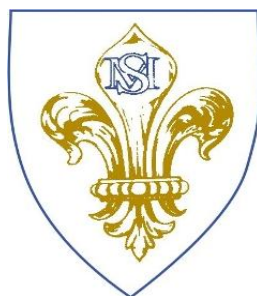


St. Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Part of The Christus Catholic Trust




Nursery Admissions Policy

(including support for children with social, emotional and mental health needs)

Respect Ourselves, Respect Others,
Respect our World,

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

	Policy Name: Nursery Admissions Policy
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	<p>Reviewer V McBrown</p>	<p>Reviewed Date: April 2025</p>	<p>Date of next review: April 2026</p>
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Our Mission Statement

Respect Ourselves, Respect Others, Respect our School, Love God

Introduction

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families in Tilbury and the surrounding areas. The Sisters of Mercy did much to enhance the education provision.

The Nursery is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and instrument of government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic Nursery we provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic Nursery, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of our activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the Nursery's education be fully supported by all families in the Nursery. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the Nursery. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be given a place at the Nursery in accordance with the admission arrangements.

The governing body is the admissions authority and has responsibility for admissions to this Nursery. The governing body has set its admission number at 26 pupils to be admitted to the Nursery class in the academic year. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below.

The Governing Body will, where logistically possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within Nursery's admission numbers.

Please note that admission to St Mary's Nursery does not automatically guarantee a place in St Mary's School. A separate school application must be made in accordance with Local Authority guidance.

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority.

1. Catholic 'looked after' and previously 'looked after' children. (see notes 1&2)
2. Catholic children of practising Catholic parents, attending weekly Mass. The Governing Body will expect this practice to be verified by a Certificate of Catholic Practice.
3. Other Catholic children. (see note 2)
4. Other 'looked after' and previously 'looked after children'. (see note 1)
5. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church. (see notes 3&4)
6. Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion. (see note 5)
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader. (see note 6)
8. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provision will be applied. (i) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school or nursery 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. (see note 7)

Tie Break

Priority will be given to children who will be of school age in the following September. This will be decided using the dates recorded on the children's birth certificates.

In the event of two children or more who will be of school age in the following September where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the school. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

Waiting Lists

Unsuccessful children will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out

above and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the academic year. The waiting list will be held open until the last day of the summer term. Inclusion in the Nursery's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. 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 Nursery. 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.

2. '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 who is part of a Catholic family where a letter from a priest demonstrates that the child would have been baptised or received if it were not for their status as a looked after child (e.g. a looked after child in the process of adoption by a Catholic family). 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].

3. '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.

4. 'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox churches, and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that church.

5. '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.

6. '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.

7. '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 address as the applicant.

8. 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