



October

25

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Admissions Procedures 2025-26

Date ratified by Governors:	October 2023
Date of next review of the policy:	October 2024
This policy is reviewed:	Annually

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Aspiration - Compassion - Community - Faith - Respect – Responsibility

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Commerell Street
East Greenwich
London SE10 9AN

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.

Having consulted with the Local Authority, the Diocese and other admission authorities, the Governors intend to admit into the reception class, in September 2023, up to 30 pupils without reference to ability or aptitude.

First priority will go to children with a Statement of Special Education Needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan (EHCP) naming the school. Remaining places will be given in the following priority order:

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 become subject to a child arrangement or special guardianship order, immediately having been looked after.
2. Baptised Catholic children. Evidence of Baptism will be required.
3. Children enrolled in the catechumenate. Evidence of enrolment in the catechumenate will be required
4. Other looked after children and other previously looked after children who have been adopted or become subject to a child arrangement or special guardianship order, immediately having been looked after.
5. Children who are members of Eastern Orthodox Churches. Evidence of Baptism will be required.
6. Children of families who are members of other Christian denominations that are part of Churches Together in England. Evidence of Baptism (or dedication) provided by a priest or minister of a designated place of worship will be required.
7. Children who are members of other faiths. Evidence of membership of the faith provided by a priest, minister or religious leader of a designated place of worship will be required.
8. Any other children.

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.

- i. For Category 2 above - 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 once or twice a month etc.
- ii. A brother or sister on the school roll at the time of admission. Evidence of the relationship may be required. In line with new legislation the limit on class sizes does not apply to children whose parents are in the forces. In a situation where a sibling was 30 and the twin was 31, the class size would be increased.
- iii. Social, pastoral and medical needs which make the school particularly suitable for the child in question. Strong and relevant evidence must be provided by an appropriate professional authority (e.g. qualified medical practitioner, education welfare officer, social worker or priest).
- iv. Proximity to the School from the Candidate's home address, the distance measured in a straight line from the School entrance by the Local Authority using a Geographical Computerised Information System. 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.

Notes

- a. Catholics include members of the Ordinaries 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.
- b. A “brother or sister” means children who live as brother and sister including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers or sisters. It would not include other relatives (e.g. cousins).
- c. Home refers to the permanent home address at which the child lives for the majority of his/her time and with the parent who is in receipt of child benefit.
- d. Looked after children are those in the care of a public authority and are in public care. Applications made under this criterion must be accompanied by details of circumstance and professionally supported evidence (e.g. from an appropriate social worker).

Admissions during the year and outside the normal round.

Admission of children moving into the area or transferring from another school in year and outside of the normal admissions round will be considered by Governors having regard to the Admissions Policy and according to whether places are available in the appropriate year group.