

St. Berteline's C of E Aided Primary School

Admission Arrangements 2012

Making an application

Applications for admission to our school should be made on the common application form enclosed with the Local Authority's brochure and also on the school's own Supplementary Form (if applying under criteria 3) between specified dates in September and December of the year prior to entry as determined by the local authority.

Applications may also be made online using the common application form. It is not normally possible to change the order of your preferences for schools after the closing date. If applying online applicants will also need to fill in a Supplementary Form which can be obtained directly from the school or is available from the Local Authority on their website. Both forms must be completed.

The Governors will consider all the applications received. Letters informing parents of whether or not their child has been allocated a place will be sent out by the Local Authority during March of the year of entry. Parents of children not admitted will be informed of the reason and offered an alternative place by the Authority.

Admission procedures

The number of places available for admission to the Reception class will be a maximum of 43. This arrangement follows consultation between the Governing Body, the Diocesan Board of Education, Local Authorities and other admissions authorities in the area. The Governing Body will not place any restrictions on admissions to the Reception class unless the number of children for whom admission is sought exceeds this number. By law, no infant class may contain more than 30 children.

The Governing Body operates a system of equal preferences under which they consider all preferences equally and the Local Authority allocates places according to its policy. In the event that there are more applicants than places, the Governing Body will allocate places using the oversubscription criteria which are detailed separately.

Late applications for admission

Where there are extenuating circumstances for an application being received after the last date for applications, and it is *before the Governors have established their list of pupils to be admitted*, then it will be considered alongside all the others.

Waiting List

Where we have more applications than places, the admissions criteria will be used. Children who are not admitted will have their name placed on a waiting list. The names on this waiting list will be in the order resulting from the application of the admissions criteria. Since the date of application cannot be a criterion for the order of names on the waiting list, late applicants for the school will be slotted into the order according to the extent to which they meet the criteria. Thus, it is possible that a child who moves into the area later to have a higher priority than one who has been on the waiting list for some time. If a place becomes available within the admission number, the child whose name is at the top of the list will be offered a place. This is not dependent on whether an appeal has been submitted.

This waiting list will operate until the end of the Autumn Term only.

Children With Statements

Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 requires the governing bodies of all maintained schools to admit a child with a Statement of Special Education Needs that names their school.

Address of Pupil

The address used on the school's admission form must be the current one at the time of application. If the address changes subsequently, the parents should notify the school. Where the parents live at different addresses, the current-at-the-time-of-application, normal address of the child will be the one used. This will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings. Parents may be asked to show evidence of the claim that is being made for the address, by providing a Council Tax or Utility Bill. Where there is dispute about the correct address to use, the Governors reserve the right to make enquiries of any relevant third parties, eg the child's GP. For children of UK service personnel and other Crown Servants returning to the area proof of the posting is all that is required.

NB In the event of a tie break situation linked to proximity to school, a lottery will be undertaken under independent jurisdiction.

Parents

The definition of 'parent' is any person who has parental responsibility as defined by the courts, or has care of the child on a day to day basis.

Non-routine admissions

It sometimes happens that a child needs to change school other than at the 'normal' time; such admissions are known as non-routine admissions, or out of normal round admissions. Such admissions will be co-ordinated by the Local Authority.

Please note that you cannot re-apply for a place at a school within the same school year unless there has been relevant, significant and material change in the family circumstances.

Appeals

Where the Governors are unable to offer a place because the school is over subscribed, parents have the right to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, as amended by the Education Act, 2002. **Parents should notify the Clerk to the Governors at the school within 14 days of receiving the letter refusing a place.** Parents will have the opportunity to submit their case to the panel in writing and also to attend in order to present their case. You will normally receive 14 days' notice of the place and time of the hearing.

If your child was refused a place in Reception or KS1 because of government limits on infant class sizes, the grounds on which your appeal could be successful are limited. You would have to show that the decision was one which in the circumstances no reasonable Governing Body would have made, or that your child would have been offered a place if the Governors' admissions arrangements had been properly implemented.

Please note that the right of appeal against the Governors' decision does not prevent you from making an appeal in respect of any other school.

Fraudulent applications

Where the Governing Body discovers that a child has been awarded a place as the result of an intentionally misleading application from parents, (for example a false claim of involvement in a place of worship) which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, then the Governing Body is required to withdraw the offer of the place. The application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

Deferred admission

If your child is due to start school during the next academic year, it is important that you apply for a place for September. If your child's fifth birthday is between the months of September and December, then, if you wish it, admission may be deferred until January; if it is between January and April, then admission may be deferred until the start of the summer term though it is likely to be in your child's interest to start no later than January.

Twins/Multiple Birth

Where there are twins wanting admission and there is only a single place left within the admission number, then the Governing Body will exercise as much flexibility as possible within the requirements of infant class sizes. If only one place can be offered then parents will be advised that a random allocation undertaken by an independent body will be used to decide which of the children can be offered a place and parents advised of their right of appeal for the other child/children.

We hope that this information is helpful. Should you have any queries or require any further information, then please feel free to contact the school who will be happy to help you.

2nd December 2010.

PREVIOUS YEARS ADMISSION INFORMATION

Last year (September 2010) there were 81 applications for 43 places. The Admissions Committee applied the criteria and offered places to:

19 children under criterion 1 (siblings).

14 children under criterion 2 (church).

10 children under criterion 3 (nearness of home to school).

St Berteline's Church of England Aided Primary School Oversubscription Criteria

The Governors admit 43 children to the reception class each September. This admission limit has been agreed following statutory consultation. In the event of applications exceeding the number of places, the Governors will admit using the following criteria in priority order:

- 1 Children in Care^[1]
- 2 Children who had a brother or sister at the school on 1st January, who will continue to be in school at the beginning of the year of admission^[2].

Once places have been allocated under criteria 1 and 2 above, the remaining places will be divided equally to be allocated under criteria 3 and 4 below. In the event of an odd number of places being available, the single odd place shall be made available for allocation under criterion 3.

- 3 (i) Children whose parent/parents are involved in the work and worship of Norton Parish Church or Murdishaw Church^[3].

(ii) Children whose parents are involved in the work and worship of any other Christian Church for whom there is no nearer Church of England School^[4].

- 4 Pupils living nearest to the school.

Within criteria 3 and 4, places in each category will be allocated in order of shortest distance according to the straight-line distance measurement from the child's permanent residence to the school.

Notes:

[1] A Looked After Child as defined in section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

[2] Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living in the same family unit at the same address.

[3] Evidence of parents' commitment to and their involvement in their place of worship will be required in the form of confirmation from the parish priest on the supplementary application form. By 'involved in the work and worship' we mean attendance at church for at least two services per month for at least twelve months prior to the closing date for applications. Where a family has moved house during the 12 month qualifying period, then evidence to meet the criteria showing continuity of involvement between the previous church and Norton Parish Church or Murdishaw Church will need to be produced.

- [4] By Christian Church, the Governors mean a church which is a member of Churches Together in England and Wales or the Evangelical Alliance.
- [5] Distance will be measured by the Local Authority using an Ordnance Survey address point system which measures straight line distances from the address point of the school to the address point of the child's permanent home address.
- [6] It must be emphasised that admission to the Nursery does not guarantee admission to the school.
- [7] The school will not admit any more pupils once the number of places are filled in circumstances where the admission of more children may prejudice the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of resources.

Example:

In an example year, the school has 43 places to allocate. Applications are received in respect of 2 looked-after children and 18 siblings, so the first 20 places are allocated to these applicants.

The remaining 23 places are divided to give 11 places each for allocation under criteria 3 and 4. The single odd place is added to criterion 3, giving a total of 12 places for this category.

Places for applicants are then allocated under criterion 3 in order of shortest distance from the school. Once the available places (12 in this example) have been allocated, any unsuccessful applications under this category are added to the remaining applications and considered under criterion 4. Places available under criterion 4 (11 in this example) are then allocated in order of shortest distance from the school.

This information is published by the Governors of St Berteline's Church of England Aided Primary School. Admission criteria may change from year to year.

