



ST AGNES' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BARNET

Thorverton Road, Cricklewood NW2 1RG

Nursery Admissions Policy 2023-2024

St Agnes' is a voluntary-aided Catholic Primary school situated in the Parish of St Agnes' Cricklewood under the auspices of the Diocese of Westminster. The school is a mixed junior and infant school with a nursery unit.

- Please note that there are separate arrangements for admissions into the nursery and the school itself.
- Attendance at the nursery class does not guarantee subsequent admission into the reception class.

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 is 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 Admissions Number (PAN) for the nursery class at St Agnes' school is 52. 26 morning pupils and 26 afternoon pupils. The Governing Body has sole responsibility for admissions to the nursery and intends to admit 52 children in the school year which begins in September 2023. Applications for **Nursery** are invited from families whose child's date of birth is between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020.

Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic applicants in accordance with the criteria listed below.

Where the final place is offered to a child who has other siblings (e.g. twins) applying for a place in the same class/year, these siblings will also be admitted.

Within 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.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE 2022-2023 FOR NURSERY

You should complete the School's Supplementary Information Form (SIF). 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 to St Agnes's Catholic Primary School, Cricklewood, London, NW2 1RG or online to office@stagnes.barnetmail.net together with all the relevant paperwork required for your application. If you do not complete both of the forms described above and return them by 15th January 2023, the Governing Body will be unable to consider your application fully and it is very unlikely that your child will be offered a place. Applications received after the closing date will be dealt with after the initial allocation process has been completed.

Applicants applying under criteria 2, 3 and 4 must submit a Certificate of Catholic Practice by the closing date. This form is available from the diocesan website at www.rcdow.org.uk/schools/governors/admissions.

Pupils with Education, health and care plans

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 nursery named in their EHC Plan will be admitted to the school.

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.

'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.

Parish Boundaries for the purpose of this Policy, parish boundaries are shown on the attached map.

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 CYTŪN 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.