

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Primary School



Nursery Admissions Policy 2020-21

Revision Date	Revision Version	Date approved by Governors and committee	Summary of Changes
May 2019	New Edition	Catholic Nature Committee 06/06/19	New Policy

*The mission of our schools is to
'Grow as a community through faith in God giving love and respect to all.'*

Nursery Admissions Policy 2020/2021

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Primary School provides early years 'education' to children following their third birthday.

Please note that admission to nursery does not guarantee admission to reception year at Our Lady's Catholic Primary school which has a separate admissions policy.

Procedures For Admission

Children who were born between 1/9/2016 – 31/8/2017 will be offered 15 hours (in term time) of nursery education.

Parents/carers should complete an application form and send it/bring it to the main school office, together with the relevant documentation required. (Baptism certificate, birth certificate and the supplementary information form). The closing date for admissions is in October.

The governors will consider applications in accordance with the admission criteria and parents/carers will be informed by letter of their decision.

If possible, entitlement is offered in a flexible way to suit parents and carers. This can be all morning sessions, all afternoon sessions, or a mix of full and half days.

Possible 30 Hours Free Childcare

Some children will be entitled to 30 hours Free Childcare'. There are a variety of ways that the hours could be used if school can accommodate this. You can check eligibility and apply at www.gov.uk/get-tax-free-childcare.

- Full days (8.55am to 3.25pm)
- A mix of full days and half days (8.55am – 11.55am or 12.25pm -3.25pm)
- Allocation of any hours over the offered 15 will be allocated based on the admissions criteria.

Early Nursery places

If places are available, children are eligible to be admitted to nursery **in the term after their third birthday**.

A child born between:	Is eligible from the start of the: (subject to places being available)
1 September – 31 December	Spring Term
1 January – 31 March	Summer Term
1 April – 31 August	Autumn Term

Criteria for Admission

1. Catholic looked after and previously looked after children. (see notes 2&3)
2. Catholic children who are resident in the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bentley, Doncaster. (see notes 3&11)
3. Other Catholic children. (see note 3)
4. Other looked after and previously looked after children. (see note 2)
5. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church. (see notes 4&5)
6. Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion. (see note 6)
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader. (see note 7)
8. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- (i) Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school, the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made. (see note 10)
- (ii) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) above (see note 8).

Notes

1. A Statement of Special Educational Needs is a statement made by the local authority under section 324 of the Education Act 1996, specifying the special educational provision for a child. An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.
2. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making application to the school.

A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

3. 'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest who, after consulting with the Diocese, 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.

4. 'catechumen' means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the order of catechumens.

5. 'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.
6. "children of other Christian denominations" means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge 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 seek 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 credal 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 Churches Together in England and 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.

7. "children of other faiths" means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian denominations' at 6 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:
 - A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
 - A religion which does not involve belief in a God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.

'brother or sister' includes:

- (i) all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and
 - (ii) the child of a parent's partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.
8. A 'parent' means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.
 9. To demonstrate an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can be most appropriately met at this school, the governing body will require compelling written evidence from an appropriate professional, such as a social worker, doctor or priest.
 10. For the purposes of this policy, parish boundaries are as shown on the parish map which is available from the school on request.
 11. A child's home address refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer, and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form (CAF). Where parents have a shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.

Tie Breaker

Should the planned admission number be reached mid – category, the governing body as the admissions authority will allocate places, based on the distance the family home is from the school. If there is no difference in distance, then a random allocation process will be used. This will be independently monitored for the applicants in that category.

Waiting List

The names of any children who have been refused admission will be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list is determined according to the governing body’s admission criteria. Subsequently, should an application be received where the child has a higher priority, as determined by the admissions criteria, they will be placed above those with a lower priority.