



## ST AGNES' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



### ADMISSIONS POLICY 2023-2024

St Agnes' Catholic Primary School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. All applicants are therefore expected to give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the reception class at St Agnes' is 60. The Governing Body has sole responsibility for admissions to this school and intends to admit 60 children in the school year which begins in September 2023. Applications are welcome from families whose child's date of birth is between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic applicants in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Westminster. Applications will be ranked using the criteria listed below.

In this policy *applicant* refers to the person making an application on behalf of a child; *candidate* refers to the child on whose behalf the application is being made.

#### **OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA**

Where there are more applications than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority: -

1. Catholic 'looked after' children and previously 'looked after' children. (See notes 2 & 3)
2. Baptised Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice who have a sibling at the school at the time of admission. (See notes 5 & 7)
3. Baptised Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice of members of staff who have been employed at the school for 2 years or more at the time of application.
4. Baptised Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice who are resident in the Parish of St Agnes'. (See notes 7 & 12)
5. Other baptised Catholics with a Certificate of Catholic Practice.
6. Other baptised Catholics. (See note 7)
7. Other 'looked after' children and previously 'looked after' children. (See note 1)
8. Children of Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church. (See note 8)
9. Children of other Christian Denominations whose application is supported by either a Certificate of Baptism or by a letter from their Minister of Religion confirming membership of the faith community. (See note 10)
10. Children of other faiths whose application is supported by a letter from their Religious Leader confirming membership of the faith community. (See note 11)
11. Any other children.

### **EXCEPTIONAL NEED**

The Governing Body will give top priority, after the appropriate category of looked-after children, to an application where compelling evidence is provided at the time of application, from an appropriate professional such as a doctor, priest or social worker, of an exceptional social, medical, pastoral or other need of the child, which can only be met at this school.

### **MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS**

Where the final place is offered to a child who has other siblings applying for a place in the same school year, these siblings will also be admitted.

### **TIE BREAK**

Where the offer of places to all the applicants in any of the sub-categories listed above would still lead to oversubscription, the places up to the admission number will be offered to those living nearest to the school as measured in a straight line from the applicant's home to the school. The measurement will be conducted by the Local Authority (LA).

### **FAIR ACCESS**

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admissions round, the Governing Body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol that has been agreed by both the local authority and the Governing Body for the current school year. The Governing Body has this power even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE for 2023-2024**

In order to make an application, you **must** complete an **Application Form** from your local authority either online or on paper and return it to them. You **should** also complete the **School's Supplementary Information Form (SIF)**. Whilst this is not compulsory, the information on the SIF enables the Governing Body to assess your application fully against the School's criteria in the event of oversubscription. Please return the SIF (in person or by post) to the school, together with all other relevant paperwork required for your application. If you do not complete both of the forms described above and return them by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 the Governing Body will be unable to consider your application against the oversubscription criteria and your child will be ranked under the lowest criterion. It is very unlikely that your child will be offered a place if a SIF is not supplied.

The local authority will write to you on behalf of the Governing Body with the outcome of your application on or about Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023. This information will also be available on line. Parents/carers should accept or decline the place as soon as possible.

### **CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE**

Applicants applying under criteria [2,3,4 & 5] must submit a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) by the closing date. This form is available from the priest at the parish where the family normally worships or from the diocesan website. It is the parent's duty to ensure that the CCP is submitted to the school in good time. The priest will only sign this form if he knows you and agrees that you are a practising Catholic family.

## **LATE APPLICATIONS**

Applications received after the closing date will be dealt with after the initial allocation process has been completed. If the school is oversubscribed it is very unlikely that late applicants will obtain a place.

## **NURSERY CHILDREN**

Attendance at the nursery **does not** guarantee a place in reception.

Parents of children attending St Agnes' nursery **must** make a fresh new application for reception.

## **RIGHT OF APPEAL**

If you are unsuccessful you may ask us for the reasons for the refusal of a place. These reasons will be related to the oversubscription criteria listed in the policy and you will have the right of appeal to an independent panel. Should you wish to appeal please contact the school as soon as possible for an appeal form on which you must list your reasons for making an appeal. Appeals must be submitted to the school in writing by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.

## **WAITING LIST**

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful candidates will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out in the policy and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Names will be removed from the list unless applicants request in writing to remain on the list.

## **PUPILS WITH AN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (EHC)**

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. If your child has an EHC plan you must contact your local authority SEN officer. Children with this school named in their EHC Plan will be admitted.

## **CHANGE OF DETAILS**

If any of the details on either of your forms changes between the date of application and the receipt of the letter of offer or refusal, you **must** inform the school and the local authority immediately. ***If misleading information is given or allowed to remain on either of your forms, the Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the place, even if the child has already started at the School.***

## **IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS**

Applications for In-Year admissions are made directly to the school. If a place is available and there is no waiting list the child will be admitted. If there is a waiting list, then applications will be ranked by the Governing Body in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. If a place cannot be offered at this time then you may ask us for the reasons and you will be informed of your right of appeal. You will be offered the opportunity of being placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained by the Governing Body in the order of the oversubscription criteria and not in the order in which the applications are received. Names are removed from the list at the end of each academic year. When a place becomes available the Governing Body will re-rank the list and make an offer to the person at the top of the list. The local authority will be informed of the offer as soon as it has been accepted.

## **RECEPTION YEAR DEFERRED ENTRY**

Applicants may defer entry to school up until compulsory school age i.e. the first day of term following the child's fifth birthday. An Application is made in the usual way and then the deferral is requested. The place will then be held until the first day of the spring or summer term as applicable. Applicants may also request that their child attend part-time until compulsory school age is reached. Entry may not be deferred beyond compulsory school age or beyond the year for which the application has been made. Therefore applicants whose children have birthdays in the summer term may only defer until the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

## **SUMMER BORN CHILDREN**

If a parent wishes his/her child to be educated outside his/her normal age group, i.e. a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 being admitted to Reception at 5 years of age, they should make the school aware of this by writing a letter to the Chair of Governors at the time of application. Parents must then submit an application in the normal way. This application will be treated in the same way as all other applications and there is no guarantee that an offer will be made.

## **CHILDREN EDUCATED OUTSIDE THEIR CHRONOLOGICAL AGE GROUP**

Parents may apply for their child to be educated outside his/her chronological age group i.e. a year behind or a year ahead. Application should be made to the Chair of Governors at the time of application and all supporting evidence should be submitted at the same time. Governors will consider each case on its own merits and permission will only be given in exceptional circumstances (except Reception applications for summer born children)

## **NOTES (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)**

1. **'Looked after 'Adopted'**. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (eg., children with foster parents) at the time of making application to the school. A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the governing body) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. **'Child Arrangements Order'**. A Child Arrangements order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8 settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live. Children 'looked after' immediately before the order is made qualify in this category.
3. **'Special Guardianship Order'**. A special guardianship order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.14A appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s). A child 'looked after' immediately before the order is made qualifies in this category.
4. **'Parent'** means the adult or adults with legal responsibility for the child.
5. **'Sibling'** means brother or sister, to include adopted brothers and sisters, half, step or foster brothers and sisters. A sibling relationship does not apply when the older child will leave before the younger one starts.

6. **‘Catholic’** means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic. For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of the Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest (who, after consulting with the Diocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church).
7. **‘Certificate of Catholic Practice’** means a certificate given by the family’s parish priest (or the priest in charge of the church where the family practises) in the form laid down by the Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales. It will be issued if the priest is satisfied that at least one Catholic parent or carer (along with the child, if he or she is over seven years old) have (except when it was impossible to do so) attended Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation for at least five years (or in the case of a child, since the age of seven, if shorter). It will also be issued when the practice has been continuous since being received into the Church if that occurred less than five years ago. It is expected that most Certificates will be issued on the basis of attendance. A Certificate may also be issued by the priest when attendance is interrupted by exceptional circumstances which excuse from the obligation to attend on that occasion or occasions. Further details of these circumstances can be found in the guidance issued to priest  
<http://rcdow.org.uk/education/governors/admissions/>
8. **‘Catechumen’** means a child or parent who is a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will be evidenced by a Certificate of Reception into the Order of Catechumens for a child aged 7 or over. For a child under 7 years of age it will be the certificate of the parent.
9. **‘Eastern Christian Church’** includes Orthodox Churches, and is evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism or Reception from the authorities of that Church.
10. **‘Children of other Christian Denominations’** means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God’s revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God’s will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and one another in the Church, which is his body: and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has not creedal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.  
 All members of Churches Together in England and CYTÛN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.
11. **‘Children of other Faiths’** means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of ‘other Christian denominations’ at 9 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:
- A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and

- A religion which does not involve belief in God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship

12. **'Resident'** – A child is deemed to be resident at a particular address when he/she resides there for more than 50% of the school week.
13. **Parish Boundaries** – for the purposes of this Policy, parish boundaries are as shown on the attached map.
14. **'Distance from school'** means distance as measured in a straight line between the address point for the child's home, supplied by Ordnance Survey, to the school's main gate using the Council's computerised geographical information system.