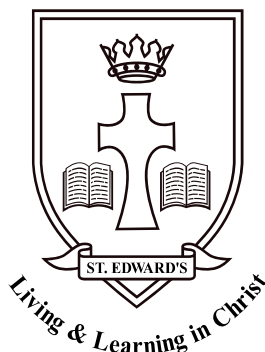


St Edward's Catholic Junior School

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".
Philippians 4: 13



Proposed Admissions Policy 2023 - 2024

St Edward's Catholic Junior School is a Roman Catholic Foundation Voluntary Aided School is promoted by the Diocese of Northampton and is maintained by Buckinghamshire Local Authority.

The school's ethos reflects our Christian gospel values and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. The school motto, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' underpins all that we do at St Edward's. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the Catholic faith to apply for and be considered for a place here.

Responsibility for the admission of pupils rests with the Governing Body which determines and administers the policy. The Governors will discharge their statutory obligation to provide a place for a pupil with a statement of special educational needs when the school has been named in the Education and Health Care Plan. The Governors will then admit up to the standard number of 64 pupils. All admissions including casual or in-year admissions are co-ordinated by the Local Authority.

Parents wishing to apply for a place for their child in the school must complete the Local Authority Common Application Form (CAF) and the Supplementary Form to Apply to a Buckinghamshire Catholic Primary School. In all cases the CAF should be returned to the School Admissions Team, County Hall, Walton Street Aylesbury HP20 1UZ and the Supplementary Information Form should be returned directly to the school.

Places will be made available to eligible pupils in accordance with the following criteria and order of priority. (Under all criteria, where evidence of faith is required, the Supplementary Form to Apply to a Buckinghamshire Catholic Primary School should be completed and signed by the Priest or Minister, and where baptismal evidence is required a copy of the Baptismal Certificate should be attached.)

1. Baptised Catholic Looked After (CLA) children, including Baptised Catholic Looked After Children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).
2. All other Looked After children, including previously looked after children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).
3. Baptised Catholic children (or children who are actively participating in a Parish Baptismal Programme) who have a Supplementary Form completed by their Parish Priest and who live and practise in any of the parishes of St Joseph's and St Clare's; Guardian Angels; Our Lady of Lourdes (Aylesbury); St Anne's (Wendover) or Holy Family (Halton) or who for family/liturgical reasons, attend another Catholic Church and have a Supplementary Form completed by their Parish Priest.
4. Baptised Catholic children, who live and practise in other Catholic Parishes and have a Supplementary Form completed by their Parish Priest.
5. Other baptised Catholic children.

Notes – for categories 1, 3, 4 and 5 the school will require a copy of the Baptismal Certificate and where appropriate a completed Supplementary Form from their Parish Priest in the Catholic Parish in which they worship.

If a decision has to be made within the above rules, then priority will be given to:

Catholic children who attend St Joseph's Catholic Infant School (Aylesbury), then

Catholic children who have a sibling attending St Edward's (or our linked Infant School, St Joseph's in Aylesbury) in Reception to Year 5 at the time the allocations are made (January 2020). For in year admissions after the point of entry this will apply to siblings of children who are in Reception to Year 6 at the time of admission. Please see 'sibling' definition later in this Policy.

6. Children who attend St Joseph's Catholic Infant School
7. Children who have a sibling attending St Edward's (or our linked Infant School, St Joseph's in Aylesbury) in Reception to Year 5 at the time the allocations are made (January 2020). For in year admissions after the point of entry this will apply to siblings who are in Reception to Year 6 at the time of admission. Please see "sibling" definition later in this Policy.
8. Children of staff employed by St Edward's or St Joseph's Schools for two or more years.
9. Baptised children from other Christian denominations and traditions with a supporting statement from their Church Minister.
10. Un-baptised children from a Catholic or other Christian family, whose parents wish them to receive a Catholic education and can provide a completed Supplementary Form by their Parish Priest or Church Minister.
11. Children from other faiths or traditions with a supporting statement from their Church Minister or Leader.
12. Any other applicant provided that parents are in sympathy with and can support our Catholic ethos.

Note 1

As a final tie break, when it is essential to choose between two or more children who satisfy categories 6-12, the proximity of a child's home as defined and measured by the Local Authority will be used.

Note 2

It is the Governors' intention to make the admissions policy available to all parents by October 2019. **The supplementary form for Catholic schools (together with Baptismal Certificates, if appropriate) should be returned to the school in accordance with the LA's Admissions Scheme.**

The Common Application Form is to be returned direct to the LA. Applications will need to be submitted in accordance with the LA's Admissions Scheme. Notification of the offer of places will be made in accordance with the LA Admissions Scheme.

Definition of Terms

The Governors will adopt the following definitions as defined in the terms below. The school adheres to the terms of the Local Authority (LA) Fair Access protocol.

Catholic: means baptised in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church, or enrolled in a baptismal programme.

Practising: means weekly attendance at Sunday Mass.

Children of other Christian denominations: means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledging God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seeking a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

An ecclesial community which on principle has no creedal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of the Churches Together in England and of CYTÛN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

Parent: either natural parent, providing they have parental responsibility for the child; any person who, although not the natural parent, has parental responsibility for the child. If you are in any doubt, please contact the school or LA for advice.

'Looked after' child: Children Looked After (CLA) and children who were previously looked after (PLAA) but ceased to be so because immediately after being looked after, they became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order. (Note: By a 'looked-after child' we mean one in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of its social services function. An adoption order is one made under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Section 46). A 'child arrangements order' is one setting the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live (Children Act 1989, Section 8 as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014, Section 14). A special guardianship order is one appointing one or more 3 individuals to be a child's special guardian/s (Children Act 1989 Section 14a). Applications under this criterion must be accompanied by evidence to show that the child is looked after or was previously looked after (eg a copy of the adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order).

Normal home address: we mean your child's home address. This is your child's address at the time you make your application for a place. We regard a child's home address to be where he or she spends the majority of the school week (Monday to Friday, including nights).

We may ask to see official documentation, such as a child benefit book or medical card if there are reasons why a child does not live at his or her parent's address. For example, if he or she is resident with a grandparent, you need to tell us this on the application form. If you do not declare any arrangements like this or use a relative's address for your application, we may consider that you have made a false declaration and withdraw the offer of a place.

Childcare arrangements are **not** sufficient reason for listing another address. The school/LA reserves the right to check the validity of any address given, by asking for evidence such as inclusion on the Electoral Roll, or a recent utilities bill confirming your name and address.

If you are moving into the area, we will ask for evidence of your move, before considering any application for a place. We need to know that you will be resident in the area on 1st September 2020. If you move later, we will still need evidence before consideration an application.

Typical evidence is a letter from your solicitor confirming that you have a legally binding agreement to buy the house or a formal lease agreement for at least 6 months following the September of admission.

Sibling: we mean a brother or sister. For admission purposes we mean one of two or more individuals who have one or more parents in common, or any other child (including an adopted child) who permanently lives at the same address and for whom the parent also has parental responsibility. In the case of twins, if the school could offer only one child a place and there were twins (or higher multiples of birth) as the next allocation then the school would admit both (or higher multiples of birth) even if this goes above the admission number of the school.