



## St Peter's Catholic Primary School

### Admissions Policy and Procedures for Casual Admissions and Entry to Reception in September 2021

St Peter's Catholic Primary School is an academy within Kent Catholic Schools Partnership (KCSP) in the Diocese of Southwark. The school is conducted by its Governing Body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Scheme of Delegation, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. The Governing Body welcomes applications from those of all denominations and faiths (or none) who support the religious ethos of the school; we are committed to equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination for all. However, the school exists primarily to serve the Catholic community and Catholic children have priority of admission. This Admissions Policy has been formulated and will be operated in accordance with our school's Equality Policy and with the School Admissions Code for faith schools. Admissions are made in line with Kent County Council's (KCC's) Common Applications Procedure.

#### ADMISSION TO RECEPTION CLASS (September 2021)

The Governors intend to admit 30 pupils into the Reception class in September 2021.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Need or Education Health Care Plan naming the school will be admitted before the application of the oversubscription criteria. As a result of this the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.

#### OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Where the number of applications exceeds 30, the Governors will offer places using the following criteria in the order stated:

- (1)** 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, 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. (See Note 2)
- (2)** Baptised children of committed Catholic parents or Catechumens as verified in writing, by a priest where the family currently worships regularly. In assessing 'commitment' the Governing Body will take into account frequency of attendance at Mass. The frequency of Mass attendance will be ranked in the order shown on the Supplementary Information Form\*; firstly those who attend Mass weekly, then at

least once a month etc. A baptismal certificate must be produced by parents. ('Catholic children' to include children of members of the Ordinariate and the Latin and Oriental Rite Churches that are in union with Rome.)

**\* Addendum due to COVID 19**

The suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass was announced on 18th March 2020 by Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. If a parent/carer attended Mass at particular parish (or parishes) prior to 18th March 2020 then they will be considered to have attended Mass in that parish (or parishes) regularly since that time. This will remain the case until the Sunday obligation is reintroduced by the Bishops.

- (3) 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, 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.
- (4) Children who are current members of an Eastern Orthodox Church. In assessing 'commitment' the Governing Body will take into account frequency of attendance at Mass. The frequency of Mass attendance will be ranked in the order shown on the Supplementary Information Form; firstly those who attend Mass weekly, then at least once a month etc. A baptismal certificate must be produced by parents.
- (5) Children who are current members of other Christian denominations that are full members of Churches Together in England (for further information visit [www.cte.org.uk](http://www.cte.org.uk)). Evidence of current membership of the Church should be provided by a priest, minister or religious leader of a designated place of worship together with a Baptism or Dedication certificate, if appropriate. If in assessing 'commitment' the Governing Body will take into account frequency of attendance at religious service. The frequency of attendance will be ranked in the order shown on the Supplementary Information Form; firstly those who attend services weekly, then at least once a month etc.
- (6) Children who are members of other faiths. Evidence of current membership of the faith should be provided by a priest, minister or religious leader of a designated place of worship. In assessing 'commitment' the Governing Body will take into account frequency of attendance at religious service. The frequency of attendance will be ranked in the order shown on the Supplementary Information Form; firstly those who attend services weekly, then at least once a month etc.
- (7) Any other children.

Evidence for inclusion in each category will be required, as set out above and in the school's Supplementary Information Form.

***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 in that category:***

- (i) The presence of a brother or sister (including natural brothers and sisters, stepbrother or stepsister, adopted siblings and foster brothers and sisters living at the same home address. The home address is where the parent or carer lives and the child permanently resides for the majority of school nights (Sunday to Thursday) unless otherwise directed by a Court Order. It would not include other relatives e.g. cousins) at the school at the time of admission will increase the priority of an application within each category.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) Where the offer of places to all applicants in any of the sub-categories listed above would still lead to over subscription, the places up to the admission number will be offered to those living nearest to the school. A pupil's home address 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 your 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.

If you live separately from your partner but share responsibility for your child, and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, we will regard the home address as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of weekdays (Sunday to Thursday).

Nearness of children's homes to school – we use the distance 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. 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. The same address point on the school's site is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for the school, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school. In the unlikely event that two or more children in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place at the school, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.

#### ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

In addition to the Reception Common Application Form (RCAF) supplied by the Local Authority, the school's own Supplementary Information Form (available from the school and the school's website) must be completed and sent to the Headteacher at the school not later than the closing date published by the Local Authority. This should be done even if the RCAF is completed online. With the exception of applicants in categories 1 and 3, if the Supplementary Information Form is not received, the Governors will only be able to consider the application after all

applicants who have completed a Supplementary Information Form. The school will also ask to see and check the original baptismal certificate.

Offers of places will be sent to parents by the Local Authority on the common offer date as notified.

#### ADMISSION OF CHILDREN BELOW COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE

The Governors 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; parents may also request that their child attends part-time (3 full days per week) until the child reaches compulsory school age.

#### REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION OUT OF 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 school 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 school 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 including copies of any relevant and appropriate professional evidence (eg from a Speech and Language Therapist). 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 i.e. a place in the following year cannot be guaranteed.

#### VULNERABLE CHILDREN

St Peter’s is committed to taking its fair share of vulnerable children who are hard to place (children at risk of permanent exclusion), in accordance with locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal round of admissions, the governing body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any protocol which covers the agreement of both the governing body and the Diocese for the current admission year. The governing body has this power even when admitting such a child would exceed the normal admission number except in Key Stage One.

#### LATE APPLICATIONS

Any late applications will be considered by the Governors’ Admissions committee, in the event of there being any available places using the above criteria. If all places have been filled, parents will be offered the opportunity of placing their child’s name on the waiting list. This

does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place.

#### IN- YEAR ADMISSIONS

Our school follows KCC's In-Year procedure. Applications for a place outside the normal admissions round must be made using the KCC In-Year Application Form (IYAF). Applicants must use one IYAF for each school they wish to apply for. Completed IYAFs must be returned direct to the school. Details of the process can be found at: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/move-to-a-different-school>

#### ALL APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION

Our school's SIF should be completed to enable the Governors to rank the application in the event of there being more than one application for any available place, using the same criteria to rank the application as listed above. The school will notify applicants by letter of the outcome of their application.

If siblings from multiple births (twins, triplets, etc) apply to our school and the school would reach its Published Admission Number (PAN) after admitting one or more, but before admitting all of those siblings, the Governors will offer a place to each of the siblings, even if doing so takes the school above its PAN. If the admissions are to Reception, and so result in a breach of class size legislation, the additional pupil(s) will be treated as "excepted" for the time they are in a class.

In Key Stage 2, there can be a governors' decision to exceed, only in very exceptional circumstances, 30 children.

#### APPEALS

Parents have the right to appeal against any refusal by the Governors to admit their child. Parents whose applications for places are unsuccessful may appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel set up in accordance with section 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. Details of the appeals procedure can be obtained from the Chair of Governors or the School Office. Parents/carers have the right to make oral representations to the Appeal Panel. Infant classes are restricted by law to 30 children. Parents should be aware that an appeal against refusal of a place in an infant class may only succeed if it can be demonstrated that:

- 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.

The parents of a pupil who previously applied unsuccessfully to the school, but did not appeal, retain their right of appeal. A pupil who previously applied and appealed unsuccessfully cannot appeal again within the academic year. However they may remain on the waiting list.

#### WAITING LISTS

Parents of children who have not been offered a place at the school may ask in writing for their child's name to be placed on a waiting list for the relevant year group. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place. Placing a child's name on a waiting list does not guarantee that a place will become available. The waiting lists, which will be maintained until the end of the current academic year, will be operated using the same admissions criteria listed above; this means that if a place in a year group becomes available, it will be offered to the child in the highest Category, even if other children have been on the waiting list for longer. The school participates in the local authority's Fair Access Protocol to allocate places to vulnerable and other children in accordance with the School Admission Code 2014. Admitting pupils under the protocol may require the school to admit above the planned admission number for the relevant year group.

Parents of children still on a waiting list at the end of the current academic year will be offered the opportunity of joining the new waiting list for the next academic year; a new Supplementary Information Form (with appropriate verification) will then be required to update and confirm the position since the previous SIF was submitted, so that the child can be ranked appropriately on the waiting list.

Fair Access Protocol

#### WITHDRAWAL OF PLACES

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

- (i) When a parent has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time; or
- (ii) when a parent has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information; or
- (iii) the admission authority offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent.

#### **Notes**

##### **1. Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**

The admission of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or with an Educational Health Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. This procedure is integral to the making and maintaining of Statements EHC plans by the pupil's home Local Education Authority. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the *Special Educational Needs Code of Practice*. Pupils with a Statement or EHC Plan naming the school will be admitted without reference to the above criteria.

##### **2. 'Children in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care**

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 organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

3. **'Catholic'** includes children of members of the Ordinariate and the Latin and Oriental Rite Churches that are in union with Rome – as defined by the Education Commission for the Catholic Diocese of Southwark's Guidance on School Admissions (<http://www.educationcommission.org.uk/Policies/>)

4. **'Catechumen'** means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic church. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the order of catechumens or by a letter from the parish priest.

5. **'Other Christian Denominations'** refers to denominations that are full members of Churches Together in England.

<b>*Members of Churches Together in England</b>		
Antiochan Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles & Ireland	Council of Lutheran Churches	New Testament Church of God
Apostolic Pastoral Congress	Council of Oriental Orthodox Churches	Oecumenical Patriarchate
Armenian Orthodox Church	Elim Pentecostal Church	Pioneer
Assemblies of God	Evangelical Lutheran Church of England	Religious Society of Friends
Baptist Union of Great Britain	Evangelische Synode Deutscher Sprache in Großbritannien	Ruach Network of Churches
Calvary Church of God in Christ	Exarchate of Orthodox Parishes of the Russian Tradition (Ecumenical Patriarchate)	Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate)
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales	Free Church of England	Salvation Army
Church of England	Ground Level	Transatlantic Pacific Alliance of Churches
Church of God of Prophecy	Icthus Christian Fellowship	Unification Council of Cherubim & Seraphim Churches (Europe Chapter)
Church of Scotland (Presbytery of England)	Independent Methodist Church	United Reformed Church
Churches in Communities International	Indian Orthodox Church	Wesleyan Holiness Church
Congregational Federation	International Ministerial Council of Great Britain	
Coptic Orthodox Church	International Ministerial Council of Great Britain	
Council of African and Caribbean Churches UK	Ixthus Church Council	
	Joint Council of Churches for All Nations	
	Mar Thomas Church in Europe	
	Methodist Church	
	Moravian Church	
	New Testament Assembly	

### Supplementary Information Form

Please complete this form and submit it to the school, together with a copy of the child's Baptismal/Dedication Certificate. Applications for entry to Reception must be returned by the last date as stipulated by KCC for the return of the RCAF for the relevant academic year. Please complete **both**: SIF and RCAF

Surname of Child: _____ Forename(s): _____
Date of Birth: _____
Date & place of Baptism or Dedication, if relevant: _____ _____
Religion/denomination (eg Catholic): _____ _____
Name and address of Church/Place of Worship you attend: _____ _____ _____
I confirm that we/my child attend(s) Mass/Church Services/our faith's principal form of worship:  Weekly/Fortnightly/Monthly/Occasionally *delete as appropriate  For how long have you followed this pattern of attendance? _____ Years/Months *delete as appropriate
I confirm that the above family are known to me and attend Mass/Church Services/our faith's principal form of worship*:  Weekly/Fortnightly/Monthly/Occasionally *delete as appropriate  They have followed this pattern of attendance for _____ Years/Months *delete as appropriate
Signed: _____ Date: _____
Priest/Minister/Other Religious Leader (please state): _____
Parish/Church/Place of Worship: _____



**\* Addendum due to COVID 19**

The suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass was announced on 18th March 2020 by Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. If a parent/carer attended Mass at particular parish (or parishes) prior to 18th March 2020 then they will be considered to have attended Mass in that parish (or parishes) regularly since that time. This will remain the case until the Sunday obligation is reintroduced by the Bishops.

**CHILD'S HOME ADDRESS:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No \_\_\_\_\_

Names and dates of birth of brother(s) and sister(s) who are pupils of St Peter's Catholic Primary School at the time of entry, eg September 2020.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**NB** Please add on a separate sheet any other information you believe is relevant to this application (eg, with respect to applications on medical/health or special access needs), together with appropriate supporting evidence.

I declare that I have parental responsibility for the child for whom this application is made.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Please print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Tel No.: \_\_\_\_\_

