

## **St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy**

### **Admission Policy 2019-2020**

St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy was founded by the Sisters of Mercy to provide education for children from catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church with its trust deed and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic School, we aim to provide 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 be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with the admission arrangements.

The admission policy criteria will be dealt with on an equal preference basis.

The governing body is the admissions authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements.

#### **Parishes served by the school:**

The parishes of Monkwearmouth Partnership:

- St. Benet (The Causeway, Monkwearmouth SR6 0BH)
- St. Hilda (Beaumont Street, Southwick SR5 2JD )
- Sacred Heart and St. John Bosco (Chiswick Road, Hylton Castle SR5 3PY)
- St. Mary (Bridge Street, Sunderland SR1 1TQ)
- St. Cecilia and St. Patrick (Ryhope Road, SR2 7TG)
- St. Joseph (Paxton Terrace, Millfield SR4 6HP)
- Holy Family (Gardiner Road, Grindon SR4 9PS)
- Holy Rosary (Arbroath Road, Farringdon SR3 3LD)
- Immaculate Heart (Springwell Road SR3 4DF)
- St. Anne (Hylton Road, Pennywell SR4 9AA)
- St. Leonard (Tunstall Village Road, Silksworth SR3 2BB) • St. Patrick (Smith Street, Ryhope SR2 0RG)

#### **Feeder primary schools:**

The primary schools of Monkwearmouth Partnership:

- St. Mary's R.C. Primary (Meadowside)
- St. Joseph's R.C. Primary (Millfield)
- St. Leonard's R.C. Primary (Silksworth)

- St. Patrick's R.C. Primary (Ryhope)
- St. Cuthbert's R.C. Primary (Grindon)
- St. Anne's R.C. Primary (Pennywell)
- St. Benet's R.C. Primary (Fulwell)
- English Martyrs R.C. Primary (Red House)
- St. John Bosco R.C. Primary (Town End Farm)

**Published Admission Number:**

The governing body has set its published admission number (PAN) at 210 pupils to year seven in the school year which begins September 2019.

**Application procedure and timetable:**

To apply for a place at the school in the normal admission round (not in-year applicants), a Common Application Form (CAF) must be completed. This is available from the local authority in which the child lives.

The parent will be advised of the outcome of the application on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 or the next working day, by the local authority. If the application is unsuccessful (unless the child gained a place at the school the parent ranked higher) the parent will be informed of the decision, related to the over-subscription criteria listed, and has the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

If the parent is required to provide supplemental evidence to support the application (eg. a baptismal certificate), this evidence should be provided at the time of application. If not provided, evidence may be sought by the governing body following the closing date for applications. This information must be correct at the date of closing for applications.

All applications, which are submitted on time, will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

**Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan or a Statement of Special Educational Needs (see Note 1)**

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan or a Statement of Special Educational Needs is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan or a Statement of Special Educational Needs 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**

Late applications will be administered in accordance with the local authority co-ordinated admissions scheme. Parents are advised to ensure that the application is submitted before the closing date.

**Admission of children outside their normal age group**

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems e.g. ill-health.

Any request should be made in writing to the headteacher of the school. The governing body will make its decision about the request based upon the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the headteacher who has a statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the governing body will take into account the views of parents and of the appropriate medical and educational professionals.

### **Waiting lists**

In addition to their right of appeal, applicants will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in the order of the oversubscription criteria set out below and not in order in which the applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the year. The waiting list will be held open until the last day of the summer term. Inclusion on the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

### **In-year applications**

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. Applications should be made to the school by contacting Mrs. K. Morgan on 0191 565 8904.

Parents will be advised of the outcome of their application in writing.

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out below, will be applied.

If there are no places available, a request can be made that the child is added to the waiting list (see above).

The parent has the right of appeal to an independent panel.

### **Right of appeal**

Where a parent has been notified that a place is not available for a child, every effort will be made by the local authority to help the parent to find a place in a suitable alternative school. Parents who are refused a place have a statutory right of appeal. Further details of the appeals process are available by writing to the chair of governors at the school address.

### **Fair access protocol**

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable/hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the governing body i.e. 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 exceed the published admission number.

### **False evidence**

The governing body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place or, where the child is already attending the school, the place itself, where it is satisfied that the offer of a place was obtained by deception.

### **Oversubscription criteria**

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

The first priority in each category will be given to children who have an older sibling attending the school in September 2019.

1. Looked after and previously looked after students (see notes 2 and 3).
2. Catholic students who attend a feeder primary school (see note 3).
3. Other catholic students (see note 3).
4. Students who are Catechumens or members of an Eastern Christian Church (see notes 4 and 5).
5. Students of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister or faith leader (see note 6).
6. Students of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister or faith leader (see note 7).
7. Any other students.

### **Tie breaker:**

Where there are places available for some, but not all applicants within a particular criterion priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. Distance from home to school when measured by the shortest walking route will be the deciding factor. Measurements will be calculated using the Local Authority's Geographical Information System, (GIS.)

In the event of distances being the same for two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out in a public place and supervised by a person independent of the school.

### **Notes and definitions**

1. A **Statement of Special Educational Needs** is a statement made by the local authority under section 324 of the Education Act 1996, specifying the special educational provision for a child. 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.

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 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.

4. **Catechumen** means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. For the purposes of admissions this refers to the child on whose behalf the application is being made. 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. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism or reception should contact the Diocese who will decide how the question of baptism or reception is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the 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.

Applicants must provide a baptismal certificate or where child baptism is not practised, a letter confirming their church membership from their minister or faith leader.

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.

Applicants must provide a letter of support to confirm their faith membership from their minister or faith leader.

8. **Home address** is the primary parental address which will be used in applying the admission criteria. This means that, when stating the choice of school, the parental address at the time of application should be given. The address of childminders or other family members who may share in the care of the child must not be used as the home address. Documentary evidence may be requested.

9. **Sibling** 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.

10. 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 (having care of a child means that the child lives with and is looked after by that person).

**This policy should be read in conjunction with the local authority's admission guidance for parents.**