



# **Admissions Policy**

## **2023-2024**

**ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*"Where we learn to love and love to learn"*

### **Mission Statement**

Together at St. Joseph's we learn to love,

Following Jesus,

Sharing God's gifts

Building God's world

## **Diocesan Primary Schools**

St. Joseph's is a Catholic Primary School under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Shrewsbury. It is maintained by Stockport Authority. As a Voluntary Aided School, the Governing Body is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions.

The co-ordination of admissions applications is undertaken by the Local Authority. For the school's year commencing September 2023/24, the Governing Body has set its admissions number at 25.

The Catholic Faith and the Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church have an essential role in school life and influence every aspect of the Curriculum. 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 faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL will be made by the Governing Body. All preferences listed on the Local Authority Preference Form will be considered on an equal basis with the following set of ADMISSIONS CRITERIA forming a priority order where there are more applications for admissions than the school has available.

- 1) Baptised Roman Catholic Looked After Children and previously Looked After children.
- 2) Baptised Roman Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
- 3) Baptised Roman Catholic children resident in the parish of St. Joseph's RC Church.
- 4) Baptised Roman Catholic children resident in other parishes.
- 5) Other Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
- 6) Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission
- 7) Other children.

## **NOTES**

- a) All applicants will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions.
- b) 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 function (under section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. A previously Looked After Child is one who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.
- c) For a child to be considered as Roman Catholic evidence of such Baptism will be required.

- d) It is the duty of governors to comply with regulations on class size limits at Key Stage One. The Governing Body may exceed the regulations for twins and children from multiple births where one of the children is the 30<sup>th</sup> child admitted.
- e) If in any category there are more applications than places available, priority will be given on the basis of distance from home to school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the front door of the child's home address (including the community entrance to flats) to the main entrance of the school using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system with those living nearer to the school having priority. If the distance is the same for two or more applicants where this would be last place/s to be allocated, a random lottery will be carried out in a public place.
- f) Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the child's "permanent place of residence" will be determined as the address of the parent who normally has responsibility for the majority of school days in a week.
- g) Sibling is defined as a 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.
- h) A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the Admission Criteria. Parents will be informed of their child's position on the waiting list which will not be operated for longer than the end of the Autumn term.
- i) For 'In Year' applications received outside the normal admissions round and if places available then children qualifying under the published criteria will be admitted. Direct application to the school can now be made under this heading. If there are places available but more applicants than places then the published oversubscription will be applied.
- j) If an application for admission has been turned down by the Governing Body, parents can appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Parents must be allowed at least twenty school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to submit that appeal. Parents must give reasons for appealing in writing and the decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on all parties.
- k) Parents can request that the date their child, if below compulsory school age, is admitted to school is deferred to later in the school year or until the term when they reach compulsory school age.
- l) The Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to baptism, sibling connections or place of residence.

## **ADMISSIONS: CHILDREN WITH STATEMENTS OF SPECIAL NEEDS**

Under Section 324 of the 1996 Education Act Governing Bodies are obliged to admit a child with a statement of special educational needs that names their school. However in advance of that process the Local Authority should have provided either a copy of the proposed statement and appendices or, where they are proposing to amend part 4 of an existing statement, either the proposed amended statement or the amendment notice together with a copy of the existing statement, and in either case, the appendices.

The Governing Bodies in Voluntary Aided Schools can object to the admission on the grounds that the child's age, ability, aptitude or special educational needs, or that the placement would be incompatible with whom the child will be educated, or with the efficient use of resources. The Local Authority has a duty to consider such objections and may consider these sufficient to warrant the naming of another school. In turn the parents can appeal against that decision to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST).

For the child's needs to be best addressed, it is important that the process outlined is applied thoroughly and with a clear understanding of the responsibilities resting on all parties.

**Reviewed: March 22**

**Next Review Date: June 22(unless law or Diocese/SMBC advise of statutory changes that must be made) where updates will be made prior to the next review date.**