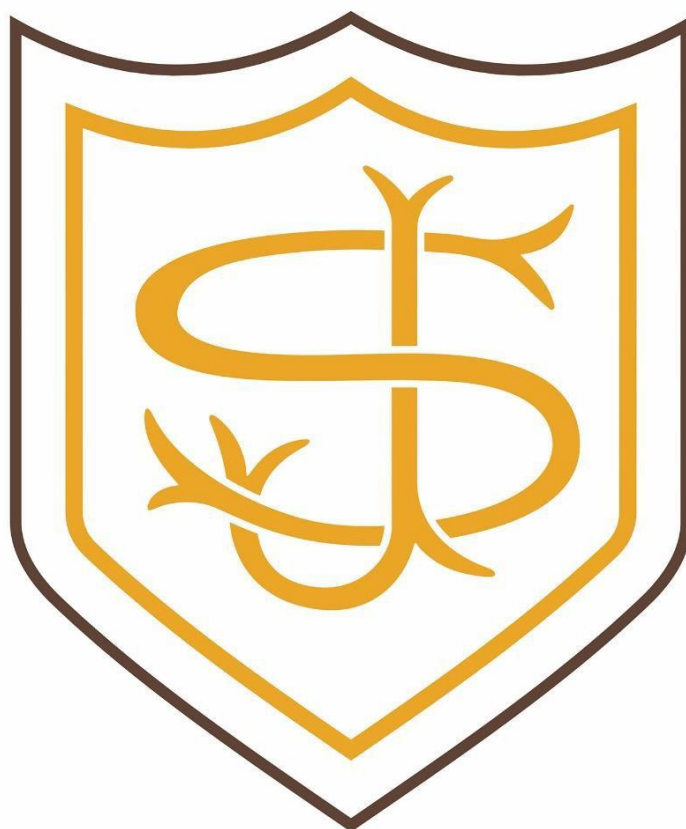


Admissions Policy

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Policy Date:	September 2022
Review Date:	September 2023



Blessed Holy Family
Catholic Academy Trust

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2023 - 2024

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. 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.

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.

MISSION STATEMENT

**At St Joseph's
we love, learn and live
by the example of Jesus Christ**

In a happy Catholic environment, we work to help our children grow closer to God and to respect and discover the best in each other.

We want the children to enjoy and make the most of their learning experiences together – to develop their many talents and achieve their highest potential.

We encourage our children to be responsible and caring members of the wider community.

We are committed to the well-being of the staff and to their continuing professional development.

We regard highly the special relationship we have with our parents and wish to strengthen it.

We value and appreciate the support we receive from our Governors, Clergy and Parish Community.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the Reception Class at St Joseph's is 60. The Governing Body has responsibility for admissions to this school and intends to admit 60 pupils in the school year that begins in September 2023. Applications are welcome from families with children whose date of birth falls between **1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019**.

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

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

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

- (1) Catholic 'looked after' children and Baptised Catholic children who have been adopted or made subject to child arrangement orders or special guardianship orders, immediately after having been looked after, including those 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.
- (2) Baptised Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice.

- (3) Other Baptised Catholic children whose application is supported by a baptism certificate.
- (4) Other 'looked after' children and children who have been adopted or made subject to child arrangement orders or special guardianship orders, immediately after having been looked after, including those 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.
- (5) Non-Catholic children who have a sibling at the school at the time of admission.
- (6) Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church whose application is supported by a certificate/letter of entry into the order of catechumens.
- (7) Children of other Christian denominations whose application is supported by a letter from their minister confirming membership of that faith community or a baptism certificate.
- (8) Children of other faiths whose application is supported by a letter from their religious leader confirming membership of that faith community.
- (9) Any other children.

EXCEPTIONAL NEED

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

SIBLINGS

Parents of non-Catholic children need to be aware that non-Catholic siblings do not take priority over Catholic children.

MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

Where the offer of places to twins or multiple births in any of the criteria listed above would lead to over-subscription, then all will be offered a place, even if this exceeds the planned admission number.

APPLICATIONS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Last year (September 2022) the school was heavily oversubscribed. We received 159 full applications for 60 places of which 27 were siblings.

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 whose residential address is the shortest distance from the centre point of the St Joseph's school site. Distance is measured from the address point for the home address to the centre point of the school site in a straight line. This information is provided to the school by the Local Authority who use a computerised mapping system based on ordnance survey data.

In cases where applicants live equidistant from the school and places cannot be offered to both children, the places up to the admission number will be decided by means of a lottery which will be carried out by the Governors in the presence of an independent witness.

LOOKED AFTER CHILD

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 (e.g. 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.

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 Diocese 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.

IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

Applications for In-Year admissions are made directly to the school using a Supplementary Information Form (available on the school's website) and an online eAdmissions Form from your local authority. If more applications are received than there are places available, 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. 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. When a place becomes available, the Governing Body will re-rank the list and make an offer.

RECEPTION YEAR DEFERRED ENTRY

Applicants may defer entry to school up until statutory school age, i.e. the first day of term following the child's fifth birthday. 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 statutory school age is reached. Entry may not be deferred beyond statutory school age or beyond the year for which the application has been made. Parents wishing to defer for summer born children (DOB: 1st April – 31st August) should note that entry can only be deferred up until 1st April 2024.

CHILDREN EDUCATED OUTSIDE THEIR CHRONOLOGICAL AGE GROUP (except Reception applications for summer born children)

Any application for a child to be educated out of his/her age group will be considered by Governors on an individual basis and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Parents should write to the Chair of Governors during the autumn term in the (academic) year of application, giving reasons and providing compelling professional evidence.

SUMMER BORN CHILDREN

If a parent wishes his/her summer born child to start school in Reception in the September following his/her fifth birthday, i.e. a child born between 1st April – 31st August, being admitted to Reception at five 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 for the year in which they wish the child to start school. This application will be treated in the same way as all other applications and there is no guarantee that an offer will be made.

MAKING AN APPLICATION 2023-2024

In order to make an application, you **must** complete an online **eAdmissions Form** from your own local authority (www.harrow.gov.uk/schooladmissions). You **should** also 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. Both application forms must be completed and submitted by **15th January 2023.**

Please return the SIF 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 submit 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.

The Supplementary Information Form is obtainable on the school's website (www.stjosephs.harrow.sch.uk) or the LA Website at www.harrowgov.uk/schooladmissions.

The Supplementary Information Form, Certificate of Catholic Practice (where applicable) and Baptismal Certificate (where applicable) should be returned directly to the school office (in person, by post or email) by **15th January 2023.**

The local authority will write to you on behalf of the Governing Body with the outcome of your application on or about **17th April 2023.** This information will also be available online.

NURSERY CHILDREN.

Attendance at St Joseph's Nursery **does not** guarantee a place in Reception. Parents of children attending the Nursery must, therefore, make the normal application for Reception (i.e. as previously detailed in this policy).

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 in writing as soon as possible for an appeal form on which you must list your reasons for making an appeal. The deadline for submission of an appeal will be mid 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 for the current academic year. This waiting list will be maintained in the order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. The list will be reviewed and up-dated at the end of each academic year.

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. This procedure is integral to the making and maintaining of EHC by the pupil's home Local Education Authority. 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.

NOTES (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

'Looked after child' has the same meaning as in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 and means any child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents at the time of making an application to the school).

'Adopted' - An adopted child is any child who has been formally adopted, having previously been in care and whose parent/guardian can give proof of this.

'Child Arrangement Order' - A Child Arrangements Order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989, Section 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.

'Special Guardianship Order' - A special guardianship order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989, Section 14A appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s). Children 'looked after' immediately before the order is made, qualify in this category.

'Parent' means the adult or adults with legal responsibility for the child.

'Sibling' means brother or sister, to include adopted brothers and sisters, half, step or foster brothers and sisters living at the same address. This does not include extended family, e.g. cousins. A sibling relationship does not apply when the older child(ren) will leave before the younger one starts.

'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. This includes a child in the process of adoption by a Catholic family, who would have been baptised were it not for his/her status as a looked-after child.

'Certificate of Catholic Practice' means a certificate issued by the family's parish priest (or the priest in charge of the church where the family attends Mass) in the form laid down by the Bishops' 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 the 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 priests <http://rcdow.org.uk/education/governors/admissions/>

'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.

'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism or Reception from the authorities of that church.

'Children of other Christian denominations' means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledging 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 with 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 the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no 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 of CYTUN 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.

Children of other faiths means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian denominations' and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purpose 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 a 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.

'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.

'Distance from school' means distance as measured in a straight line from home to school Using the Local Authority's computerised mapping system based on ordnance survey data. The journey is measured from the address point for the home address to the centre point of the school site.

Compiled By: Mrs A Panacides and Mrs D Beschizza

Approved by: Governing Body