

SS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
ADMISSION POLICY FOR NURSERY
For the Academic Year 2023/2024
Children born between 1st September 2019 - 31st August 2020

Our Mission

**Learning Together, Achieving Together in
Christ**

Background Information

SS Peter & Paul is a Voluntary Aided Primary School in the trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Southwark. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church, in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. The governors expect 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 faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

Having consulted with the Local Authority and other admission authorities, the Governors intend to admit into the Nursery class in September 2023, up to 52 pupils without reference to ability or aptitude (see Note 2).

Children are allocated a place in the school based on the following ranked criteria:

1. Looked after Catholic children or looked after children in the care of Catholic families and previously looked after Catholic children who have been adopted or who have become the subject of a residence or guardianship order.
2. Baptised Catholic children of practising Catholic families.
3. Other Catholic children or children enrolled in the catechumenate.
4. Other looked after children and other previously looked after children who have been adopted or who have become the subject of a residence or guardianship order.
5. Children who are baptised members of Eastern Orthodox Churches.
6. Children of families who are members of other Christian denominations.
7. Children of other faiths.
8. Any other children.

Oversubscription Criteria

The following order of priorities will be applied when applications within any of the above categories exceed the places available and it is necessary to decide between applications:

- A. For categories 2 & 3 above only; The frequency of the family's religious practice, that is attendance at Saturday evening or Sunday Mass. Applications will be ranked, within each category, in the following order as indicated on the Supplementary Information Form:
 - Firstly, those who attend Saturday evening/Sunday Mass weekly, then
 - Those who attend at least monthly.
- B. A brother or sister, residing at the same address, on the school roll at the time of admission. Evidence of the relationship may be required.

- C. Children for whom the school is particularly suitable on medical or social grounds. Written evidence must be provided by a qualified medical practitioner or social worker. The supporting evidence should set out clearly the particular medical and/or social reasons why SS Peter and Paul is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child has to attend another school. In respect of this the governors will consider if the child's needs can only be met at this school only upon the professional evidence provided.
- D. (i) Distance from home to school measured in a straight line from the centre point of the child's residence to the school office door by Merton Local Authority using its computerised mapping system (GIS). Evidence of residence may be required.
- (ii) In the unlikely event of the distance between 2 children's homes and the school being the same, random allocation will be used, which will be supervised by the LA.

Notes:

(1) Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan

The admission of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or with an EHC Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. The procedure is integral to the making and maintaining of statements and EHC plans by the pupil's home local authority. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the SEND code of practice. Pupils with a statement or EHC plan naming the school will be admitted without reference to the above criteria.

(2) For the purposes of this policy, a baptised Catholic means a person baptised in one of the Latin or Oriental Rite Churches that are in union with the Bishop of Rome or a person received into the Catholic Church. (This also includes children of members of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham).

(3) Practising Catholic means attending Sunday or Saturday evening Mass with applications ranked according to frequency of attendance in the order indicated in A above. Mass attendance will be verified by the Priest on the Supplementary Information Form.

(4) (a) A Looked-After child is a child who is in the care of a Local Authority or being provided with accommodation by a LA.

(b) 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 Arrangement Order or a Special Guardianship Order.

(5) Other Christian denominations mean churches which are full members of Churches Together in England (not observers). A list of member churches can be found at www.cte.org.uk.

(6) Brother or sister refers to natural brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted 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.

Evidence required

- (1) For categories 1, 2, 3, and 5 above parents/carers need to provide evidence of reception into the Catholic Church or Eastern Orthodox Church. Generally, this would be a Baptismal Certificate.
- (2) For categories 1 and 4 Governors may request evidence of Adoption and of previous Looked-After status.
- (3) For category 3 evidence of enrolment in the catechumenate should be provided. Membership of the catechumenate, that is, being prepared for reception into the Catholic Church, will be verified by the Priest on the Supplementary Information Form.
- (4) For category 6 above parents/carers need to provide a baptismal certificate, certificate of dedication or statement of membership of the church concerned by the Priest/Minister on the Supplementary Information Form.

- (5) For category 7 above a statement of membership of the faith group concerned by the Priest/Minister/Faith Leader on the Supplementary Information Form will be necessary.

Admissions procedure

Parents/carers must complete the School's Nursery Application Form. The Form should be sent to the school to arrive no later than the closing date of **28th April 2023**.

Places will be offered on the offer date of **15th May 2023**

It must be noted that admission to the school Nursery does not guarantee a place in the Main School, as a fresh application must be made.

Waiting Lists

Parents of children who have not been offered a place at the school Nursery may ask for their child's name to be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list, which will be maintained until the end of the school year, will be operated using the same admissions criteria listed above. Placing a child's name on the waiting list does not guarantee that a place will become available. The waiting list will be re-ordered each time a child is added, according to the published oversubscription categories in operation at that time. Names will be removed from the waiting list at the end of the academic year and any new application would require an updated Form.

Late Applications

Any late applications will be considered by the Governors' Admissions Committee in the event of there being any available places using the above categories. If all places have been filled, parents will be offered the opportunity of placing their child's name on the waiting list.