

St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School



Admissions Policy 2023-24

November 2021

Signed by:

Signature:

Date:

At St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School we pride ourselves on our bespoke curriculum which has been designed by our children, governors, community and staff to ensure that learning experiences are rich and balanced. Throughout our curriculum and everything that we do here in school, we ensure that we follow our mission statement to Love, Learn and grow together with Jesus.

ST MARGARET MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY AND ARRANGEMENTS 2023/2024

St Margaret Mary's Juniors is a Catholic School under the trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Liverpool. It is maintained by Knowsley Council. 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 arrangements is undertaken by the Local Authority. For the school's year commencing September 2023, the Governing Body has set its admissions number at 120.

Our principal role as a Catholic school is to participate in the mission of the Catholic Church by providing a framework which will help children to grow in their understanding of the Good News and in the practice of their faith. The school will help the children develop fully as human beings and prepare them to undertake their responsibilities as Catholic in society. The school asks all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the rights 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 determined by the Governing Body. Parents must complete a Local Authority Preference Form or apply online via the website www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions. If you wish to have your application considered against that school's faith/denomination criteria then you should **ALSO** complete the Supplementary Form which is available from the school. All preferences listed will be considered on an equal basis and, where there are more applications than the number of places available, the following set of OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA will be applied:

1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children. **This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.**
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in the Infant or Junior School at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children resident in the parish of St Margaret Mary.
4. Baptised Catholic children resident in other parishes.
5. Other children who have a sibling in the Infant or Junior School at the time of admission.
6. Children from other Christian denominations. Proof of Baptism in the form of a Baptismal Certificate or confirmation in writing that the applicant is a member of their Faith community from an appropriate Minister of Religion is required.
7. Children of other faiths. An appropriate Faith Leader would need to confirm in writing that the applicant is a member of their faith group.
8. Other children.

If it is not possible to offer places for all applications within any criteria above then places will be allocated to the children who live nearest to the school. Distance will be measured by the local authority which will carry out straight line measurements ('as the crow flies') using a computerised Geographical Information System (GIS) based on the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and national grid co-ordinates for the school and home address.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health Care Plan that names a school will be offered place without using the admission criteria and will count as part of the school's published admission number.

Notes:

- a. All applications submitted before the national closing date will be considered equally and included in the Local Authority initial allocation of school places. Applications received after the national closing date will be processed in accordance with the Knowsley admissions scheme for schools detailed in the Knowsley admissions information booklets.
- 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 functions (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, child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Applications must be supported with appropriate evidence that the child has been adopted from state care.

- c. All applicants are required to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) in order to provide faith information if they wish their child to be considered within a faith criterion of the oversubscription policy. The SIF should be completed in addition to the home LA application form (preference form) and returned directly to the school by the closing date of 15 January. Applicants who complete a school SIF but do not name the school on the LA common application form will be disregarded. Applicants who do not complete a SIF will still be considered for a place in the school but cannot be considered as a faith applicant.

Definition of a Baptised Catholic

For a child to be considered as a Catholic evidence of a Catholic Baptism is required.

A Baptised Catholic can also be defined as one who has been baptised by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various Churches in communion with the See of Rome (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church 1203). Written evidence of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place.

Or

A person who has been baptised in a separate ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Written evidence of their reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the Church in which the Rite of Reception took place.

The Governing Body will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of 'Baptised Catholics'. A Certificate of Reception is to include full name, date of birth, date of reception and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of reception.

Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to the parish priest who

after consulting with the Episcopal Vicar, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

- d. Home Address is considered to be the address where the child normally lives. Where care is split and a child moves between two addresses, the household in receipt of the child benefit would normally be the address used but the admission body reserve the right to request other proofs as fit the individual circumstance. Applicants should not state a childminder's or other relative's address.
- e. Sibling is defined in these arrangements as full, half or brother or step-brothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address and are part of the same family unit. This does not include cousins or other family relationships.
- f. A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the Admission Criteria. The waiting list does not consider the date the application was received or the length of time a child's name has been on the waiting list. This means that a child's position on the list may change if another applicant is refused a place and their child has higher priority in the admissions criteria. The waiting list will be retained until at least the end of December of the relevant year of the admissions process.
- g. For 'In Year' applications received outside the normal admissions round, if places are available they will be offered to those who apply. 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 criteria for the relevant year group will be applied. A waiting list for those who have not been offered a place will be kept until the end of the relevant academic term.
- h. 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 the Governors.
- i. The Governing Body reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to the application.