

Admissions Criteria for September 2021
St Mary's C of E Primary School

St Mary's Church of England (Voluntary
Aided) School
Brooke Road, Walthamstow, London E17
9HJ

Telephone: 020 85211066

Admissions Criteria

St Mary's CofE Primary School provides high quality education for the whole community, in addition to church-goers. As well as Christian pupils, we serve those families with other faiths or no faith – all of whom are welcomed equally. While each year varies, approximately 50% of places go to pupils applying via Church criteria.

Before completing the form, parents/carers are advised to read carefully the following notes.

St. Mary's School aims to give a thorough academic education in the context of the Christian Faith while welcoming and celebrating other faiths. Education within a Voluntary Aided Anglican School is a partnership between Church, School and Home and, as such, parents/carers are asked to set an example to their children by supporting the Parish and the school where possible to reflect the Christian Ethos and Values – which are applicable across other faiths and for those with no faith.

The Governors intend to admit 90 pupils to the Reception class during each academic year. It is not possible to "reserve" places and parents/carers who wish to apply for a place at the school for their child should complete the application form between 1st September 2020 and 15th January 2021 in the school year before the child is due to be admitted. Applications outside these times will be considered as casual applications.

Should the number of applications received exceed the number of places available, the Governors will apply the following criteria in order of priority. After the admission of pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs/children with Education, Health and Care Plans where St. Mary's CofE is named on the statement/plan, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- 1) Children in Public Care who are Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children (See note 1)
- 2) Children recorded in the Child Protection Register or who are 'at risk' as advised by the Local Authority's Child Protection Officer.
- 3) Children who are siblings will be accepted if their sibling is on roll at the School at the time of admission. Children of parents who are active members of the Churches of St. Mary's, St. Stephen, St. Luke or St. Gabriel, Walthamstow (*known as "The Parish of Walthamstow"*), or who are resident in the Parish of Walthamstow and are actively

involved in the work and worship of other Christian Churches within that ecclesiastical Parish boundary. (see Note 2 and 3)

- 4) Children of parents who are staff of The C of E Federated Schools of St Mary's & St Saviour's in the following circumstances:
 - a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admissions to the school is made, and/or
 - b) the member of staff is/has recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
- 5) Children of parents and carers resident in the Parish of Walthamstow, or within the neighbouring parishes, who are actively involved in the work and worship of other Christian Churches within those Parishes (see note 2).
- 6) Children of Parents resident in the Parish of Walthamstow who wish to send their children to a school with a Christian ethos.
- 7) Children of Parents resident outside of the Parish of Walthamstow who wish to send their children to a school with a Christian ethos (see note 5).

Notes

Note 1. Under the Children Act 1989, a child is looked after by a local authority if he or she is in their care or is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority. They fall into 4 main groups: (i) children who are accompanied under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20) (ii) children who are subject to a care order (section 21) or interim care order (section 38) (iii) children who are the subject of emergency orders for their protection (section 44 and 46) (iv) children who are compulsorily accommodated. This includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (section 21). The term 'looked after children' therefore includes: children in children's homes, foster care, unaccompanied minors, and other emergency provisions. For 'looked after children', late applications or mid-term transfer requests will receive the highest priority, second only to a Statement of Educational Need for vacant places at St. Mary's. Where the request is for a place where a sibling attends, including the foster carer's own children and other unrelated children resident in the same foster home, the School will consider the request even in cases where admission would result in the School exceeding the published admissions limit, in order to accommodate the child.

Note 2. In categories 3 and 6 “active members” means that at least one parent attends the Church for public worship a minimum of twice a month. **A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must be submitted directly to the school, in addition to the Local Authority process. This is available via the school office or the school website.**

Note 3. In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church [or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these [admissions] arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church [or in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

Note 4. Under the coordinated admissions scheme, the admissions committee requires THREE official documents showing proof of parents’ or guardians’ residence at the address shown on the application form. These must be:

1. the most recent Council Tax bill or tenancy agreement
and
2. your most recent Child Benefit/Child Tax Credit letter showing your child’s name and your address
and
3. the most recent utility bill for the address showing your name (this must be one for Gas, electricity or Water, no other bill will be acceptable).

Note 5. Where the offer of places to all applicants in any sub category listed above would lead to over subscription, the places will be offered to those living closest to the school. Distance is measured in a straight line from the school’s main entrance to the home’s front door and sourced from the Local Authority. For admission purposes, the home address is where the child usually lives with their parent or carer. You must not give the address of a childminder or relative. When we make an offer, we assume your address will be the same in the following September but you must use your current address. If you move after the deadline in January 2020, you must tell the school and the Local Authority of your new address. In the case of a child whose parents do not live together but have joint custody, the “home” address will be considered the one where child benefit is registered to.

Definitions

Actively Involved is defined, in accordance with national Church of England guidance as being ‘at the heart of the church’. This means attending Sunday services at least twice a month or/and involved in weekday worship, with the exception of holidays and illness,

A **Christian Church** is defined as one which is part of a church in membership of, or holding observer status of, ‘Churches Together in England’ and/or has church membership of the ‘Evangelical Alliance’ and/or is a member of Affinity (formerly the British Evangelical Council).

Neighbouring Parishes: St Peter-In-The-Forest, St John, St Michael and All Angels, St Saviour, St Barnabas with St James the Greater, St Andrew (Higham Hill), Emmanuel (Leyton), All Saints (Leyton), St Catherine and St Paul (Leyton) known as ‘Cornerstone’. All churches mentioned are those in

Walthamstow, unless stated differently.

A **sibling** is defined as a child living at the same address who is also: a full brother or sister related by blood or adoption, or half brother or sister related by blood or adoption, or step-sibling (for children in foster care please see Note 1 above).

The Parish of Walthamstow refers to the boundaries of the Church of England ecclesiastical parish, as defined by the Diocese of Chelmsford. A map outlining the boundaries may be obtained from the school office.

Tie breaker

If more children qualify under a particular rule than there are places available, a tiebreak will be used by applying the next rule to those children. Where there is a need for a tie-breaker where two different addresses measure the same distance from a school, in the case of a block of flats for example the lower door number will be deemed nearest as logically this will be on the ground floor and therefore closer. If there are two identical addresses of separate applicants, the tie break will be random. Where there is a tie breaker between siblings within the same family living at the same address, the place will be offered to the first born.

Unsuccessful Applications and the outstanding Application Pool

In addition to their right to appeal, unsuccessful applicants will be offered the opportunity to be placed in a n outstanding application pool. This outstanding application pool will be maintained in order of the over-subscription criteria set out above and not in the order which the applicants are received or added to the pool

The Appeals Procedure

St Mary's is a popular School and parents will appreciate that, owing to over-subscription, it may at times not be possible to offer a place to everyone who applies. The 1980 Education Act gives parents the right to appeal against decisions of the Governors regarding admissions. Parents wishing to do so should notify both of the following:

- a) The Education Appeals Committee,
Democratic Services,
Town Hall, Forest Road,
Walthamstow, LONDON E17 4JF.
- b) Chair of Governors,
St Saviour's C of E Primary School,
Verulam Avenue,
Walthamstow, LONDON E17 8ER.