



ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL – ADMISSIONS POLICY **2020 - 2021 ENTRY**

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education is fully supported by all families in the school. All applicants are therefore expected to give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school.

The Governing Body will always accord the highest priority to Catholic applicants. In recent years the school has been over subscribed with applications from practising Catholic families.

'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism in a Catholic church or a Certificate of Reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

Evidence of Catholic practice will be sought from the Certificate of Catholic Practice. This certificate is issued by the family's parish priest (or the priest in charge of the church where the family attends Mass) in the form laid down by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It will be issued if the priest is satisfied that at least one Catholic parent or carer (along with the child, if he or she is over seven years old) have (except when it was impossible to do so) attended Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation for at least five years (or, in the case of the child, since the age of seven, if shorter). It will also be issued when the practice has been continuous since being received into the church if that occurred less than five years ago. It is expected that most Certificates will be issued on the basis of attendance. A Certificate may also be issued by the priest when attendance is interrupted by exceptional circumstances which excuse from the obligation to attend on that occasion or occasions. Further details of these circumstances can be found in the guidance issued to priests <http://redow.org.uk/education/governors/admissions>. This certificate can be obtained from the priest at the parish where the family normally worships or from the diocesan website (follow: schools, for parents.)

The published admission number for the school is 186 pupils per year. Any admissions in excess of this limit will cause overcrowding and be detrimental to the quality of education provided.

Where there are more than 186 applications, they will be treated as follows:

Over Subscription Criteria

Category One: Catholic "looked after"¹ children and Catholic children who have been adopted² or made subject to child arrangement orders³ or special guardianship orders⁴.

- Category Two: Baptised, Catholic applicants with a Certificate of Catholic Practice.
- Category Three: Baptised, Catholic applicants without a Certificate of Catholic practise.
- Category Four: Other looked after children and children who have been adopted (or made subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders).
- Category Five: Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a Minister of religion. This means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledging God’s revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God’s will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no creedal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England and of CYTÛN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

- Category Six: Any other applicants.

Applicants in each category will be placed into groups, depending on the Deanery in which they reside. A proportion of the places will be offered in each Deanery as follows:

Hounslow Deanery	54%
Hillingdon Deanery	20%
Upper Thames Deanery	13%
Ealing Deanery	13%

In the event of oversubscription in each Category, the following criteria will be used to place applicants in order of priority.

- (a) Children with a brother or sister (including step/half siblings) who will be attending the school (including 6th Form) at the time of admission.
- (b) Children with a parent employed by the School for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made.
- (c) Distance tie-break
St. Mark’s Catholic School use the LA’s measuring system. The route from home to school has been measured using the “shortest designated route”

It starts from a point of measurement in the “foot print “or “seed point” of the home address. The foot print or “seed point” is provided by Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) from information compiled by the Local Authority.

From the “foot print “or “seed point “the route firstly connects to the nearest point of the digitised network namely the road on which the house is situated. The positioning of front doors, driveways and back gates are not relevant to the route or the measurement and are not programmed to be used by the measuring system.

The digitised network is constructed from road data supplied by Ordnance Survey called the Integrated Transport Network (ITN). The Integrated Transport Network has been accurately digitised to measure along the centre of road.

The network starts from a point in the property provided as the child’s address and continues by the shortest available route to the nearest of the school gates which is used by pupils to enter the school grounds. Blocks of flats are treated as one address. In blocks of flats, priority will normally be given to the lowest flat number.

The shortest designated route is established using an algorithm within the bespoke software used by the LA. This software is called RouteFinder and is produced by Higher Mapping Solutions (www.highermappingsolutions.com). This programme integrates with the LA’s database (ONE) which is supplied by Capita Children’s Services (www.capita-cs.co.uk).

Other measuring systems may give a different measurement but the LA cannot take a measurement from another measuring system.

The “shortest designated route” is not necessarily a driving route because it may use in whole or in part a non-driveable route (e.g. footpaths). The “shortest designated route” is also not necessarily a walking route for example, where roads are used, the measurement is along the centre of the road not along the edge (pavement or equivalent) of the road.

Where it is possible to offer places to all Category One and Two applicants in a Deanery, the remaining places will be offered to Category Two applicants from the remaining Deaneries in rotation so as to preserve the relative proportions identified above.

If any places are still available after all Category One and Two applicants have been offered places, Category Three to Six applicants will be allocated places using the same Deanery quotas and criteria as applied to applicants in Category One and Two.

If twins or triplets are competing for one or two remaining places, Governors have agreed to admit both/all applicants and exceed the Published Admissions Number.

In the event of a tie-break situation, where two or more applicants for the last remaining place/s, have equal priority with equal distance measurements, lots will be drawn to determine which applicant should be offered the place.

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Details of this procedure are set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. If your child has an EHC plan you must contact your local authority SEN officer. Children with this school named in their EHC Plan will be admitted.

Children educated out of chronological age group

Application may be made for a child to be educated out of his/her age group i.e. a 12 year old being admitted to Year 7, a 17 year old to Year 12 or any child admitted in-year to the year below or above their chronological age group. The applicant should write to the Chair of Governors at the time of application requesting that the child be admitted out of his/her chronological age group. If the request is granted the oversubscription criteria will be applied and no priority will be given for being out of age group.

Application Procedure

To apply for a place at St. Mark's School you should complete and return two separate forms. The closing date is October 31st 2019. In order to make an application you should complete the school's supplementary Information Form attached to this policy and return it to the Governors' Admissions Panel via the school office, together with all other relevant paperwork required for your application. You must also complete a Common Application Form from your Local Authority and return it to them as per their instructions.

Applications received after the closing date will be dealt with after the initial allocation process has been completed. Last year the school was heavily oversubscribed and we were unable to offer places to all applicants in Category Two. The Governing Body were not able to offer any places to applicants in Categories Three to Six.

Notification letters will be sent out by the Local Authorities on behalf of the Governors on March 1st 2020.

Right of Appeal

If an applicant is not offered a place at St. Mark's, there is a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Committee set up in accordance with the provisions of the School Standards & Framework Act 1998. Details of the procedure can be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors at the School.

Waiting List

Children's names are kept on a waiting list at the request of the parents throughout the following Academic Year. Places on the waiting list will be prioritised according to the admissions policy above. The allocation of any places from the waiting list will maintain the balance between the four Deaneries, as identified above.

Sixth Form

An offer of a place in the Sixth Form is conditional on the following criteria being met:

The school can provide a course suited to the applicant's age, ability, aptitude and educational needs.

Applicants will be required to have achieved at least 5 GCSE passes at level 5 or above including English and Mathematics; and

A GCSE level 6 or higher in the individual subject they intend to pursue at A level, with the exception of Mathematics where a level 7 is required and Further Mathematics where a level 8 in Mathematics is required.

If the subject was not studied at GCSE, students will be required to have achieved at least a level 6 in English (or a similar subject). Refer to the blue page in the prospectus for the subject specific entry requirements.

St. Mark's intends to admit up to 160 students to the Sixth Form. In addition to the places reserved for the School's own students the Governors propose to admit a minimum of 15 external students into the Sixth Form, subject to the fulfilment of course requirements. Where there are more applicants who meet the minimum academic criteria than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority after students already attending St. Mark's Catholic School:-

1. Catholic 'looked after' children and Catholic children who have been adopted or made subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders, immediately after having been looked after.
2. Other Baptised Catholic students.
3. Other 'looked after' children and children who have been adopted or made subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders, immediately after having been looked after.
4. Other students.

Tie Break for external applications to the Sixth Form

Where the offer of places in the Sixth Form to external applicants would lead to oversubscription in any category, the places up to the admission number will be offered to those living nearest to the School using a standardised measuring system.

In-Year Admissions

In-Year admissions are made to the Local Authority.

Applications for In-Year admissions are dealt with in the same way as those made during the normal admissions round. If more applications are received than there are places available then applications will be ranked by the governing body in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. If a place cannot be offered at this time then you may ask us for the reasons and you will be informed of your right of appeal. You will be offered the opportunity of being placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained by the governing body in the order of the oversubscription criteria and not in the order in which the applications are received. Names are removed from the list at the end of each academic year. When a place becomes available the governing body will re-rank the list and the L.A. will send an offer letter.

Fair Access Protocols

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admissions round the governing body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol that has been agreed by both the Diocese and the governing body for the current

school year. The governing body has this power even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

Definitions

1. **'Looked after child'** has the same meaning as in S.22 of the Children Act 1989, and means any child in the care of a Local Authority or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents at the time of making an application to the school).
2. **'Adopted'** means any child who ceased to be looked after because they were adopted and whose parents can give proof of this status.
3. **'Child Arrangements Order'** A child arrangements order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8 settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live. Children "looked after" immediately before the order is made qualify in this category.
4. **'Special Guardianship Order'** A special guardianship order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.14A which defines it as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s).
5. **'Parent'** means the adult or adults with legal responsibility for the child.
6. **'Resident'** – A child is deemed to be resident at a particular address when he/she resides there for more than 50% of the school week.