

## **ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, NORTH SHIELDS ADMISSIONS POLICY**

The Governing Body of St Mary's RC Primary School is the Admissions Authority for this school.

The Admissions Policy Criteria will be applied on an Equal Preference basis.

The Governing Body intends to admit 30 pupils to the Reception year group in September. This number will apply to Reception Year and to Key Stage 1 classes.

Parents are asked to note that admission to the Nursery unit is no guarantee of entry into the main school.

Where there are insufficient places available to meet all parental preferences, priority will be given to applications in the following order:

(First priority in each category will be given to children who have older brothers or sisters attending the school at the time of admission)

1. Catholic Children in the care of a Local Authority
2. Catholic Children whose home address is within the parish boundaries of St Mary's Cullercoats, Our Lady and St Oswin's Tynemouth or St Edmund's Backworth.
3. Catholic Children whose home address is outside of the parish boundaries of St Mary's Cullercoats, Our Lady and St Oswin's Tynemouth or St Edmund's Backworth
4. Other Children in the care of the Local Authority
5. Children, who are baptised or dedicated members of other Christian Churches as recognised by Churches Together in England
6. Children of other Faith Traditions
7. Other Children

If applicants are seeking admission under criteria 5 & 6 above they will be asked for a letter of support to confirm their church membership from the minister or faith leader, or suitable equivalent.

### **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

#### **1. Definition of Catholic**

Children who have been baptised as Catholics or have been formally received into the Catholic Church. All applicants seeking admission under criteria 1, 2 or 3 will be asked to provide evidence that the child has been baptised as Catholic or has been received into the Catholic Church. A baptismal certificate or a letter from the priest confirming their baptism or reception into the Catholic Church will suffice

## **2. Definition of Children in the care of a Local Authority**

A child who is looked after by a Local Authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children's Act 1989(b) at the time of application for admission to the school is made and who the Local Authority can confirm, will still be looked after at the time of admission to school.

## **3. Definition of Sibling**

Siblings refer to brother or sister, half brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

## **4. Churches Together in England**

(See [www.churches-together.org.uk](http://www.churches-together.org.uk) for further details on membership)

## **5. Tie – breaker**

Where there are places available for some, but not all applicants within a particular criterion, distance from home address to the school entrance will be the deciding factor, Distance will be measured in a straight line from the front door of the child's home address (including flats) to the main entrance of the school, (using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system) with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

## **6. Right of Appeal**

Where a parent has been notified that a place is not available for a child, every effort will be made to help the parent to find a place in a suitable alternative school. Parents who are refused a place have a statutory right of appeal. Further details of the appeals process are available by writing to the Chair of Governors at the school address.

## **7. Home Address**

It is the parental address which will be used in applying the admission criteria. This means that, when stating your choice of school, you should give the parental/guardian address at the time of application. The address of childminders or other family members who share in the care of your child should not be quoted as the home address.

## **Waiting Lists**

If your child has been refused admission, a waiting list is available where priority will be given according to the above criteria based on the information provided at the time of application. The waiting list will be held until the end of the autumn term.

## **Application Information**

It is very helpful to have an early indication of the number of children to be admitted to the Reception class in the following September. However, it must be stressed that formal written applications for admission must be made on the form provided by the Local Authority and returned to them by the stated date. Places will then be allocated by strict application of the above criteria, with no reference to the date of application. Parents will be notified as to whether or not their child has been allocated a place.