

# Nursery Admissions Policy

September 2023/24

## NURSERY CLASSES IN DIOCESAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Admission to the Nursery class at St Michael's Catholic Primary School will be on a part time basis and made by the Governing Body in accordance with the parental applications subject to the following set of ADMISSIONS CRITERIA forming a priority order where there are more applications for admission than the Nursery has places available. **Children are eligible to start Nursery on or after their 3rd Birthday.** For the school year commencing September 2023 the Governing Body has set its admissions number at **morning session 30** and **afternoon session 26**.

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children. This includes children who appear 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 who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children resident in the parish of St Michael & Sacred Heart (the part of the parish formerly referred to as St Michael).
4. Other baptised Catholic children.
5. Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
6. Children from other Christian denominations. Proof of Baptism in the form of a Baptismal Certificate or confirmation in writing that the applicant is a member of their Faith community from an appropriate Minister of Religion is required.
7. Children of other faiths. An appropriate Faith Leader would need to confirm in writing that the applicant is a member of their faith group.
8. Other children.

If it is not possible to offer places for all applications within any criteria above, then places will be allocated to the children who live nearest to the school. The distance will be measured by straight line distance between the child's permanent home address and the school using the local authority's computerised measuring system.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health Care Plan that names a school will be offered place without using the admission criteria and will count as part of the school's published admission number.

## NOTES

- a) 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 (under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). A previously Looked After Child is one who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Applications must be supported with appropriate evidence that the child has been adopted from state care.

- b) For a child to be considered as a Catholic evidence of a Catholic Baptism is required.

- c) The decision with regard to the allocation of a morning or an afternoon place rests with the Headteacher.

- d) An admission to the Nursery Class does not necessarily secure admission to the Primary School.

- e) If in any category there are more applications than places available, priority will be given on the basis of distance from home to school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the front door of the child's home address (including the community entrance to flats) to the main entrance of the school using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system with those living nearer to the school having priority. In the event of distances being the same for two or more applicants where this distance would be last place/s to be allocated, a random lottery will be carried out in a public place. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

- f) Home Address is considered to be the address where the child normally lives. Where care is split and a child moves between two addresses, the household in receipt of the child benefit would normally be the address used but the admission body reserve the right to request other proofs as fit the individual circumstance. Applicants should not state a childminder's or other relative's address.

- g) Sibling is defined in these arrangements as full, half or step brothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit. This does not include cousins or other family relationships.

- h) The Governing Body reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to baptism, sibling connections or place of residence.

**With Jesus we can achieve what we dream and believe**