

St Edward's RC CE VA School ADMISSIONS POLICY 2008 - 2009

As a joint church school between the Roman Catholic diocese of Plymouth and the Church of England diocese of Salisbury, our primary aim is to provide an education that supports parents/carers from our dioceses with their responsibility to share their faith with their children. We believe that the spiritual development of the young adolescent is best supported if home, school and the church community the family belong to, work together for the benefit of the young person.

The school's Published Admissions Number (PAN) is **174** for Year's 8, 9 and 10 in September 2008 and 165 for Year 11. The Governing Body proposes to admit students without regard to ability or aptitude in accordance with the admissions criteria.

The Governors will consider applications and allocate places in accordance with the basic ratio based upon the foundation of the school. This ratio is expressed by the quota of not more than 75% of pupils from the Roman Catholic tradition and not less than 25% from the Anglican tradition. Where places within that quota are not taken, they will be open to the other denominations (RC/CofE) and to members of other church communities e.g. members of 'Churches Together'.

The Local Authority will be co-ordinating the admissions arrangements on behalf of the Governors of St Edward's and priority is given to applications received, on the Local Authority forms, by the published closing date naming St Edward's in accordance with the LA's admissions arrangements.

Application forms need to be accompanied by the supplementary evidence form i.e. the priest/minister's supporting statement, which will be used by governors in their decision making. The form should enable the priest/minister to confirm which category of the oversubscription criteria the applicant fulfils.

The priest or minister will return the supporting statement to the applicants family who will then send **both** the LA application form and supporting priest/minister's form to the admissions team at Poole Local Authority. Poole LA will then send all the information on to St Edward's. Both forms must be received by midday on the published closing date.

Applications received after the closing date will be deemed as "late applications". Late applications will only be considered if there are places available after all other applications received by the closing date have been considered.

Applications for one of the 174 places available in Year 8, September 2008 are considered by the Governors in the order or priority stated below.

OUR ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Supportive evidence

Applications need to be supported by the priest/minister's form. On this form the parish priest or minister and parents/carers provide evidence of membership to the church community. This will be used by the Governors in their decision making.

If families belong to a church community, governors will expect they will be regular church attenders e.g. practicing RC or CE involvement and also implies some formality such as baptism or dedication as registered by the church or inclusion on an electoral roll or equivalent. 'Their church community' is the church to which the family belongs and which it attends.

For applications for children moving into the locality, evidence needs to be provided by the priest or minister of their previous Church community endorsed by their accepting local church community.

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Tie break:

Should the numbers in a category exceed the number of places available for the category, the following criteria will be applied, in order to decide who can be admitted

- i) Looked after children
- ii) children who have a sibling who is attending at the time of admission.
- iii) *walking distance between the applicant's home and the front or back entrance to the School will be used. Preference will be given to the nearest.
- iv) Lottery – random selection.

*walking distance is measured by a Geographical Information System using the shortest, safest and practicable walking route using the centre line of public roads and footpaths from a point outside the centre of the Pupil's home address to a point opposite the nearest school gate that is for the use of pupils. If applicants live in the same block of flats the allocation of places will be made in the way of drawing lots.

If there are too many applications for the places available i.e. over 174 which is the PAN for Year 8, applications will be considered by the Governor's in the following order:

A1a)

Children attending St Mary's or St Joseph's schools, or children attending other schools who are in local Roman Catholic church communities on the basis of the supporting form indicating practicing members of the Roman Catholic tradition. (maximum 130 places).

A1 b)

Children who are in local Anglican church communities on the basis of the supporting form indicating practicing members of the Anglican tradition. (minimum 44 places).

A2.

Children who belong to local Christian church communities of other denominations which belong to a 'Churches Together' grouping on the evidence of the supporting form.

A3.

Children who belong to other local church communities on the evidence of the supporting form.

A4.

Children of other faiths or who are not able to be admitted under categories A1 to A3.

Priority will be given to children who have a faith commitment which is sympathetic to the ethos of the school .

SEN: Children with statement of special educational needs: In accordance with the DfES Special Educational Needs Code of Practice, the Governors are legally required to admit a child with Special Educational Needs where there is a statement issued by a Local Education Authority naming the school. Prior consultation with the school governors is part of this process before the school is named on the statement. This will reduce accordingly the number of places available.

Looked after children

This means any child who is in care of a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989. Looked after children who fit into any of the categories A1 to A4 will be given top priority within their category.

Sibling

As a definition of sibling, children who:

- a) are biologically brother/sister (this covers those who might live separately) or

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b) live in the same household with adults who are co-habiting and might reasonably be deemed to be 'in loco parentis' for all the children in the household

Notes:

If the LA sends a letter stating it is unable to offer a place, a parent has the right of appeal. This appeal must be made in writing by a parent to the Clerk to the Governors of the school within 14 days of the letter of notification being received. The Appeal will then be heard by an independent Appeals Panel set up by the Borough of Poole on behalf of the Diocese of Plymouth and the Diocese of Salisbury.

Other year groups: Admissions subject to places being available and to the same admissions criteria. Note the PAN for Year's 8, 9 and 10 for September 2008 is 174. Year 11 has a PAN of 165.

Withdrawing of places: Parents should note that should evidence of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent which effectively denied a parent with a stronger claim, an offer of a place be found, the offer could be withdrawn. This statement made in accordance with 'School Admissions Code of Practice' (DfES 2003).

ADMISSION TO THE SIXTH FORM 2008

We would expect all post 16 students to acknowledge and respect the Christian ethos of our joint church school. Students joining the sixth form should endorse and abide by the school's Mission Statement and school covenant.

Year 11 students at St Edward's school have right of entry into the sixth form if students meet the academic requirements for the courses offered and if there are places available.

Students applying from other schools - External students

Up to 20 students applying from other schools can be accepted into the sixth form subject to the criteria below. They have to have achieved the same academic requirements as students in year 11 at St Edward's who are eligible for entry to the sixth form. A student can only be admitted if there are places available on the course.

Sixth form places will be allocated to those who meet the criteria set out below:

- ◆ Admissions to St Edward's sixth form will be subject to the availability of places on the various courses and in the various subjects offered by the School.
- ◆ To study A level, (Level 3) courses, students are normally required to have achieved at least 5 GCSEs (including Mathematics and English) at Grades A*-C. There should be an A* - B GCSE grade in the subject chosen at Advanced level or a related subject.
- ◆ To study level 2 courses, students are normally required to have achieved at least 5 GCSE's at grades A* - E.

Post 16 collaboration

St Edward's is part of the Poole post 16 collaboration and students eligible for study at St Edward's may also have access to courses at other sixth form providers within the collaboration providing there is availability. Those students wishing to take part in the collaboration usually study the majority of their courses at St Edward's with one course at another institution within the collaboration.