Membership

(Name of academy) gives a degree of priority in admissions to children from families who are committed members of a denomination or faith other than the Roman Catholic Church (or a Catholic Church in communion with the See of Rome). We define committed as meaning that the child and at least one Parent or Carer, has been participating in the worship or communal prayer services or activities of the faith community for at least three years. The purpose of this reference is for that practice to be confirmed by a minister or faith leader within the faith community. Attending another faith centre can be included as part of the three years if the referee is satisfied of such participation in that other faith community.

Name of child:	
Name of Parent(s)/Carer(s):	
Address:	

I confirm that the child and parent/carer named above have been active participants in worship or communal prayer services or activities within our faith community for at least three years prior to the date of the person giving this reference:

Yes No

Signed:	
Full name of referee:	
Position in church or faith centre:	
Address of church or faith centre:	
Email or mobile contact number:	

Please comment below, if appropriate, only to clarify the participation in worship or other church activities over the last three years:

Please return this form to the Parent/Carer who will send it to the Admissions Officer

(academy to insert address and contact details)