

SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



ADMISSION POLICY 2017 ~ 2018

The admissions process is part of the Coventry Local Authority co-ordinated scheme.

The Admission Policy of the Governors of Saint Thomas More Catholic Primary School is as follows:

The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. The school is conducted 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. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

The School's Admission Number for the school year 2017/18 is 60.

If the number of applications is less than the published admission number then all applicants will be offered a place.

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

1. Baptised Catholic children who are in the care of a local authority (Children looked-after) 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 or child arrangements order).
2. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) living within the Parish of Saint Thomas More who have a brother or sister (see Note 3 below) in the school at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children living within the Parish of Saint Thomas More.
4. Other Baptised Catholic children who have a brother or sister in the school at the time of admission.
5. Other Baptised Catholic children.
6. Non - Catholic children who are in the care of a local authority (Children looked after) 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 or child arrangements order).
7. Non - Catholic children who have a brother or sister in the school at the time of admission.
8. Non- Catholic children.

OVER-SUBSCRIPTION

If there is over-subscription within a category, the Governors will give priority to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. Distances are calculated on the basis of a straight-line measurement between the centre of the applicant's home address to the centre of the school site. The local authority uses a computerised system, which measures all distances in miles. Ordnance Survey supply the co-ordinates that are used to plot an applicant's home address within the system (see Note 4 below).

In a very small number of cases, it may not be possible to decide between the applications of those pupils who are the final qualifiers for the final 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 school 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 governing body will draw lots, overseen independently, to select the child to be offered the final place. Where appropriate, the governing body will give careful consideration to offering places above the Admission Number to applications from individuals with parental responsibility for 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 and Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that names the school 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 definition of a Baptised Catholic see the Appendix. Those who face difficulties in producing written evidence of Catholic Baptism/Reception should contact their Parish Priest. Failure to provide evidence of 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

The home address of a pupil is considered to be the permanent residence of a child. The address must be the child's only or main residence for the majority of the school week. Documentary evidence may be required. Where care is split equally between mother and father, parents must name which address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place.

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 academic year for which the application is accepted. 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 should make an application for the normal age group in the first instance. Parents should then submit a formal request to the Governing Body. 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 Governing Body will consider requests submitted and advise the parents of the outcome of their request before 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>

NURSERY

Parents must apply on the Local Authority form for a place in Reception Class. Attendance at our nursery does not automatically guarantee that a place will be offered in that nursery's main school.

APPEALS

Parents who wish to appeal against the decision of the Governors to refuse their child a place in the school may appeal in writing to the Chair of Governors. 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 school 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 school but still refused admission.

LATE APPLICATIONS

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

WAITING LISTS

Where the school is over-subscribed for Reception places waiting lists for admission will remain open until the end of December 2017 and will then be discarded. Parents may apply for their child's name to be reinstated until the end of the academic year when the list will be discarded. The waiting list will be kept by the governing body in admission 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.

An application should be made to the local authority who will need to consult with the governors.

There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to this school.

If any information given on an application is found to be false, any place offered may be withdrawn.

APPENDIX

DEFINITION OF A “BAPTISED CATHOLIC”

To establish clarity, consistency and fairness in the application of Criteria of Admission in Catholic Schools in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, it is necessary to define the description of a “Baptised Catholic” for the benefit of parents who are making applications and for governors who formulate and apply the criteria for admissions.

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 *Right 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 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 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.)