

St. Mary's Catholic Combined School Poole ADMISSIONS POLICY 2008 / 2009

St Mary's is a voluntary aided combined school, part of the Catholic Diocese of Plymouth and working in partnership with St Joseph's Combined School and with St Edwards RC/CE Comprehensive School. With them it offers the benefits of a Catholic Church School which will be best achieved through the shared religious commitment of parents, parish and school community. The School serves the parishes of St Mary's and St Anthony's.

The Diocese's aim is to provide a place for every Catholic child in a Catholic School where his or her faith is readily nurtured. The Church also recognises the baptismal calling of other Christian denominations. The school's admission number is 60.

In Reception places will be allocated on an equal preference basis from applications received by the closing date. If there are too many applications for the places available applications will be considered by the Governors in the following order.

The Local Authority will then notify all parents/guardians of their decision.

1. Looked after children
2. A baptised (or one who is currently enrolled in a sacramental Church programme) Catholic child living within the parish boundaries of St. Mary's or St. Anthony's, or a baptised Catholic child living outside the parish boundaries where there is no provision for continuity of catholic education.
3. A baptised Catholic child (or one who is currently enrolled in a sacramental Church programme) living outside the above named parish boundaries.
4. Baptised children of other Christian denominations (or who have undertaken a formal service of dedication according to the practice of another mainstream Christian Church, that is one within Churches Together in Britain and Northern Ireland.)
5. All other children.

THE BOUNDARIES OF PARISHES FEEDING DIRECTLY TO ST. MARY'S SCHOOL ARE:

ST MARY'S, POOLE – South – Salterns Way, along Sandbanks Rd to Salterns Rd, up Salterns Rd, across Parr St to St Peters Rd, up North Rd, up along Springfield Rd to the roundabout, then left to Ringwood Rd, to the roundabout, Parkstone Heights then left of Ringwood Rd, Dale Rd, Foxholes Rd to enclose Canford Heath, with Hamworthy, Upton and Lytchett Minister.

ST ANTHONY'S, BROADSTONE – along Waterloo Rd up Gravel Hill, across to Blandford Rd and south to Upton Rd including Corfe Mullen and Creekmoor.

Applications

Parents who wish their children to be admitted to the school should complete the common application form and return it to the Admissions Team, Pupil, Parent and Youth Services by 12.00 noon on the published closing date set annually by the local authority.

STATEMENTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS: In accordance with DfES Special Needs 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 Educational Authority naming the school. This will reduce accordingly the number of places available. 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” are those children in the care of the Local Authority.

The Supplementary Form should be completed by a priest/minister for criteria 2, 3 and 4 (see above) and returned with the completed application form to the Local Authority.

Evidence of participation in the Rite of Catholic Initiation of Children programme, will confer a similar status to that of a baptised Catholic child.

In each category the Governors will consider applications in the following order of priority:

1. a child whose sibling (a sibling is a full or half/step brother or sister living in the same household) is still attending the school when the child is due to enter.
2. a child who lives closest to the school, based on the shortest distance from home to school. The distance is measured by the shortest practicable walking route using public roads and footpaths from the child's home address to the nearest school gate, which is for the use of pupils. This information is obtained from the Borough of Poole and is measured using a Geographical Information System

If there are insufficient places to accommodate all the children of multiple births (twins, triplets etc) the parents of the children will be asked to nominate the child or children to take up the available number of places.

If there are insufficient places to accommodate all applicants and the distance criterion is used, applicants living in the same block of flats eligible for the remaining place/s will have their names drawn as lots to see who should be offered the place/s. An impartial person will draw the name/s.

The Governors can consider only one “home address” for each child. Where a child spends time with parents with shared parental responsibility at more than one address the Governors will consider the home address as being where the prime carer resides. The “prime carer” shall be determined as the parent/carer in whose name the Child Benefit payment for the individual child is made.

Applications for places in other year groups will be considered following receipt of a complete application, using the above over subscription criteria. Applications will normally be accepted only for the child’s National Curriculum Year Group.

The school has a waiting list for applications for admission to each year group. At each consideration of applications all on the list are considered, together with new applications, according to the over subscription criteria. Length of time on the list is not considered. Parents who are unable to be offered a place are asked to inform the school, in writing, that they wish the application to be on the waiting list for the current academic year.

Should the Governors be unable to offer a place, the Parent/Guardian is entitled to appeal against this decision. This must be made, in writing, and addressed to the Clerk of Governors, St Mary’s Catholic Combined School Devon Rd Poole, BH 15 3QQ. Information regarding the procedure will then be sent by the LEA.

