

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Primary School

Admissions Policy 2016-2017

ADMISSIONS

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Primary School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeates every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education is 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.

Places at St Joan of Arc will be allocated in accordance with the following policy and procedure.

You should note in particular the following:

- The school regularly receives many more applications than it has places available. Even if your application falls within one of the first oversubscription criteria there is no guarantee that a place will be available.
- A place in the school's Nursery does not guarantee you a place in Reception. You will need to re-apply.
- Applications arriving after 15/01/16 will be dealt with after all initial offers have been made.
- Offers of places will be sent to parents on or about the 16th of April 2016.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

1. St Joan of Arc Catholic Primary School is a Catholic school which serves the following parishes:

**St Joan of Arc, Highbury
St Thomas More, Manor House
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Stoke Newington**

In this document we describe these parishes as the “Three Parishes”.

A map showing the parish boundaries is available with the school application pack. This will be used to determine the parish in which each applicant’s residential address is situated.

2. The Published Admissions Number (PAN) for the Reception Year at St. Joan of Arc is 60. The Governing Body has sole responsibility for admissions to this school and intends to admit 60 children in the school year which begins in September 2016. Applications are invited from families whose child will reach their 4th birthday between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016. The Governing Body proposes to admit up to 30 pupils into each of the two classes in each year group.

3. To apply for a place for your child you must complete the Common Application Form and the Supplementary Information Form, as well as the supporting documents listed under "Procedure".

If you are applying for a place in the school's Reception class it is very important that you do this in the timeframe set out.

4. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic applicants in accordance with the criteria listed below.
5. If you are refused a place for your child in the school's Reception, Infant or Junior classes (i.e. Reception or years 1-6) 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 are entitled by law to appeal to an independent appeals panel. You will be given details of how to lodge an appeal if your application is unsuccessful. You should however note that this panel can only consider whether this policy and procedure has been correctly applied. It cannot change this policy.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Children will be admitted to the school in the following order of priority:

1. Catholic looked after children and Catholic children who have been adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after.
2. Baptised Catholic children from practising Catholic families with one or more sibling(s) attending the school at the time of their enrolment.
3. Baptised Catholic children from practising Catholic families whose parent(s)/legal guardian(s) are resident in one of the Three Parishes.
4. Baptised Catholic children from other practising Catholic families not included in criteria 1 and 2 above.
5. Other baptised Catholics.
6. Other looked after children and other children who have been adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after.
7. Children from families of Christian denominations whose parents wish for them to have a Catholic education and whose application is supported by a minister of religion with one or more sibling(s) attending the school at the time of their enrolment.

8. Children from families of Christian denominations whose parents wish for them to have a Catholic education and whose application is supported by a minister of religion.
9. Any other applicants with one or more sibling(s) attending the school at the time of their enrolment.
10. Any other applicants.

For these purposes;

- A ‘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 for a child by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church.
- B ‘Christian’ means a member of one of the member churches of Churches Together in England.
- C ‘Parent’ means the person or persons who have legal responsibility for the child.
- D ‘Sibling’ means brother or sister, to include adopted brothers and sisters, half brothers and sisters or step brothers and sisters.
- E ‘Adopted’. An adopted child is a child who has been adopted from care and whose parents can provide evidence of this status.
- F ‘Looked after children’ 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).
- G ‘Child arrangements order’. A child arrangements order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8 which defines it as an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live.
- H ‘Special Guardianship Order’. A special guardianship order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.14A which defines it as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian(s).
- I ‘Practising Catholic’ means a Catholic child from a practising Catholic family where this practice is verified by a reference from a Catholic priest in the standard format laid down by the Diocese.
- J Applicant’s ‘home’ means where the child lives for more than 50% of the school week.

TIE BREAK

Where the offer of places to all the applicants in any of the categories listed above would lead to oversubscription, the following provisions will be applied.

- i. Applicants who live nearest to the preferred school; nearness to the school will be determined by a computerised mapping system using a **straight line** distance **measurement**. Routes will be calculated from the home address (as defined by the Land & Property Gazetteer) to the midpoint of the school grounds (as determined by Islington Local Authority).

In the case of equidistance from the school, the final place will be offered by random allocation i.e. lottery. This will take place in the presence of an independent witness.

- ii. In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful candidates will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscriptions criteria set out above and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Names are normally removed from the list at the end of each academic year, unless applicants request to remain on the list.

Twins and Siblings from Multiple Births

Where the final place is offered to a child who has other siblings applying for a place in the same school year, these siblings will also be admitted.

Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the *Special Educational Needs Code of Practice*. If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) you must contact your local authority SEN officer.

PREVIOUS YEARS

In 2012-2013, the school received 174 applications. Pupils were admitted to the reception year group up to category 4.

In 2013-2014, the school received 174 applications. Pupils were admitted to the reception year group up to category 9.

In 2014-2015, the school received 175 applications. Pupils were admitted to the reception year group up to category 4.

In 2015-2016, the school received 189 applications. Pupils were admitted to the reception year group up to category 3.

RIGHT TO DEFER 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 deferment is requested. The place will then be held until the first day of the spring or summer term. 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 of application. Parents wishing to defer entry for summer born children should note that entry can only be deferred up to the 1st of April 2017.

ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP

Parents may request that their child be educated out of his/her chronological age group. Such requests must be made in writing to the Chair of Governors during the autumn term in the year of application. Governors will consider each request on its own merits and permission will only be given in exceptional circumstances. When the application is made, it will be ranked with all the other applications and no further exceptions will be given. A statutory right of appeal will be given upon refusal if no place has been offered in any school year.

IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

Applications for In-Year admissions are made directly to the school. Where there is no waiting list, the local authority will be notified and the child will be admitted. 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 and you will be informed of your right of appeal. 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. Names are removed from the list at the end of each academic year. When a place becomes available the governing body will decide who is at the top of the list and make an offer.

FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOLS

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.

CHANGE OF DETAILS

If any of the details on either of your forms change 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.

Procedure & Timing

If you wish to apply for a place in the school for your child you should:

1. Return to the school a Supplementary Information Form*, which you have fully completed. Forms can be obtained from the school website www.st-joanofarc.islington.sch.uk, the Islington Primary Booklet or from the school office during term time on:

MONDAYS from 3 – 4 pm and THURSDAYS from 12:30 – 1:30pm

ONLY AT THESE TIMES

or by writing to the school.

2. Provide the school with the original following documents:
 - a. Proof of your child's date of birth
 - b. Baptismal Certificate, if applicable

Please note that the Governing Body may seek independent verification of your residential address.

- c. A reference from the Parish Priest of the parish in which you practise if you are applying under criteria 2, 3 and 4. Forms are available from the school website or via the school office at the above times.

You may send original documents to us, which can be returned if requested. This, however, is at your own risk.

If you are not the parent of the child for whom you are applying you should also provide the school with proof that you are his/her legal guardian(s).

It is not the Governing Body's practice to conduct interviews. However, the priest providing a reference may wish to meet with parent(s)/legal guardian(s) before completing the form.

3. Complete a Reception Admission Common Application Form* which must be submitted, **as set out in the local authority admission arrangements**, to the authority in which the parent is resident.

***The Application timetable: If you do not complete the Supplementary Information Form and Common Application Form and return them by the closing date, the governing body may be unable to consider your application fully and it is unlikely that your child will be offered a place at the school.**

Applications will be accepted from the 1st of September for children due to start school the following year.

If any document – including the priest’s reference – is received late the Governing Body will be entitled to ignore it unless places become available after the Admissions Committee has allocated places for the relevant school year, for example if successful applicants withdraw.

The Admissions Committee of the Governing Body will meet to allocate places in the school’s Reception Classes for the following school year.

You will be informed by your Local Education Authority if your child has been allocated a place.

Applications for places in other classes will be considered when received.

In the first week of the September term, Reception and Nursery Teachers will carry out home visits. A “settling in period” will follow, when the children will attend school for half days.