



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Admissions Policy 2025/2026

**Updated and ratified by Governors: February 2024
Authors: The Governing Body**

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2025/2026

St Mary's is a Roman Catholic Primary School under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Shrewsbury. It is maintained by Telford & Wrekin Authority. As a Voluntary Aided School, the Governing Body is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions. The co-ordination of admissions arrangements is undertaken by the Local Authority. For the school's year commencing September 2025, the admissions authority has set its admissions number at **30**.

ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL will be made by the admissions authority. 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.

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

Late applications will be administered in accordance with your home Local Authority Primary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

1. Catholic looked after, previously looked after children and other looked after and previously looked after children. (See notes 2&3)
2. Catholic children who are resident in the parish of The Good Shepherd. (See note 3)
3. Other Catholic children. (See note 3)
4. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church. (See notes 4&5)
5. Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion. (See note 6)
6. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader. (See note 7)
7. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

1. The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (1) above (see note 8).

Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child-
2. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g., children with foster parents) at the time of making application to the school.

A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the admissions authority) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

3. '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. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is catholic.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest [who, after consulting with the Diocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church].

4. 'catechumen' means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the order of catechumens.
5. 'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.
6. "children of other Christian denominations" means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge 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 credal 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 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.

7. "Children of other faiths" means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian denominations' at 6 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:

- A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
- A religion which does not involve belief in a God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.

8. 'Brother or sister' includes:

- i. all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and
- ii. the child of a parent's partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.

9. A 'parent' means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.

11. A child's "home address" refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form ("CAF"). Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.

12. All applicants will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is the date set in January by Telford and Wrekin Local Authority in the academic year immediately before the children are due to start school.
13. It is the duty of governors to comply with regulations on class size limits at Key Stage One. The admissions authority may exceed the regulations for twins, siblings in the same year group and children from multiple births where one of the children is the 30th child admitted.
14. If in any category there are more applications than places available, priority will be given based on distance from home to school. Distance is measured in a straight line from a central point of the family's home address to a central point of the school. If the distance is the same for two or more applicants where this would be last place/s to be allocated, a random lottery will be carried out in a public place. 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 most school days in a week.
15. A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the Admission Criteria. Parents will be informed of their child's position on the waiting list which will not be operated for longer than the end of the Autumn Term.
16. In-year applications will be treated as per the co-ordinated arrangements published by the LA, as published in the Primary Information booklet.
17. If an application for admission has been turned down by the admissions authority, 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 that appeal. Parents must give reasons for appealing in writing and the decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on all parties.
18. Parents can request that the date their child, if below compulsory school age, is admitted to school is deferred to later in the school year or until the term when they reach compulsory school age.
19. The admissions authority reserve 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.
20. All applicants will be required to fill in a supplementary information form (SIF) provided by the school. If you do not provide the information required in the SIF and

return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, your child may not be placed in criteria 1 to 4 , and this may affect your child's chance of being offered a place.

