

## ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMIES IN DERBY CITY

Academy	Published Admission Number	Parishes Served
St George's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Uplands Avenue, Littleover, Derby DE23 1GG Tel 01332 766815	49	St George and All Soldier Saints, Old Normanton with Holy Spirit, Sinfin
St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy, Alvaston Street, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0PA Tel 01332 572174	30 (KS1)  35 (KS2) (7-11)	English Martyrs, Alvaston with St Ralph Sherwin, Chellaston

**The Holy Family Catholic Academy Trust is the Admission Authority for St George's Catholic Voluntary Academy whereas St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy is its own Admissions Authority**

This policy will apply to all admissions for the school year 2017-18.

The Catholic Voluntary Academies listed above are under the Trusteeship of the Diocese of Nottingham and belong to the Nottingham Diocesan family of schools. They are founded by and are part of the Catholic Church and seek at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. Religious Education and worship are in accordance with the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church. This does not affect the right of parents or carers who are not of the faith of these schools to apply for and to be considered for places. We ask all parents or carers applying for a place to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community.

Our academies are principally provided to serve the Catholic communities of Derby. The Governors also welcome applications from all parents and carers, regardless of faith or background, who would like their children to be educated in a Christian environment.

The admission authorities for the academies as set out above are responsible for determining the admissions policies. The admissions process is coordinated by Derby City Local Authority on behalf of the admissions authorities.

All decisions relating to admission applications will be taken by the Governing Body of the Academy applied to.

**Parents/Carers should consult the Local Authority booklet "Primary Schools Admissions Handbook" which gives full details of the admissions process, including information on the admissions cycle. This information is also available online at [www.derby.gov.uk](http://www.derby.gov.uk)**

### **How and when to apply**

#### **The Common Application Form – to be returned to the Local Authority**

Applications must be made on the Common Application Form. The form must be completed by all applicants and returned by the closing date set by the local authority. Applications can also be made online at [www.derby.gov.uk](http://www.derby.gov.uk)

### **The Supplementary Form and Supporting Evidence**

In addition all applicants wishing to apply for a place under faith criteria should complete the Supplementary Form. This form can be downloaded from the Local Authority website and is also available from the Catholic Voluntary Academies. The completed form, together with any required evidence, (see below), should be returned to the Catholic Voluntary Academy for which a preference has been made by the same closing date set by the Local Authority for the return of the Application Form.

Parents / carers of Catholic children should also supply one of the following documents:

- A copy of the child's baptism certificate
- If the child has been received into the Catholic Church, written verification, signed by a Catholic priest and stamped with the parish stamp.

If the child is participating in a course of preparation leading to baptism or reception into the Catholic Church, written verification signed by a Catholic priest and stamped with the parish stamp should be provided.

Parents/carers whose children are members of other Christian denominations should supply a baptism certificate or certificate of dedication.

**If the Supplementary Form or the required documents are not provided, the child might be ranked in a lower admissions category.**

#### **Mass Verification Form**

Some schools may have more applications from Catholic children than there are places. In this case, Governors will give a higher priority to those children who attend Mass weekly with their parent(s), with a carer or with a close family member. If your child is Catholic, you may be asked to complete a **Mass Verification Form** in addition to the above documents. Forms will be supplied by the school.

#### **Deferred Admission**

If your child is offered a full time place before s/he reaches compulsory school age, you have the option of deferring the child's entry up until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age (a child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his/her fifth birthday or on his/her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day. The prescribed days are 31<sup>st</sup> December, 31<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> August). A place will be held and will not be offered to another child provided the place is taken up within the same academic year.

Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

#### **Admission of children outside the normal age group**

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of the normal age group for example if the child is exceptionally gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

In addition, the parents of summer born children may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted outside of their normal age group to Reception rather than Year 1.

The school anticipates that children will be educated out of their normal age group in only a small number of very exceptional circumstances. However should you wish to seek a place for your child outside of their normal age group you should still make an application for a school place for your child's normal age group but you should also submit a request for admission out of the normal age group at the same time and follow the procedure set out by your home local authority.

A decision will then be made on which age group the child should be admitted taking into account the circumstances of each case and the best interests of the child. Once that decision has been made the oversubscription criteria will be applied to determine if a place can be offered at the school.

The school is not required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission out of the normal age group.

Your statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which you have applied is unaffected. However the right to appeal does not apply if you are offered a place at the school but it is not in your preferred age group.

### **Late Applications**

Late applications will be administered in accordance with your home Local Authority Primary Coordinated Admissions Scheme. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

### **Applications during the School Year**

Details of the application process are available from the academy and from the Local Authority. Once an application has been made, it will be passed to the Admissions Committee of the Governing Body for consideration. If the respective year group total is below the published admission number for that year group, the child will be offered a place.

Decision letters will be issued in writing. Offers of places may be withdrawn if they are offered in error, a parent has not responded within 10 school days or it is established that an offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.

In cases involving school transfers that do not require a house move or where there is no need for an immediate move, arrangements may be made for the child to start school at the beginning of term to minimise disruption to their own and other children's education.

If your application is refused you have a statutory right to appeal (see 'Appeals'). Your appeal should be lodged within twenty school days after the date of your refusal letter.

### **Waiting Lists**

Parents whose children have not been offered their preferred school in the normal admissions round will be added to their preferred school's waiting list. Waiting lists for admission will normally remain open until the end of the Autumn Term in the admission year but schools may maintain waiting lists after this date and for year groups other than the intake year. Please contact the academy to request further details.

Waiting lists are ranked in the same order as the oversubscription criteria listed below. Your child's position on the waiting list may change. This means that a child's waiting list position during the year could go up or down.

Any late applications will be added to the list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Inclusion on a school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

### **Appeals**

If a child is not offered a place, parents/carers have a statutory right to appeal. This should be done by writing to the Clerk to Governors, care of the academy no later than twenty school days after the decision letter has been received. The appeal will be arranged on behalf of the governors by the Catholic Schools Appeals Service and will be heard by an independent panel. The decision of the panel will be binding on the academy.

### **Fair Access Protocols**

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full.

### **Infant Class Size Regulations**

Infant classes of 5, 6 and 7 year olds may not, by law, contain more than 30 pupils with a single qualified teacher. Parents/carers should be aware that when the Governing Body is considering applications for places, they must keep to the 30 limit. Parents/carers do have a right of appeal in accordance with the Infant Class Size Regulations if the academy is oversubscribed and their child is refused a place.

### **Applications for twins / multiple birth children**

Where a place available is offered to a child from a twin or multiple birth the Governors will normally offer places to both twins, triplets etc even if this means exceeding the planned admission number.

### **Attendance at Nursery**

Attending a nursery, or a pre-school setting on the site of the academy, does not give any priority within the oversubscription criteria for a place in the academy.

### **Fraudulent Information**

If the allocation of a place has been made on the basis of fraudulent or intentionally misleading information, the governors reserve the right to withdraw the place.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

Where the academies have more applications than places available, Governors will draw up a ranked list based on the criteria listed below and will allocate places accordingly.

Children who have an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the academy will be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available. See "Primary Schools Admissions Handbook" for further details about special needs provision.

1. Catholic looked after or previously looked after children (*see Notes 1 and 2*).
2. Catholic (*see Note 2*) children living in the parish(es) served by the academy
3. Catholic (*see Note 2*) children living outside these parish(es)
4. Other children who are looked after or previously looked after children (*see Note 1*).
5. Children who are baptised or dedicated members of other churches which belong to 'Churches Together in England'. (*See Note 3*).
6. Other children and those for whom no Supplementary Form has been received

**First priority** within each criteria will be given to siblings (*see note 4*) that is, children who will have brothers or sisters attending the academy at the proposed time of admission.

**In Criteria 1 – 3**, priority (after sibling priority) will be given to children whose parents / carers have completed and returned a Mass Verification Form **where these have been requested**.

### **Tie Breakers**

If any of the above criteria are oversubscribed, priority, (after sibling priority) will be given to the child living nearest the academy, measured by a straight line. The line will be measured from the home address to the academy using the national Ordnance Survey set points. The distance will be measured by the local authority and the data will be supplied to the governors.

In a very few cases, it may not be possible to decide between the applications of those pupils who are the final qualifiers for a place (e.g. children who live at the same address or have the same distance measurement). In this exceptional situation, if there is no other way of separating the applications then the governors will admit the additional child above the planned admission number. If however, admission would result in the legal limit of 30 children being exceeded, then the place will be allocated by the drawing of lots supervised by someone independent of the Academy.

### **Note 1 - Definition of looked after children or previously looked after children**

A "looked after child" is a child who is:

(a) in the care of a local authority, or  
(b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in s.22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

A “previously looked after child” is a child who:

- (a) ceased to be looked after because they were adopted (this includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 [see s.12 adoption orders] and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children’s Act 2002 [see s.46 adoption orders] , or
- (b) became subject to a child arrangements order (under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014 - an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live), or
- (c) became subject to a special guardianship order (see S.14A of the Children Act 1989 - an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian [or special guardians]).

#### **Note 2 - Definition of Catholic**

- A child baptised in the Catholic Church (Roman or Eastern rites) whose members are in full ecclesial and canonical communion with the Bishop of Rome, (Pope Francis), (see footnote\* below). Further advice available from Diocesan Education Service.
- A child baptised in another Christian denomination who has been received into full ecclesial and canonical communion with the Catholic Church
- A child who, with his or her family, is participating in a recognised course of preparation leading to baptism or reception into the Catholic church (parishes are requested to keep appropriate records).

\*Full ecclesial and canonical communion with the Catholic Church requires the recognition that the Bishop of Rome has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered (Catechism of the Catholic Church, §882). For Christians baptised outside of the Catholic Church, the restoration of full ecclesial and canonical communion requires reconciliation and a formal act of reception into full communion. Full communion with the Catholic Church is not established by the reception of Holy Communion alone.

#### **Note 3 – Churches Together in England**

See [www.cte.org.uk](http://www.cte.org.uk) for details of ‘member churches of Churches Together in England’

#### **Note 4 - Definition of brothers and sisters (siblings)**

The governors use the same definition as that used by the Local Authority. See ““Primary Schools Admissions Handbook”

#### **Place of Residence**

The governors use the same definition as that used by the Local Authority. See ““Primary Schools Admissions Handbook”

#### **Parents / Carers**

The governors use the same definition as that used by the Local Authority. See ““Primary Schools Admissions Handbook”