

# St. Stephen's Catholic Primary School & Nursery, A Voluntary Academy

## Admission Policy 2019-2020

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### Mission statement:

#### Learning, living and loving one another in God's name

Our mission is to deliver an outstanding and distinctive Catholic education where Christ dwells at the heart of our community. We celebrate holiness, knowing that we are each supported by God and invited to respond to Him with a strong faith.

Our school is a happy, welcoming and caring environment where all adults and children are treated with respect and compassion. We work collaboratively, recognising and celebrating each other as unique, and we are committed to nourishing a true feeling of belonging.

We embrace a holistic and inclusive approach to our children's education; with each pupil being provided with challenging, creative and exciting learning opportunities, so that every single child achieves their full potential, and is eager for the next memorable day in our school.

### Policy

St. Stephen's Catholic Primary School & Nursery ("the School") was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for baptised Catholic children. The school is run by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ.

If the number of preferences received is less than the admission number then all preferences will be met. However, when there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic applicants in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. By applying to this school parents, or carers, are declaring their support for the aims and ethos of the school.

The governing body has responsibility for admissions to the school and intends to admit 28 pupils to reception in the school year which begins in September 2019.

### Oversubscription criteria

***At any time where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered in the following order of priority:***

1. Looked After Children from Catholic Families or children from Catholic families who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they became adopted or became subject to a residence or special guardianship order with a sibling who attends the School.
2. Looked After Children from Catholic Families or children from Catholic families who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they became adopted or became subject to a residence or special guardianship order
3. Baptised Catholic children with a sibling who attends the School
4. Baptised Catholic children who live in the defined area.
5. Other baptised Catholic children.

6. Other looked after children or other children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they became adopted or became subject to a residence or special guardianship order with a sibling who attends the School.
7. Other looked after children or other children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they became adopted or became subject to a residence or special guardianship order
8. Other children with a sibling who attends the School.
9. Other children.

### **Tie Break**

- Where the offer of places to all the applicants in any of the categories listed above would still lead to oversubscription, the available places will be offered to those living nearest to the school. 'Straight line distance' will be used as the measure (see notes).
- If two or more pupils live equidistant from the school, the distance each pupil lives by road from the preferred school will be measured and the place offered to the pupil who lives nearest by this means. In the event of this being equal, places will then be decided by random allocation (see notes).
- Where there is more than one application from a postal address contained within a block of flats, places will be decided by random allocation (see notes).

### **Application Procedures and Timetable**

A standard application form, known as the Common Preference Form must be completed and returned to the Local Authority [person, address indicated] by [closing date]. Failure to provide a Common Preference Form (CPF) would mean that the application is not valid.

If parents/carers feel that they should be in a specific category i.e. Baptised Catholic, then they are required to complete a Supplementary Information Form and provide the required evidence. The Supplementary Information Form is attached to this policy and must be submitted by 15 January 2019 to the school office at St Stephen's Catholic Primary School, and Nursery, a Voluntary Academy, Gargrave Road, Skipton, BD23 1PJ. Therefore, failure to provide a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) could affect the category your application is placed in. Please note that it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to complete all forms and supply evidence – reminders will not be sent.

Parents or carers will be advised of the outcome of their applications on 1 March. Unsuccessful applicants will be given reasons related to the over-subscription criteria listed above and advised of their right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

### **Late applications**

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

### **Deferred entry to primary schools**

Parents of children who are offered a place at the school before they are of compulsory school age can defer their child's entry until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year. Where entry is deferred, the school will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child during the remainder of the school year. Parents cannot defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor

beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted. Parents can also request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

### **Deferment for summer born children**

If your child's fifth birthday is between April and August then they can start school the following September. The expectation would be that parents have decided that the child will miss the full reception year and they would have to apply for Year 1 places (if any remained available). Requests for full year deferral with a retained reception start will be considered individually. Parents would be expected to provide substantial and exceptional evidence of the need for this to happen (personal views and reference to national research will not suffice).

**Admissions outside the normal admission round** – applications should be made to the school and will be dealt with by the admission authority of the school i.e. the governing body. If there is more than one application for an available place the governors will make their decision using the oversubscription criteria listed in the appropriate policy for the year group. Unsuccessful applicants will be given reasons related to the oversubscription criteria listed above and will be advised of their rights to appeal the governors' decision to an independent appeal panel.

### **Waiting lists**

As well as their right of appeal, unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will follow the order of the oversubscription criteria set out above, therefore, this means that each time a child is added the list will be re-ranked. Names are normally taken off the list at the end of the academic year.

### **Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health & Care Plan**

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health & Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to applicants. This is not an oversubscription criterion.

The admission of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health & Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. This procedure is set out in the 1996 Education Act. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the *Special Educational Needs Code of Practice*.

### **Notes (these notes form part of the over-subscription criteria)**

**Catholic** means a member of a church in communion with the See of Rome. A certificate of baptism in a Catholic church, or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church, will normally evidence this alternatively a letter from a parish priest confirming membership of a church in communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches.

**Looked After Child** has the same meaning as in section 22 of the Children Act 1989, and means any child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them e.g. children with foster parents.

**Looked After Children from Catholic Families** – this has a dual meaning. It could be the child themselves who are baptised Catholic or it could be the family who are caring for the child that is Catholic. If it is the child who is a baptised Catholic normal rules apply and a baptism certificate should be seen by the admission authority. However, (in limited situations) this may not always be possible and in these cases the admission authority should seek to ensure that

there is evidence that the child has been baptised. If a child is placed with a Catholic family who wish the child to have a Catholic education this should be evidenced by a letter from a priest evidencing the baptism of the parent carer.

**Defined area** is a geographical area. Please see boundary maps available for inspection in school (boundaries determined by the Diocese of Leeds).

**Siblings (brother or sister)** includes children with a brother or sister (including step-siblings, adoptive siblings and foster siblings) of statutory school age, living at the same address, in attendance at the same school on the date of admission.

**Twins or triplets (or multiple births)** - where a family of twins or triplets request admission and if one sibling has been offered the 30<sup>th</sup> or last place the 'excepted pupil' rule comes in and the other twin/triplets are offered a place.

**Live** - In all categories "live" means the child's permanent home address. A child is normally regarded as living with a parent or guardian and we will use the parent or guardian's address for admission purposes. You cannot lodge a child with a friend or relation in order to gain a place at a school. For admissions purposes only one address can be used as a child's permanent address. When a child lives with more than one parent/carers, at different addresses, we will use the preference expressed by the parent/carers at the address where the child lives the majority of the time during the school week as the main place of residence.

**Straight line distance** - in all categories, when decisions have to be made between children satisfying the same criterion, children living nearest to the school, using a straight line measure, have priority.

**Random allocation** – this is only to be used when the last place to be offered would fall into one of the two categories above i.e. children living in a block of flats or children who live equidistant from the school using straight line distance criterion. An independent person will be used to make the random selection.

- Admission Appeal
- The Clerk to Catholic Aided School's Appeal Panel,  
c/o County Secretary's Department,  
County Hall,  
Northallerton, DL7 8AE
  - Please see the school website  
[<http://www.st-stephens.n-yorks.sch.uk>] for timetable