



St. Mary's  
Catholic Federation

### **St Mary's Catholic Infant School only**

*"St Mary's is committed to being a Rights Respecting School to inspire and support the children, parents and school governors in school and the wider community."*

### **Admissions Policy 2021-22 (Statutory) (Annual)**

**Please see Appendix A - Variation to admissions arrangements for September 2021-2022**

**Author: Shirley Hulme**

**Committee: Admissions Committee**

**Date Prepared: January 2020**

**Date Approved: February 2020**

**Date of Review: January 2021**

**Approved by Full Governing Body on Date:**

**Chair of Governors.....**

**St Mary's Catholic Federation, Carshalton**

#### **Safeguarding Statement**

This school takes notice of and adheres to all the national and local policies and guidance in regard to Safeguarding Children and Young People.

**Lead Safeguarding Person Junior School: Mrs S Hulme**

**Lead Safeguarding Person Nursery & Infant School: Mrs M Quinn**

**Safeguarding Deputies: (Juniors) Mrs H Nicholls, Miss F Sullivan (Infants) Mrs S Hulme & Miss E Bryant**

**Governor designated safeguarding officer: Mr T Richmond**

# ADMISSION POLICY FOR ST MARY'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL

## For Admission Year 2021-22

St Mary's Voluntary Aided Nursery and Infant School is situated in the Archdiocese of Southwark. It was opened to serve the Catholic community, in particular, the children of practising Catholic families living in the parishes of Holy Cross, Carshalton; Our Lady of the Rosary, Sutton; St Margaret's, Carshalton Beeches; and Holy Family, Sutton Green.

A substantial amount of funding for the upkeep of the school is donated by regular churchgoers in these parishes through their regular weekly contributions at Mass. The Catholic community support the school because they value a distinctive Catholic Education for their children. For the remainder of this policy, the word Catholic refers to those baptised or formally accepted into the Catholic faith as defined in the section Further Information.

Parents elect to apply for this school in order to ensure that the Catholic values and way of life are passed on to their children at home, in the parish and at school.

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

Baptised Catholic Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) that names the school will be considered for a place before other applicants are considered. In this way, the number of places to be offered, as set out in the Section above, will be reduced by the number of children with a statement that has named the school. The admissions of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or with an EHCP are dealt with by a completely separate procedure as set out in the SEND code of practice.

The Governors, having consulted with the London Borough of Sutton Education Authority, intend to admit 90 children per year (maximum 30 per class). This includes children who have Statements of Special Educational Needs of an EHCP which name the school; those children will be admitted if their needs can be accommodated, and the number of places available will reduce accordingly.

The Governors, having consulted with the London Borough of Sutton Education Authority, intend to admit 90 children per year. This includes children who have Statements of Special Educational Needs of an EHCP which name the school; those children will be admitted if their needs can be accommodated, and the number of places available will reduce accordingly.

## **APPLICATION FOR PLACES AT THESE SCHOOLS**

Before Governors can consider the allocation of places, the application process has to be complete.

For applications for Reception, parents **must** complete their home local authority's Common Application Form and return it to their home local authority by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This application form will be available from September 2020. If you wish to apply for a place at this school, you **must** list it as one of your preferences on the application form.

For applications for Nursery, parents **do not** need to complete their local authority's Common Application Form but must complete a Supplementary Application Form for Nursery. The same timescales apply.

1. A St Mary's Catholic Nursery & Infant School supplementary application form should be completed by parents and returned to school by 15<sup>th</sup> January preceding the September intake.

2. Proof of residence, e.g. a copy of a utility bill within the last 3 months or council tax statement from the current year will be required by the Local Authority for confirmation of home address.
1. A copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate must be submitted with the supplementary application form. A copy of your child's shorter Birth Certificate must be submitted by successful applicants after offers are made.
  - a. In the case where the application is to be considered under Criteria 1, if the child is not a baptised Catholic, a copy of the baptism certificate must be submitted for the adopted parent or parent with a residence or guardianship order for the child.
3. If you are applying on the basis of your faith the application should be supported by a reference from a priest or minister. If you have recently moved into the area, then we need a reference from your previous Parish Priest or minister. The level of Mass attendance by the family will be used to rank children when offering a place.
4. Completion of a Supplementary Application Form is not mandatory; however, if one is not received with the application, the Governors will rank the application in accordance with the admission criteria based on the information available to them.

## **ADMISSION CRITERIA**

Governors will allocate places available as follows:

- 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.
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a brother or sister in St Mary's Infant or Junior Schools at the time of application. (*\*see further information, Siblings*)
3. Baptised Catholic children from practising Catholic families, as verified by a reference from their priest where they regularly worship, living within the parishes of Holy Cross, Carshalton: Our Lady of the Rosary, Sutton: St Margaret of Scotland, Carshalton Beeches: Holy Family, Sutton Green. Applications will be ranked in the order shown on the Supplementary Form in the section of the Priest's reference.

When criteria 3 is oversubscribed by applicants, remaining places will be allocated to baptised children equated to the size of the parish using percentages. These percentages are calculated using Mass statistics collected in a census by each parish which are submitted to the diocese annually. These statistics are published in the Southwark Catholic Directory.

Where the number of places available within a parish is oversubscribed, priority will be given in the following order:

- a. Children whose family attends Mass either every Saturday (evening Vigil Mass) or Sunday.
- b. Children whose family attends Mass at least either one Saturday (evening Vigil Mass) or Sunday every month.
- c. Children whose family attends Mass less than once a month.

Where there are insufficient applicants within a parish, remaining places will be split between the other parishes on an equal basis in the order of parish size, starting with the largest.

4. Baptised Catholic children from practising Catholic families who do not live within the four parishes of Holy Cross, Carshalton: Holy Family, Sutton: St Margaret of Scotland, Carshalton Beeches: Our Lady of the Rosary, Sutton.

Where criterion 4 is oversubscribed, priority will be given in the following order:

- a. Children whose family attends Mass either every Saturday (evening Vigil Mass) or Sunday.
- b. Children whose family attends Mass at least either one Saturday (evening Vigil Mass) or Sunday every month.

- c. Children whose family attends Mass less than once a month.
- 5. Baptised Catholic children whose parents may not be practising at the time of application.
- 6. Other looked after children or previously looked after children who have been adopted or who have become the subject of a residence or guardianship order.
- 7. Other children who have a brother or sister at St Mary's Infant or Junior schools at the time of application. (*\*see further information, Siblings*)
- 8. Children who are members of other Christian denominations, (including Catholic Churches not in Union with the See of Rome). Evidence of membership of the church verified by a minister will be required.
- 9. Children of other faiths. Evidence of membership of the faith should be provided by a priest/ minister/faith leader.
- 10. Any other children.

**Tie-breaks**

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

- a) Medical or Social grounds which make the school particularly suitable for the Catholic child in question. Catholic refugees and asylum seekers will also be considered under this category. These would require verification by an appropriate authority such as a medical practitioner or social worker.
- b) Distance from home to school. All distances will be measured in a straight line by the London Borough of Sutton computerised Geographical Information System from the School entrance. Evidence of residence may be required. Where the last remaining place is to be allocated and two or more children are deemed to live at the same distance from the school the place will be decided by the drawing of lots.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Catholic\*** In the context of school admissions Catholic children are defined as Children who are baptised or received into the Catholic Church, children baptised or received into the Eastern Churches in union with Rome and children of members of the Ordinariate.

Churches in Communion with the See of Rome

- ALEXANDRIAN: Coptic Ethiopian
- ATIOCH: Malankrese, Maronite, Syrian
- ARMENIAN CONSTANTINOPLE: Albanian, Byelorussian, Bulgarian, Greek, Melchite, Italo-Albanian, Romanian, Russian Ruthenian, Slovakian Ukranian, Hungarian
- CHALDEAN: Malabar

Eastern Orthodox Churches, including the Coptic Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Russian Orthodox Churches are **not** in communion with the See of Rome.

**Personal Ordinariate**

Baptised children of parents who are members of the Ordinariate established under the Apostolic Constitution Anglicanorum Coetibus of November 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 are to be given equal preference to that offered to children baptised in a Catholic church. It is important to note that these children may have been baptised in the Church of England.

**Sibling\*** Sibling is defined as a full brother or sister, half brother or sister living at the same address, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner and in every case who is living as part of the family unit at the same address, Monday to Friday.

**\*\*** Siblings in Year 6 in St Mary's Junior school at the time of application to start school will not qualify.

### **Other factors**

1. The maximum class size is 30 pupils.
2. Parents can request that their child attends part-time until they reach compulsory school age. Paragraph 2.65 of the new School Admissions Code.
3. The Governors will provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents of children who are not yet of compulsory school age can defer their child's entry until later in the school year, but not beyond the date that the child reaches statutory school age. Paragraph 2.69 of the new School Admissions Code.
4. The maximum number of pupils in the Nursery will be 26 for the morning session and 26 in the afternoon session. Nursery places are offered in accordance with the stated Admissions Policy.

**NB. A place in the Nursery does not guarantee a place in the main school.**

### **Home Address Clarification**

The child's home address excludes any business, relative's or childminder's address, and must be the applicant's normal place of residence by the closing date. If there is a genuine equal share custody arrangement between the two parents, the address that will be used will be the address of the parent who is closest to the school as described in section b of Tie Breaks. All distances will be measured **in a straight line** by the London Borough of Sutton computerised Geographical Information System. Any offer of a place under this criterion is conditional on the child being resident at the address provided, at the closing date for application. The address to be used for waiting lists, after the initial allocation will be the child's current address. Confirmation of the parish boundaries can be obtained by the School Admissions Officer.

The address to be used for the initial allocation of places in Reception will be the child's address at the closing date of application. Changes of address at the closing date of application. Changes of address up to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 may be considered if there are exceptional reasons behind the change, such as the family has just moved to the area, or has returned from abroad. The address to be used for waiting lists, after the initial allocation and for mid-term admissions will be the child's current address. Any offer is conditional upon the child living at the appropriate address on the relevant date. Parents have a responsibility to notify the school and the Local Authority of any change of address.

### **Mid Term Admissions**

Parents must complete the application form for their home Local Authority. In order to be considered fully for the school, parents should also complete the school Supplementary Form which should be accompanied by the Baptismal Certificate. If a vacancy arises, applicants will be considered in accordance with the school's Admissions criteria. Any offer of a place will be sent by the school to which the application is made. The shorter birth certificate will be requested after an offer has been made.

## Waiting List

The Governors will automatically place the names of all unsuccessful applicants and late applications on to a waiting list. However, this does not prevent unsuccessful applicants the right of appeal. The waiting list is based on the oversubscription criteria and not on the length of time on the waiting list. Waiting lists for Reception will be managed in accordance with Sutton's coordinated scheme and will be maintained until the last day of the Autumn term. The school will write to everyone on the waiting list before the end Autumn term and parents wishing to remain on the list must inform the school by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 stating their wish and providing their child's name, date of birth and name of current school. It is possible that when a child is directed under the local authority's fair access protocol they will take precedence over those children already on the list.

Parents who are seeking a place for their child outside of their normal age group, e.g., the child has experienced problems such as ill health or the parents of a summer born child choosing not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday, may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group - to reception rather than year 1.

Governors will make decisions on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group, and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. They will also take into account the views of the school's head teacher. When informing a parent of the decision which year group the child should be admitted to, the governors will set out clearly the reasons for their decision.

Where the governors agree to a parent's request for their child to be admitted out of their normal age group and, as a consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to the age group to which pupils are normally admitted to the school the local authority will process the application as part of the main admissions round, (unless the parental request is made too late for this to be possible) and on the basis of the determined admission arrangements, including the application of oversubscription criteria where applicable. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

## PROCEDURES

**PLEASE NOTE** children who attend St Mary's Nursery and Infant Schools do not have automatic right to a place in St Mary's Junior School. A separate application must be made for a Junior School place. A separate application must be made for a place at the Infant and Junior schools.

## Fair Access Protocol

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 a relevant year group and ahead of any waiting list

## APPEALS

Appeals deadline to lodge an appeal: 4th June 2021

*Parents whose applications for places at the infant school are unsuccessful may appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel set up in accordance with section 85(3) 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 made to the Admissions Appeal Clerk at the school address. Parents/Carers have the right to make oral representations to the Appeal Panel.*

*Infant classes are restricted by the legislation 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.*

*Statutory appeals cannot be made against the Governors decision not to offer a place at the nursery*

Date of review: January 2021

Variation to admissions arrangements for September 2021-2022

The governing body of St. Mary's Catholic Federation, Carshalton has adopted a statement on Catholic practice. Set out below is a copy of the statement that has been placed on the admissions page on our website. This statement has also been communicated by email to the London Borough of Sutton, Schools Admission Team; all local primary schools where the admission authority is not the London Borough of Sutton, Schools Admission Team and all local Catholic secondary schools. The statement will also be included in correspondence and presentations with parents and carers.

**Statement:**

**Admissions Clarification (Covid-19) St. Mary's Catholic Federation, Carshalton Admission Arrangements 2021-2022**

Parents and carers applying for places in the academic year 2021-2022 are asked to note the following statement in relation to the Mass Attendance oversubscription criterion set out in St. Mary's Catholic Federation, Carshalton's admission arrangements: On the advice of the Education Commission of the Archdiocese of Southwark, the governing body of St. Mary's Catholic Federation, Carshalton has agreed the following statement in order to clarify how its faith-based oversubscription criteria will be interpreted while churches are closed or attendance at church is not possible due to Covid-19. This statement has been shared widely with parishes by the Education Commission in order to ensure that determinations made by parish priests concerning regular practice of the faith are being made on a consistent basis.

*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 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.*

Mr B Tomkins  
Chair of Governors,  
October 2020