



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School and Nursery

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2017 - 18

St Mary's is a Catholic Primary School under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Shrewsbury. It is maintained by Cheshire East Authority. As a Voluntary Aided School, the Governing Body is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions.

The Catholic Faith and the Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church have an essential role in school life and influence every aspect of the Curriculum. 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 co-ordination of admissions arrangements is undertaken by the Local Authority. For the school's year commencing September 2017, the Governing Body has set its admissions number at 90.

ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL will be made by the Governing Body. All preferences listed on the Local Authority Preference Form will be considered on an equal basis with the following set of ADMISSIONS CRITERIA forming a priority order where there are more applications for admissions than the school has places available.

1. Baptised Roman Catholic Looked After Children, other Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children
2. Baptised Roman Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission
3. Baptised Roman Catholic children resident in the parish of St Mary's
4. Baptised Roman Catholic children resident in other parishes
5. Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission
6. Other children who attend St Mary's Catholic Nursery
7. Other children.

Notes:

- All applicants will be considered at the same time and the closing date will be that published by the Local Authority for all Primary Schools. Parents will be informed in the press, by poster campaign and by the school as soon as the date is published.
- 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 (under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989. A previously Looked After Child is one who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.

- For a child to be considered as a Roman Catholic, evidence of a Catholic Baptism will be required.
- The Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to baptism, sibling connections or place of residence.
- It is the duty of governors to comply with regulations on class size limits at Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. The Governing Body may exceed the regulations for twins, siblings in the same year group and children from multiple births where one of the children is the thirtieth child admitted.
- The Parish of St Mary's Crewe is as defined on the Parish Boundary Map determined during the Diocesan Property Review.
- If in any category there are more applications than places available, priority will be given on the basis of distance from home to school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the front door of the child's home address (including the community entrance to flats) to the main entrance of the school using the Local Authority's computerized measuring system with those living nearer to the school having priority. In the event of distances being the same for 2 or more applications where this distance would be last place/s to be allocated, a random lottery will be carried out in a public place. All names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.
- Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the child's "permanent place of residence" will be determined as the address of the parent who normally has responsibility for the majority of school days in a week.
- Sibling is defined as a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.
- A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the Admissions Criteria. Parents will be informed of their child's position on the waiting list which will not be operated for longer than the autumn term.
- For 'In Year' applications received outside the normal admissions round and if places are available then children qualifying under the published criteria will be admitted. Direct application to the School can now be made under this heading. If there are places available but more applicants than places then the published oversubscription criteria will be applied.
- If an application for admission has been turned down by the Governing Body, parents can appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Parents must be allowed at least twenty school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to submit the appeal. Parents must give their reasons for appealing in writing and the decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on all parties.