



'We believe that every child is made in the image of God; inherently valuable and unique amongst God's creations.' School Vision 2019

'We are an inclusive and welcoming family who celebrate each other's achievements.' School Vision 2019

ST. JAMES'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Admissions Policy

(Normal Age of Entry – 2023/2024 Academic Year)

Head teacher: Mrs Natalie Sefton

Address: Kingsway, Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY8 4RU

Document Summary

Principles:

St. James's C.E. Primary has an Admissions Policy which aims to maximise the opportunity to meet parental preference and to meet the individual needs of children wherever possible.

St. James's C.E. Primary does not support the use of selective admissions policies based on aptitude or academic achievement.

The admission arrangements set by the governing body ensures that the process is fair and equitable for all.

Legal Context:

- School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2002
- The Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Primary Schools)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2012
- The Education (Admission of Looked After Children)(England)Regulations 2005
- School Admissions Code 2021

Proposed School Admissions Policy for Normal Age of Entry in Academic Year 2023/2024

Published Admission Number: 60

Children will not be discriminated against as laid down by the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, The Race Relations Act 1976 as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, The Human Rights Act 1998 and The Special Educational Needs and Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and The Equality Act 2010.

All preferences, regardless of ranking, will be assessed against the following criteria to allocate the available places where more applications are received than can be accommodated.

- a) First priority for admission shall be given to relevant Looked after children and all previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are 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). Further references to previously looked after children means such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after. (see notes)
- b) Second priority for admission shall be given to children with a "serious and ongoing medical condition" where St. James's C.E. Primary is the most appropriate school to meet the condition.

(Parents must provide supportive information from their child's Hospital Consultant at the time of application in order to be considered under this criteria. This supportive information should include information about the needs of the child and should detail the difficulties the child would experience if they attended another school. Parents should also indicate why St. James's C.E. Primary is the most appropriate to meet their child's

medical condition rather than any other school. The Governing Body will not seek to obtain medical evidence on behalf of parents.)

- c) Third priority for admission shall be given to children who have a brother/sister, half brother/sister (where the children share one common parent), or step-brother / step-sister, living at the same address and who will still be attending St. James's C.E. Primary in the academic year 2023/2024.
- d) Families who can demonstrate a close commitment to St James's Church, Wollaston. (See note 5 below)
- e) Families who can demonstrate a close commitment to a recognised Christian Church. (See note 5 below)
- f) Children of families committed to the practice of other religions who would like their children educated at a Church of England School. (See note 5 below)
- g) Any places that remain available once the above applicants have been admitted, will be filled according to those children who live closest to the school, determined by a straight-line measurement in metres, from the home address to the main entrance of the school.

1. 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 (see the definition in section 22 (1) of the Children's Act 1989) at the time of making an application to the school. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 Child arrangement orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangement orders replace residence orders and any residence in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians). A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.
2. In accordance with legislation, a child with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan will be offered a place at the school named in the most appropriate to meet the child's individual needs, this may reduce the amount of places available for children who do not have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan.
3. Any Dudley child not obtaining a place will be advised about the independent appeals process.
4. Definition of brother or sister also relates to adopted or fostered children living at the same home address. The definition of a brother or sister is:
A brother or sister sharing the same parents;
Half-brother or half-sister, where two children have one common parent;
Step-brother or step-sister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage;
5. In assessing eligibility under priorities d, e and f consideration will be given to any information about religious affiliations supplied by local religious leaders. If you are applying under one of these categories, you will need to complete a supplementary form, available from the school office. "Attendance at a place of worship must be at least once per month for at least one year prior to application". The form has to be signed by the parish priest, minister, religious leader or church warden, and returned to the school.
6. The home address of a pupil is considered to be the permanent residence of a child. The address must be the child's only or main residence for the majority of the school week. Documentary evidence may be required. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than guardianship), the friends or relative's address will not be considered for allocation purposes.
7. Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week, then the home address will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week. Parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes. At least one item of proof must demonstrate where the child lives.
8. Special conditions will apply in the event that one child from a set of twins or triplets does not gain admission to the preferred school through the admission criteria. The Governing body will exceed the admissions number for the school to prevent separation of twins/triplets.
9. Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide who has the highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and the school is the same.

Deferred Entry to Reception Class

Parents have the right to retain a place offered and request that their child be admitted to Reception Class later during the 2023/2024 academic year or until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age, if they so wish. Parents can also request that their child takes up the place part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Admission of children outside of their normal age group.

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Parents should make their application to The Governing Body setting out the reasons why they believe their child should be taught outside of their chronological age group. The Governor admissions panel will make a decision based on the individual circumstances of each case.

In addition, the parents of summer born children may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.

These parents will need to make an application alongside children applying at the normal age which should explain why it is in the child's best interest to be admitted outside of their normal age which should include information such as professional evidence as to why this is the case and why an exception should be made in the case of the child. A decision as to whether this is an appropriate course of action will be made by The Governing Body who will take into account the circumstances of the case. Parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular year group.

Late Applications

Preferences that are received after the closing date for receipt of applications will only be considered after applications that were received within the deadline have been dealt with.

There will, however, be exceptional circumstances in which a late application will be considered alongside those applications that were made within the deadline.

In each circumstance supportive documentary evidence must be provided by the parent / carer at the time of application.

Waiting Lists

If the school is oversubscribed and children have been refused admission because other children have a higher priority for admission under the published admissions criteria, then those applicants who are unsuccessful will be asked if they wish to be placed on a waiting list.

Children on the waiting list will be ranked in accordance with the published admissions criteria and the list will operate from the point of allocation until the 31st August 2024. After this point the waiting list will no longer be in operation and places that become available will be allocated on a first come first basis. If more than one application is received at the same time, the oversubscription criteria, as detailed on page 3, will be used to determine which applicant will have the place.

Inclusion on the waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

A child's position on a waiting list is not fixed and is subject to change during the year i.e. they can go up or down the list.

Places that become available between the point of allocation and 31 August 2024 will be offered to children according to their ranking on this list i.e. those ranked highest will be offered first.

Repeat Applications

It is not the Governing Body's Policy to consider repeat applications in the same academic year unless there have been significant and material changes in the circumstances of the applicant.

Proposal for variation to the admissions arrangements for September 2023

As Chair of Governors, I write to confirm that by Chair's Action, the Governing Body of this school resolve to propose that a variation be made to the admissions arrangements for admission to Reception classes in September 2022, in respect of the oversubscription criteria relating to church attendance.

The variation requested is that "In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church [or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church [or in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] or alternative premises have been available for public worship".

This request is made in order that parents seeking admission to the school can readily determine what the admissions oversubscription criteria are and how they may be met, and thereby enable the school to deal lawfully, fairly and transparently with admissions matters in the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For convenience, given that we understand a large number of similar requests are being made, the Governing Body consents to the Diocese submitting this request on our behalf, along with those of other schools making such requests for this variation.

This request is made in accordance with the DfE guidance on governing body business during the pandemic, as it is a matter of importance and is time limited, given the relevant admissions timescales.

Signed:

L Salton
Chair of Governors
St James's C.E Primary School