

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

'To Love and To Serve'



Admission Policy

Nursery

2021/2022

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSION POLICY FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022



Mission Statement

The mission of St Thomas' School is to provide a broad education based on the Gospel values which are central to the Catholic Faith. As part of our policy of inclusion pupils will be admitted without reference to ability, aptitude or ethnic origin.

Background Information

St Thomas is a Voluntary Aided Catholic Primary School in the Archdiocese of Southwark. It serves in particular the children of practising Roman Catholic families who live or worship in local parishes.

The Roman Catholic community supports the school because it values the distinctive Catholic Education for their children. For the remainder of its policy, the word Catholic refers to the Roman Catholic faith and all references to parishes refers to Roman Catholic parishes.

Parents who choose to apply for a place at this school do so in order to ensure that the Catholic values and way of life are passed on to their children at home, in the parish and at school.

Governors have full regard for these factors in the framework of this policy.

Governors will consider the allocation of places in school either:

1. As part of the intake process for Nursery although children in the Nursery are not guaranteed a place in Main School.

OR

2. As part of the intake process for the Reception classes (**rising 5s**). This constitutes the '**Normal**' entry to Main School.

OR

3. As individual cases where (**a**) existing pupils move away and create spaces for others or (**b**) pupils move into the area and make a late application.

1. APPLICATION FOR PLACES AT THE SCHOOL

Before Governors can consider the allocation of places the application process has to be complete.

NURSERY

An application form must be completed. This is available from the school office or on the school website – link attached:-

<..\..\MASTER DOCS\SUPPLEMENTARY FORM UPDATED OCT 2020.docx>

This form will provide the school with the details which will be used for allocating places. PARENTS MUST NOTIFY THE SCHOOL OF ANY CHANGES IN DETAILS e.g. address or telephone number. Governors will not be held responsible for a child who fails to gain a place at the school because the parents had not notified changes of address or telephone numbers, and therefore rendered themselves non-contactable during the admissions selection process.

2. DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS

FOR THE NURSERY INTAKE: ***Please refer to our school website for admission dates for each intake. The deadline is usually 1 ½ terms before the child is due to start.*** <http://www.st-thomascanterbury.merton.sch.uk/prospective-parents/admissions/>

N.B. A PLACE IN THE NURSERY DOES NOT GUARANTEE A PLACE IN THE MAIN SCHOOL, but all nursery entrants will be considered as applicants for a place in the main school, subject to the admission criteria and completion of the Common Application Form (CAF).

3. OVERALL FACTORS TO BE OBSERVED BY GOVERNORS IN THE ALLOCATION OF PLACES

- a The maximum number of pupils in the Nursery 52 pupils in each session. This will include children entitled to 30 free hours under the current Government Scheme. Link below

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

- b In order to maintain the distinctive Catholic Ethos, children from practising Catholic families will be given priority.

4. OVER-SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority.

1. Looked After Catholic children or Looked After children in the care of Catholic families and previously looked after Catholic children who have been adopted or who have become the subject of a residence or guardianship order.
2. Baptised Catholic children from regular practising Catholic families.
3. Baptised Catholic children from occasional practising Catholic families.
4. Baptised Catholic children not accounted for in 2 or 3.
5. Other looked after children and other previously looked after children who have been adopted or who have become the subject of a residence or guardianship order.
6. Children enrolled in the catechumenate and children who are members of Eastern Orthodox Churches.
7. Children of families who are members of other Christian denominations that are part of Churches Together in England. Evidence of Baptism (or dedication) provided by a priest or minister of a designated place of worship will be required.
8. Any other children.

NOTES ON CRITERIA

By 'regular practising Catholic family' we mean at least one parent/carer and the children attend mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation as a central part of their lives. Missing mass more than once a month would not be deemed as regular practice.

By 'occasional practice' we mean at least one parent and the children attend mass on some Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, but less than the regular criteria above. Attendance only at Christmas and/or Easter would not be deemed occasional under this criteria.

Saturday evening mass is included as "Sunday Mass".

Tie Breakers

Where it becomes necessary, Governors will decide on the allocation within one group of the main criteria by applying the following rules in the following order:

1. Those with a brother or sister on the school roll who will remain on the school roll at the entry date and who reside at the same address.
2. If a further tie breaker becomes necessary, Governors will consult with the Local Authority (LA) when advice is needed regarding measurement. Distance from home to school is measured as a straight line from the front gate of the home to the main gate of the school using the measurement supplied by the local authority derived from their computerised mapping system. Priority will be given to those living closest to the school.
3. Where the last remaining place is to be allocated and two or more children are deemed to live at the same distance from the school, the place will be decided by the drawing of lots.

i) Catholics include members of the Ordinariate and the Latin and Oriental Rite Churches that are in union with the Bishop of Rome. Reference to other Christian denominations refers to denominations that are full members of Churches Together in England.

ii) A “brother or sister” means children who live as brother and sister including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers or sisters. It would not include other relatives e.g. cousins.

iii) Looked after children are those in the care of a public authority and are in public care. Applications made under this criterion must be accompanied by details of circumstance and professionally supported evidence (eg from an appropriate social worker).

Governors will automatically place the names of all unsuccessful candidates and late applications on to a waiting list in order of the criteria unless parents request in writing that the name should not be placed on the waiting list.