

St Margaret Mary's Catholic Infant School



ST MARGARET MARY'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY AND ARRANGEMENTS 2019/2020

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| Chair of Governors: | C Ferguson | |
| Signature: | <i>C. B. Ferguson</i> | Date: 01/11/2017 |
| Review Date: | November 2018 | |

St Margaret Mary's Infants 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 2019, 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. 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.
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in Infant or Junior School at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children resident in the parish of St Margaret Mary.
4. Other baptised Catholic children.
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 coordinates 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 will be considered at the same time and after the national closing date. Applications received after the closing date but before the initial allocation process begins, will be included where possible. However, as the exact date of allocation for individual schools cannot be given, parents/carers have **no guarantee** that any application submitted after the closing date will be included in the initial allocation and are **strongly advised** to abide by the closing date.
- 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.
- c. For the child to be considered as a baptised Catholic, Knowsley resident parents/carers should answer the questions in section 4 of the local authority preference form. Non-Knowsley residents should provide the information on their own home authority form or by completing a Knowsley Catholic Schools supplementary information form. Baptism should take place before the closing date for applications.

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 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.
- j. It is the duty of governors to comply with regulations on class size limits at Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. The Governing Body may exceed the regulations for twins and children from multiple births where one of the children is the 30th child admitted. This also applies to in-year applicants who are looked after/previously looked after, children of UK service personnel or children who move into the area for whom there is no other school available within a reasonable distance.
- k. In certain circumstances, if it is considered to be within the best interests of the individual child, it is possible for a child who is not of compulsory school age to defer entry to reception class. This would normally only occur in very limited and exceptional circumstances and any parent/carer who is considering deferring their child's entry to fulltime education is **strongly advised** to discuss the matter with the nursery teacher/early years staff before taking a decision to make this request.

Compulsory school age is defined as the term following the child's fifth birthday. For this purpose, end of term dates are defined as 31 August, 31 December and 31 March - for example, a child whose fourth birthday is on 1 April 2019 is not legally obliged to attend school full-time until September 2020, but is normally admitted to reception class in September 2019.

- l. Parents may request that their child attend school part-time until he/she reaches his/her fifth birthday.