

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School, Wrexham

Admissions Policy

ADMISSIONS TO RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 2012

The Admissions Policy for the school is based on the requirements of the primary and secondary legislation in force, and in particular:

School Admissions Code – Statutory Code 002/2009

School Admission Appeals Code – Statutory Code 003/2009

Both documents issued in July 2009 (Welsh Assembly Government)

The School Standards and Framework Act 1988 – the right to parental preference (s86(1)) and the right of appeal.

The Education Act 2002 – repeal of the right to restrict admission based on a proportion of children from outside the faith group.

The Education Act 2005 – priority for Looked After Children.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006(section 44) –prohibition on interviewing parents and children.

The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales)Regulations 2006.

Non-statutory guidance is issued also by the Diocese of Wrexham.

The law in Wales does not require a child to start school until the start of the term following the child's fifth birthday. In Saint Mary's children of the age of four will be admitted to the Reception class in the September of the School Year in which they attain their fifth birthday. The reception class is the normal year of entry to the school.

There are arrangements in the legislation to deal with in-year requests for admission to reception and other year groups. The Governing Body's Admissions Panel will consider these on an ad hoc basis.

Separate admissions arrangements operate for the nursery class and in no way entitle the child to a place in the reception class.

The LEA has set the Admission Number by formula to 41. The Governing Body will admit up to that number without any conditions, irrespective of faith and without interview. Applications for a place at the school must be made on the appropriate form and returned to the school by the published date at the latest.

The Governing Body will not admit more than 30 pupils to a Reception class or multiples thereof to an Early Years Unit.

If the school is named in a statement of special educational needs, the Governing Body has a duty to admit the child.

If the Governing Body as Admissions Authority has offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent, the offer of the place will be withdrawn.

Where the place has been fraudulently obtained and the child has already started at the school, the length of time at the school, will be taken into account in reaching any decision to withdraw the place.

Oversubscription

If the number of applicants exceeds the Admission number, the Admissions Panel appointed by the Governing Body will apply the following oversubscription criteria in order of priority:

1. Baptised Catholic children who are looked after in public care.
2. Looked after children who are not of the Catholic faith.
3. Baptised Catholic children within the parishes of Wrexham St Mary, Llay (with Rossett), Ruabon (with Chirk and Llangollen), and Overton; the parishes the school serves.
(Note: The LEA does not include Overton in its provision of transport to St Mary's.)
4. Baptised Catholic children whose pressing social and pastoral needs can be better met by the school.

For Catholic children in categories 1, 3 and 4, the Admissions Panel will need to see an original Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate, together with a written reference on the prescribed form from the Parish Priest.

For children in category 4, the Admissions Panel will need to see supporting evidence from a doctor, a social worker or the LEA as to why the school is the most suitable for the child.

5. Children who have a brother or sister in school on the date of admission.
6. Children of other Christian denominations, whose parents have a genuine desire for them to be educated

in a Catholic school, and who are fully supportive of its Catholic ethos.

The Admissions Panel will need to see an original Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate, together with a written reference on the prescribed form from the Parish Priest or Minister of Religion

6. Children of other faiths whose parents demonstrate a commitment to the ethos of the school.
7. Children whom the LEA has asked the school to place.

If there is oversubscription in any of the categories above, the Admissions Panel will offer places to children living nearest to the school as measured by the shortest distance between the front door to the home or flat/apartment complex and the main school gate, using public highways, and confirmed by the LEA's Transportation Department.

Procedures for the Admission Year 2012

1. The school will advertise its admission dates in each of the parishes it serves in September 2011.
2. Admission/preference forms for 2012 will be sent out by the school in September 2011. They should be returned to the school no later than the published date.
3. The School will organise familiarisation visits for parents who have stated a preference for St Mary's: for non-Catholic parents this will include a briefing on the Catholic nature of the school, its ethos and curriculum provision.
4. Parents will be notified by 15th March 2012* whether or not a place has been allocated.
*This date to be confirmed with Wrexham LEA
5. If their application is unsuccessful, parents have a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. If it has not been possible to allocate a place to a child, parents will be informed of this right in the decision letter.
6. Parents wishing to appeal will be asked to contact the Head Teacher at the school in the first instance and she will

advise them on how to contact the Independent Appeals Panel.

7. Any appeal must be lodged in writing no more than 20 working days after the receipt of the allocation letter. Appeals will be heard within 30 school days of the specified closing date for the receipt of appeals.

Notes

1. The Governing Body will need to confirm the arrangements for admissions in **2012** by 15th April 2011.
2. The Governing Body has resolved to consult formally on its policy. Consultation with neighbouring Admissions Authorities will take place from 15th December 2010 for a period of eight weeks. This written consultation will be with the Governing Body of St Anne's Catholic Primary School Wrexham as Admission Authority for the school, and with Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire LEAs, together with the Diocese of Wrexham.
3. The consultation process must be completed by 1st March 2011. After the eight week period, the Governing Body will review its policy in the light of responses and will be in a position to review and determine its Admission arrangements before 15th April 2011.
4. Arrangements for September **2013** and thereafter will need to be considered and determined by the same process and timescale (subject to any statutory variation). The Governing Body has agreed that this shall be a standing item of Governor Business at the first meeting of each school year. Depending on the outcome of this annual review, the Governing Body will determine formally whether Consultation in accordance with the Regulations is appropriate or not.