



ST. JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Crossfields Street, Deptford, London, SE8 3PH

T: 0208 692 4836 F: 0208 694 6421 W: www.stjps.lewisham.sch.uk E: admin@stjps.lewisham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Patricia Chantrey

SCHOOL GOVERNORS' ADMISSION POLICY 2017 / 2018

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a voluntary aided school in the Diocese of Southwark. It is in the trusteeship of the Diocese. 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. The school exists primarily to serve the Catholic community and Catholic children always have priority of admission. However the Governing Body also welcomes applications from those of other denominations and faiths who support the religious ethos of the school.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ and to show this through the aims, ethos, rites and practices of the school. Religious Education and all liturgies and acts of worship, that children participate in, are Catholic in character.

The Governing Body has sole responsibility for admissions to this school and intends to admit 30 pupils to the Reception Class in the school year which begins in September. The school participates in Lewisham's coordinated admission scheme and annual admission is delegated to the Governors' Admission committee.

Criteria

All applicants will be considered according to the following criteria, which are listed below.

- 1 Looked After Catholic Child or ceased to be so because they were adopted (or become subject to a residence order or special guardianship order). Looked After children in the care of Catholic families
- 2 Baptised Catholic children from practising Catholic families who have siblings in the school at the intended date of admission
- 3 Baptised Catholic children of practising Catholic families who are resident in the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Deptford, Lewisham.
- 4 Baptised Catholic children of practising Catholic families who are resident in other parishes
- 5 Other Baptised Catholic children
- 6 a) resident in the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Deptford, Lewisham,



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b) resident in other parishes

7 Other Looked After children

8 Children who are enrolled as Catechumens

9 Children who are members of Eastern Orthodox Churches

10 Christians of other denominations whose parents are in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the school and whose practice is supported by a minister of religion. The order of precedence will be a) Baptised and b) Dedicated

11 Non baptised children where one or both parents are baptised Catholics

12 Children who are members of other faiths. Evidence of membership provided by a priest, minister or faith leader of a designated place of worship will be required

13 Any other application

Oversubscription Criteria

Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic applicants according to the order of priority.

In the event of oversubscription within each of the above categories, further priority will be awarded as follows:

a) Criteria 2 & 3. The strength of evidence of commitment to the faith as demonstrated by the level of the family's Mass attendance on Sundays. This evidence must be provided by the parents/carers and be endorsed by a priest at the church(es) where the family normally worship. Applications will be ranked in the order shown on the Supplementary Form; firstly those who attend Mass weekly, then those who attend Mass 3 times a month, twice a month finally once a month.

b) The pupils with a Statement note needs to be amended –

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

The admissions of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or with an EHC Plan are



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dealt with by a completely separate procedure. The procedure is integral to the making and maintaining of statements and EHC plans by the pupil's home local authority. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the SEND code of practice. Pupils with a statement or EHC plan naming the school will be admitted without reference to the above criteria.

c) Distance from the school as measured by the local authority's school mapping system, i.e. all distances will be measured to a central nodal point in the school premises, using digitised mapping software of the area, from a nodal point in the applicant's permanent home address.

d) In the event that two or more identical applications (ie applicants living the exact home to school distance) qualify for the last available place the place will be allocated by drawing lots

Admission of children below compulsory school age

The governors will 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 in that school year; parents may also request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

A Common Application Form (CAF) should be completed and sent to the local authority by the published date.

Applicants who submit an application on the Local Authority's Common Application Form will also be requested to complete the "Catholic Primary Schools in Lewisham" Supplementary form.

Although completion of the Supplementary form is not mandatory, if one is not received the Governors will not be able to apply their admission criteria and the application will be considered under the "any other applicants" category.

This form may be obtained from, and should be returned to, the school with a baptism certificate or evidence of reception into the Catholic Church.

Proof of child's Baptismal records (and/or Dedication) may be required at the time of application.

Proof of permanent home address will be required. This may take the form of current Council tax statements, utility bills, residence or other Court order. Further checks may be carried out to ensure that the information provided is correct. Where shared care arrangements are in place, the



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permanent home address is regarded as that where the child lives for the majority of the time and with the parent who is in receipt of benefit(s).

Waiting Lists

Unsuccessful candidates will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Where late application to the school is made because families have moved into the area, children's names will be inserted into the appropriate place on the waiting list. **Names are kept on the waiting list for one year from the date the application is received**, and will be operated using the same admission criteria listed above. An appeal can be made against the decision not to offer your child a place at this school; however the legislation on class size and the limited powers of the appeal panel should be considered.

Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Educational Health Care Plan

The admission of pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs or Educational Health Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure which is set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

Fair Access

The school is committed to taking its share of pupils who are hard to place in accordance with the locally agreed fair access protocol. Pupils admitted under the protocol will take priority over any children on the waiting list and this may include, on occasion, admitting above the planned admissions number.

Out of the normal age group applications

In very exceptional circumstances the governors of the school will consider a request for admission out of cohort for an older child, including those born in the summer term.

The application may be supported by the child's nursery/primary head teacher and/or an educational psychologist/specialist confirming that the child has learning delay or difficulty or their social maturity is well below that of his or her peers.

In coming to a decision the governors will consider the grounds presented by the parent to support their request as well as the views of the head teacher and any evidence s/he provides.

Parents must consider the implications of a deferred transfer as primary/secondary schools are not required to continue to keep the child out of year group and may decide to later educate the child in



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the correct year.

The Admission Policy is subject to regular review by the Governing Body.

Notes (Definition of Terms)

** The phrase “practising Catholic families” means Catholic children of natural or adoptive parents or of officially designated carers who worship at Mass on a regular basis and whose application is supported by a Catholic priest. The governing body will expect this to be verified by a reference from the priest.*

** “Catholic” means a member of a Church in communion with the See of Rome. Catholics include members of the Ordinariate and the Latin and Oriental Rite Churches that are in union with the Bishop of Rome. Reference to other Christian denominations refers to denominations that are full members of Churches Together in England. The governing body will expect this to be verified by a certificate of Baptism or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church.*

** “Catechumen” means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. The Governing body will require written evidence of this commitment.*

** “Looked after children” – A ‘looked after child’ or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. 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 definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).*

** “Sibling” is defined as a blood or adoptive sibling or half-sibling plus foster or step-siblings living at the same address as the child. Proof of the sibling relationship may be required.*

** Parents are required to show the child’s baptism certificate. They may be asked to show their own baptismal certificate as a further proof of Catholicity.*

For the purpose of this policy, parish boundaries are shown on the attached map.

