

**DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE  
STOKE-ON-TRENT CATHOLIC ACADEMIES  
2017/18 PRIMARY ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

Determined 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016

Name of Academy: St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School. This academy is part of the *Christ the King Catholic Collegiate* MAC.

The admissions process is part of the Stoke-on-Trent LA co-ordinated scheme.

The Admission Policy of the Board of Directors of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School academy is as follows:

The ethos of this academy is Catholic. The academy was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. The academy is conducted by its Board of Directors as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Articles of Association and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the academy community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this academy to apply for and be considered for a place here.

The academy's Admission Number for the academic year 2017/18 is 30

If the number of applications exceeds the admission number, the Board of Directors will give priority to applications in accordance with the criteria listed, provided that the Board of Directors are made aware of that application before decisions on admissions are made (see Note 1 below). A map of the parish boundary is available to view at the academy and parish or by post on request.

1. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) who are in the care of a local authority (looked-after children) or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents) (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
2. Baptised Catholic children living within the Parish of Our Lady of the Angels and St. Peter in Chains who have a brother or sister (see Note 3 below) in the academy at the time of admission
3. Baptised Catholic children living within the Parish of Our Lady of the Angels and St. Peter in Chains
4. Other Baptised Catholic children who have a brother or sister in the academy at the time of admission
5. Other Baptised Catholic children
6. Non-Catholic children who are in the care of a local authority (looked-after children) or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents) (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
7. Non-Catholic children who have a brother or sister in the academy at the time of admission
8. Non-Catholic children

## **OVER-SUBSCRIPTION**

If there is over-subscription within a criterion, the Board of Directors will give priority to children living closest to the school determined by shortest distance. Distances are calculated on the basis of a straight line measurement from the child's home address point to the front gate of the academy. Ordnance Survey supply the co-ordinates that are used to plot an applicant's home address within this system (See Note 4).

In a very small number of cases it may not be able to decide between the applicants of those pupils who are qualifiers for a place, when applying the published admission criteria.

For example, this may occur when children in the same year group live at the same address, or if the distance between the home and academy is exactly the same, for example, blocks of flats. If there is no other way of separating the application according to the admissions criteria and to admit both or all of the children would cause the legal limit to be exceeded, *the local authority will randomly select a child to be offered the final place*. As an exception, the Board of Directors will give careful consideration to offering places above the Admission Number to applications from children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted even when there are no other vacant places.

### **Note 1**

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that names the academy must be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to applicants.

### **Note 2**

In all categories, for a child to be considered as a Catholic, evidence of Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Church will be required. For a definition of a Baptised Catholic see the Appendix. Those who face difficulties in producing written evidence of Baptism/Reception should contact their Parish Priest.

Failure to provide evidence of Catholic Baptism/Reception may affect the criterion the child's name is placed in.

### **Note 3**

The definition of a brother or sister is:

- A brother or sister sharing the same parents;
- Half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one common parent;
- Step-brother or step-sister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage;
- Step-brother or step-sister;
- Adopted or fostered children

The children must be living permanently in the same household

### **Note 4**

If a child lives with **parents with shared responsibilities**, each for part of the week, the 'home address' will be the one at which the child is resident for the greatest part of the school week. Where this is equally shared, the home address will be the one used when applying for child benefit. Documentary evidence may be required.

## **SCHOOL ENTRY**

Children must, by law, start school by the beginning of the term after their fifth birthday. A parent may defer a child's entry to the school, but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the application was made. Parents may discuss this with the headteacher.

Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

### **APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN TO BE ADMITTED INTO A CLASS OUTSIDE OF THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP**

If parents wish for their child to be considered for admission to a class outside of their normal age group, they must make an application for the normal age group in the first instance. Parents must then submit a formal request to the Board of Directors. This request should be in the form of a written letter of application outlining the reasons why you wish for your child to be considered to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group and enclosing any supportive evidence and documentation that you wish to be taken into account as part of that request. The Board of Directors will consider requests submitted and advise the parents of the outcome of that request before the national offer day, having taken into account the information provided by the parents, the child's best interests and the views of the head teacher.

If parents are considering submitting an application for their child to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group, it is strongly recommended that they also read the DFE guidance which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission>

### **APPLYING FOR A PLACE**

Parents must apply on the LA form for a place in Reception Class. Attendance at a nursery does not automatically guarantee that a place will be offered in the main academy.

### **APPEALS**

Parents who wish to appeal against the decision of the Board of Directors to refuse their child a place in the academy may apply in writing to Chair of the Board of Directors at the academy address. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel.

### **REPEAT APPLICATIONS**

Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time outside the admissions round. Parents do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same academy for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the admission authority has accepted a second application from the appellant because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or academy but still refused admission.

### **LATE APPLICATIONS**

Late applications will be dealt with according to the LA co-ordinated scheme.

## **WAITING LISTS**

Waiting lists for admission must remain open until the end of December 2017. To facilitate In-Year transfers, children can remain on the waiting list until the end of the academic year when the list will be discarded. The waiting list will be kept by the Board of Directors in admission criteria order. When a new child joins the waiting list, all applicants on that list will be re-ranked to ensure that the list is always maintained in oversubscription criteria order. This means that a child's position on the waiting list could go up or down. Inclusion of a child's name on the waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

Children who are the subject of a direction by a local authority to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol take precedence over those on a waiting list.

## **APPLICATIONS OTHER THAN THE NORMAL INTAKE TO RECEPTION CLASS (In-year applications)**

An application should be made directly to the Board of Directors at the academy. There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to this academy.

## APPENDIX

### DEFINITION OF A “BAPTISED CATHOLIC”

A “Baptised Catholic” is one who:

- Has been baptised into full communion (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 837*) with the Catholic Church by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various ritual Churches in communion with the See of Rome (i.e. Latin Rite, Byzantine Rite, Coptic, Syriac, etc, 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 (Cf. *Code of Canon Law, 877 & 878*).

Or

- Has been validly baptised in a separated 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 baptism and 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 (Cf. *Rite of Christian Initiation, 399*).

### WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF BAPTISM

The Governing bodies of Catholic schools and Boards of Directors of Catholic Academies will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Baptism or Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of “Baptised Catholics”. A Certificate of Baptism or Reception is to include: the full name, date of birth, date of Baptism or Reception, and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of Baptism or Reception.

Those who would have difficulty obtaining written evidence of Catholic Baptism/Reception for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to their parish priest who, after consulting the Vicar General, will decide how the question of Baptism/Reception is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

Those who would be considered to have good reason for not obtaining written evidence would include those who cannot contact the place of Baptism/Reception due to persecution or fear, the destruction of the church and the original records, or where Baptism/Reception was administered validly but not in the Parish church where records are kept.

Governors and Boards of Directors may request extra supporting evidence when the written documents that are produced do not clarify the fact that a person was baptised or received into the Catholic Church, (i.e. where the name and address of the Church is not on the certificate or where the name of the Church does not state whether it is a Catholic Church or not.)

## DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

### Supplementary Information Form

Academy Name: St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Child's Surname       |  |
| Child's First Name(s) |  |
| Address               |  |
| Contact Number        |  |

Please tick the appropriate box:

|  |     |                          |    |                          |
|--|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| Is the above named child a Baptised Catholic?    | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is the certificate of Catholic Baptism attached? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

A certificate of Catholic Baptism should be provided in order for the application to be considered in a Catholic category. Failure to provide evidence of Catholic Baptism may affect the criterion the child's name is placed in.

Please note that you must complete a local authority application form. This supplementary information form is only for academy use to enable the Board of Directors to rank applicants using the published criteria.