

## DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

### WALSALL VOLUNTARY AIDED CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 2017/18 PRIMARY ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS



Name of School: St Francis Catholic Primary

#### *St. Francis Mission Statement*

*In this school our mission is to provide an excellent education, within a loving, caring community, based on the life and teachings of Christ and traditions of the Church, in which each individual, as a reflection of Christ, is enabled to reach his or her full potential.*

*We hope to help children to look to Our Lord for guidance and direction in their lives.*

*The Christian Gospel message supports and sustains everything which happens in the school so that the Catholic Christian faith, which is taught explicitly in the classroom can take root in the hearts and minds of all our children.*

*'Semper Fidelis'*

*Always Faithful*

The admissions process is part of the Walsall LA co-ordinated scheme.

The Admission Policy of the Governors of St Francis 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 30 unless a mixed class is decided. The limit for a mixed class will be 45.

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 boundary is available at the school and parish church or by post on request.

1. Baptised 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).
2. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) living within the Parish of St Francis 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 St Francis.
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 (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 school at the time of admission
8. Non-Catholic children

### **OVER-SUBSCRIPTION**

If there is over-subscription within a criterion, the Governors 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 between the applicant's home address and the front door of the school. 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 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 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 local authority will use a computerised system to randomly select the child to be offered the final place. As an exception, the governing body 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 school must be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to other 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 should contact their Parish Priest.

Parents making an application for a Catholic child should also complete the school's supplementary information form (SIF). Failure to complete the SIF/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**

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 must make an application for the normal age group in the first instance. Parents must 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 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>

### **NURSERY**

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

### **APPEALS**

Parents who wish to appeal against the decision of the Governors to refuse their child a place in the school may apply in writing to 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 local authority co-ordinated scheme.

### **WAITING LISTS**

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. 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 to the governing body at the school.

### **IN YEAR FAIR ACCESS POLICY**

The governing body have adopted the LA fair access policy for admission of previously excluded or hard to place children.

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

## 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 *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.)



**DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE**



**Supplementary Information Form**

**School Name: St Francis Catholic Primary School**

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<b>Child's Surname</b>	
<b>Child's First Name(s)</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Contact Number</b>	

**Please tick the appropriate box:**

<b>Is the above named child a Baptised Catholic?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the certificate of Catholic Baptism attached?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>	<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 school use to enable the governing body to rank applicants using the published criteria.**