St Benedict's Catholic Academy Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2021/2022

St Benedict's Catholic Academy is part of the Holy Spirit Multi Academy Company. The admissions authority for the school is the Board of Directors of the Holy Spirit Multi Academy Company who has responsibility for admissions to this school. The Board of Directors has delegated responsibility for the administration of the admissions process to the Academy Committee of St Benedict's Catholic Academy.

The admissions process for St Benedict's Catholic Academy is part of the Warwickshire Local Authority co-ordinated admissions scheme. To apply for a place at St Benedict's Catholic Academy in the normal admissions round, an application must be made using the school admission application process of the local authority in which you live naming St Benedict's Catholic Academy on the application form. Applications need to be made by 15th January 2021. A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must also be completed and returned directly to the school by the same date (see Note 2).

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time, after the closing date.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application on 16th April 2021, or the next working day, by the local authority on behalf of the school.

Please note that throughout this policy, the term 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.

The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of 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 Board of Directors as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Articles of Association and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 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 Board of Directors is the admissions authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The Board of Directors has set its admission number at 30 pupils to be admitted to the Reception class in the school year which begins in September 2021. (See Note 1 below)

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority. If there is oversubscription within a category, the Board of Directors will give priority to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance (see Note 5).

For the purposes of this policy, parish boundaries are as shown on the Archdiocese of Birmingham parish boundary map which can be accessed at https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/boundary-map and will be applied to the admission arrangements for the academic year 2021/2022.
The parish boundary map is also on the school's website and is also available at school.

Oversubscription Criteria

1. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) who are looked after or previously looked after (See Note 3 below).

2. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) living in the parish of St Benedict's who have a brother or sister (see Note 4 below) attending St Benedict's Catholic Academy at the time of admission.

3. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) living in the parish of St Benedict's.

4. Other Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) who have a brother or sister (see Note 4 below) attending St Benedict's Catholic Academy at the time of admission.

5. Other Baptised Catholic children (see note 2 below).

6. Non-Catholic children who are looked after or previously looked after (See Note 3 below).

7. Non-Catholic children who have a brother or sister (see Note 4 below) attending St Benedict's Catholic Academy at the time of admission.

8. Non-Catholic children.

Note 1
Children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that names the school **MUST** be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to applicants. This is not an oversubscription criteria.

Note 2
In all categories, for a child to be considered as Catholic, evidence of Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Church will be required. For a definition of a Baptised Catholic, see the Appendix. Those who face difficulties in producing written evidence of Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Church should contact their Parish Priest.
Parents making an application for a Catholic child should also complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) **which should be returned directly to the school**. If you do not provide the information required in the Supplementary Information Form and return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, this is likely to affect the criteria that your child is placed into, which is likely to affect your child's chance of being offered a place at this school.
For the purposes of this policy, a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the carers is Catholic will be considered as Catholic. The carer must forward a copy of their own Catholic Baptismal or Reception certificate directly to the school in order for this priority to be given to the child as failure to do so will result in the looked after child being ranked as a non-Catholic.

Note 3
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 the local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (eg children with foster parents) at the time of making the application to the school. A "previously looked after child" is a child who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, child arrangement order or special guardianship order.
For the purposes of this policy, a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the carers is Catholic will be considered as Catholic. The carer must forward a copy of their own Catholic Baptismal or Reception certificate directly to the school in order for this priority to be given to the child as failure to do so will result in the looked after child being ranked as a non-Catholic.

Note 4
For all applicants the definition of a brother or sister is:

- A brother or sister sharing the same parents
- A half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one common parent
- A step-brother or step-sister, where two children are related by a parents' marriage or where they are unrelated but their parents are living as partners.
- Adopted or fostered children

The children must be living permanently in the same household.

Note 5
Distances will be calculated by straight line measurement from the address point location coordinate of the applicant's home address (as set by Ordnance Survey) to the centre point (centroid) of the school in question. (The centroid is a predetermined point set by Warwickshire County Council and all distances are subject to changes which may occur with updates of mapping data).

In a very small number of cases, where the school is oversubscribed, it may not be possible to decide between the applications of those pupils who are the final qualifiers for a place when applying the published admission criteria.
For example, this may occur when children in the same year group live at the same address, or if the distance between the home and the school is exactly the same, for example, blocks of flats. If there is no other way of separating the application according to the admissions criteria and to admit both, or all, of the children would cause the Published Admission Number for the child's year group to be exceeded, the Local Authority, on behalf of the Board of Directors, will select the child to be offered the final place by random allocation (lottery). The draw will be carried out by two officers of the Admissions Service in the presence of a local authority Solicitor. The order of draw will be recorded and countersigned at the time.

The Board of Directors will, where possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within the school's published admission number.

A child's home address is considered to be a residential property where the child normally resides/sleeps when they attend school and will be the address provided in the Local Authority's Common Application Form. Addresses involved in child-minding arrangements, whether with professional child-minders, friends or relatives, are excluded.

Where a school place is allocated on the basis of an address which is subsequently found to be different from the child's home address that place can be withdrawn. This includes situations where the address used to allocate a places changes prior to the place being taken up.

There is also an expectation that the child and applicant will be resident at the address used to allocate a place from the start of term.

Short-term house moves purely to secure a school place may be considered fraudulent or intentionally misleading and in such circumstances the place may be withdrawn.

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 provided in the Local Authority's Common Application Form, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.
Parents may be requested to supply documentary evidence to satisfy the Board of Directors that the child lives at the address put forward by the parents.

If a place in the school is offered on the basis of an address that is subsequently found to be different from a child's normal and permanent home address, then that place is liable to be withdrawn.

SCHOOL ENTRY
Parents must, by law, ensure that their child is receiving suitable full time education from the beginning of the term following the child's fifth birthday, when they will have begun to be of compulsory school age.

Where a place is offered in the school, the pupil will be entitled to take up that place, on a full-time basis in the September following their fourth birthday.
A child's parents may defer the date at which their child, below compulsory school age, is admitted to the school, until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the first day of the summer term 2022.
A child may take up a part-time place until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which the child reached compulsory school age.
Upon receipt of the offer of a place a parent should notify the school, as soon as possible, that they wish to either defer their child's entry to the school or take up a part-time place.

The parent of a child whose fifth birthday falls during the summer term who wishes to defer their child's admission until the beginning of the following academic year (when the child will have begun to be of compulsory school age) will therefore need to make a separate in-year application for a place in Year 1 at the school. Any reception class place offered following an application made for the 2021/2022 admission round will be withdrawn if the child does not take up that place by the first day of the summer term 2022.

APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN TO BE ADMITTED INTO A CLASS OUTSIDE OF THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP
Parents have the right to request, but not insist, that their child be considered for admission to a class outside of their normal age group. This could be the case, for example, if a child is gifted and talented, has experienced problems such as ill health, or that the child is summer born, ie a child born between 1st April and 31st August. Parents who wish for their child to be considered for admission to a class outside of their normal age group must make an application for the normal age group in the first instance. Parents must then submit a formal request for the child to be considered for a different age group class by completing the request form available on Warwickshire's website at http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/startingprimaryschool. Parents should also read the guidance document available at the same link which explains the process and provides further information.

The Board of Directors will consider requests submitted for a child to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group and advise parents of the outcome of that request before national offer day, having taken into account the information provided by the parents, the child's best interests and the views of the Head Teacher.

If the request is refused, the original application for the normal age group class will progress through the Local Authority co-ordinated admissions scheme, be considered by the Board of Directors and the parents advised of the outcome.

If the request is agreed and the year group for which the parents have requested a place is a current year group in the school, then the application will be considered by the Board of Directors and the parents advised of the outcome.

If the request is agreed and the year group for which the parents have requested a place is for a future year group, ie Reception in September 2022, then the original application is withdrawn and the parents must submit a fresh application for Reception 2022 when applications open in the autumn term of 2021. Please note that parents only have the right to re-apply for a place. Where the Board of Directors agrees to consider an application for Reception the following year, that application is considered alongside all other applications received and parents will be advised of the outcome of that application on national offer day. No place is reserved or held for the child in advance.

If parents are considering submitting an application for their child to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group, it is strongly recommended that they also read the DFE guidance which can be found at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission

APPEALS
Parents who wish to appeal against the decision of the Board of Directors to refuse their child a place in the school should make that appeal request in writing to the Chair of the Board of Directors at the school address. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel.

Please note that parents do not have the right to appeal if their request for their children to be admitted to a class outside of their normal year group has been refused, but the Board of Directors have offered a place in the normal age group instead.

REPEAT APPLICATIONS
Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time outside of the normal admissions round. Parents do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the Board of Directors has accepted a second application from the parent because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school, but have still refused admission.

LATE APPLICATIONS
Late applications will be dealt with in accordance with the Local Authority's co-ordinated admissions scheme. This states that if an application is received after the deadline of 15th January 2021 then it will not be processed until after the national offer day of 16th April 2021 and will then be considered on the reallocation dates listed in the timetable published in the Local Authority's co-ordinated scheme.
You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

CHANGE IN PREFERENCE
Once parents have submitted their preference, changes to preferences will be accepted up to the closing date of 15th January 2021. All requests to change preferences should be made in writing to the Local Authority to whom the parents submitted the original application. Where changes in preferences are received after the closing date of 15th January 2021, then the whole application will be treated as a late application (please refer to the previous paragraph entitled Late Applications to see how this would affect your application).

SEPARATED PARENTS

Only persons or organisations who have Parental Responsibility for a child should make an application for a school place. Neither St Benedict's Catholic Academy nor Warwickshire School Admissions Service will become involved in disputes between parents, or parties, regarding applications for school places.
Where individuals or parties with parental responsibility cannot agree on either the home address or the school preferences to name on an application, the Admissions Service will then consider the application using the address which is held by the child's GP surgery (if the address cannot be agreed) and will consider the school preferences named by the parent who lives at that same address. Any other applications will be disregarded.

WAITING LIST

In addition to their right to appeal, children who have not been offered a place at St Benedict's Catholic Academy but were offered a school that was ranked as a lower preference on their application form will be added to a waiting list. The waiting list will be maintained until the last day of the summer term 2022 and will then be discarded. Parents who wish for their child's name to remain on a waiting list beyond the end of the summer term 2022 will need to submit a new "in-year" application to the school in September 2022.

A child's position on a waiting list is not fixed. When a new child joins the waiting list, all applicants on that waiting list will be re-ranked to ensure that the list is always maintained in oversubscription criteria order. This means that a child's position on the waiting list could go up or down during the time that it is on the list. Any late applications accepted will be added to the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

Inclusion on the waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available. It may be that those already offered places may accept them, thereby filling all available places.

Children who are the subject of a direction by the Local Authority to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol take precedence over those on a waiting list.

IN YEAR FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL

The Board of Directors of St Benedict's Catholic Academy 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 admission round the Board of Directors is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol. The Board of Directors has this power, even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number subject to the infant class size exceptions.

APPLICATIONS OTHER THAN THE NORMAL INTAKE TO RECEPTION CLASS (IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS)

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the normal admission round and the child will be admitted where there are places available. Applications should be made to the school by contacting Judith Finelli at admin3501@we-learn.com T:01827 712320 and all families approaching the school will be given an application form. Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out for the normal round of admissions, will be applied.

If there are no places available, the child will be added to the waiting list (see above).

Parents will be advised of the outcome of their application in writing and, where the Board of Director's decision is to refuse their child a place, have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel.
There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to this school.

APPENDIX

DEFINITION OF A "BAPTISED CATHOLIC"

A "Baptised Catholic" is one who:

- Has been baptised into full communion (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 837*) with the Catholic Church by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various ritual Churches in communion with the See of Rome. Written evidence of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place (Cf. *Code of Canon Law, 877 & 878*).

Or

- Has been validly baptised in a separated ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the *Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church.* Written evidence of their baptism and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases, a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the *Rite of Reception* took place (Cf. *Rite of Christian Initiation, 399*).

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF BAPTISM

The Governing bodies of Catholic schools and Boards of Directors of Catholic Academies will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Baptism or Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of "Baptised Catholics". A Certificate of Baptism or Reception is to include: the full name, date of birth, date of Baptism or Reception, and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of Baptism or Reception.

Those who would have difficulty obtaining written evidence of Catholic Baptism/Reception for a good reason, may still be considered as Baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to their parish priest who, after consulting the Vicar General, will decide how the question of Baptism/Reception is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

Those who would be considered to have good reason for not obtaining written evidence would include those who cannot contact the place of Baptism/Reception due to persecution or fear, the destruction of the church and the original records, or where Baptism/Reception was administered validly but not in the Parish church where records are kept.

Governors and Boards of Directors may request extra supporting evidence when the written documents that are produced do not clarify the fact that a person was baptised or received into the Catholic Church, (i.e. where the name and address of the Church is not on the certificate or where the name of the Church does not state whether it is a Catholic Church or not.)

For the purposes of this policy, a looked after child (see Note 3) living with a family where at least one of the parents/carers is Catholic will be considered as Catholic.

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Supplementary Information Form

The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in the school's published admissions policy. The school is conducted by its Board of Directors as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Articles of Association and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 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 application who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with the admission arrangements.

Child's Surname:	
Child's First Name(s):	
Address:	
Contact number:	

Please tick the appropriate boxes below:

Is the above named child a Baptised Catholic or have they been received into the Catholic Church?	Yes*		No	
Is the certificate of Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Catholic Church attached?	Yes		No*	

*A Certificate of Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Catholic Church is required in order for the Board of Directors to give the correct priority to an application.
Failure to provide evidence of Catholic Baptism or Reception in the Church may affect the oversubscription criterion that the child's name is placed in.

Please note that as well as completing this Supplementary Information Form, **parents must also complete the Local Authority's Common Application Form** in order for the application to be complete. This Supplementary Information Form is only for school use and is, in conjunction with the Local Authority's Common Application Form, to enable the Board of Directors to rank applicants using the published oversubscription criteria:
This Supplementary Information Form must be returned directly to St Benedict's Catholic Academy at Church Walk Atherstone Warwickshire CV9 1PS by 15th January 2021.

Please note that this is NOT the local authority's Common Application Form. As well as completing this Supplementary information Form and returning it directly to the school, you MUST also complete the local authority's Common Application Form otherwise your application will be deemed incomplete and therefore invalid.

In compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, we wish to ensure that you are aware of the purpose for which we collect and process the data we have asked for on this form.

1. We are St Benedict's Catholic Academy at Church Walk Atherstone Warwickshire CV9 1PS.

2. Being a Catholic education provider, we work closely with the School's Diocesan Authority, the School's Trustees, the Local Authority, the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service and the Department for Education and may share the information you provide on this application form if we consider it necessary in order to fulfil our functions.

3. The person responsible for data protection within our school is Warwickshire County Council and you can contact them with questions relating to our handling of the data. You can contact them by emailing schooldpo@warwickshire.gov.uk.

4. We require the information we have requested for reasons relating to our functions as the admission authority of the school.

5. It is necessary for us to process personal data for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller (Article 6(1)(e) of the GDPR).

6. To the extent that you have shared any special categories of data this will not be shared with any third parties except as detailed in paragraph 2 above, unless a legal obligation should arise.

7. It is necessary for us to process special category data for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller (Article 6(1)(e) of the GDPR). Additionally processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest on the basis of Union or Member State law which is proportionate to the aim pursued and which contains appropriate safeguards (Article 9(2)(g) of the GDPR).

8. If the application is successful, the information you have provided on this will be migrated to the school's enrolment system, and the data will be retained and processed on the basis of the school's fair processing notice and data protection policies which apply to that data.

9. If the application is unsuccessful, the application form and any documents submitted in support of the application will be destroyed after a period of 12 months. The school may keep a simple record of all applications and their outcome as part of their permanent archives in accordance with the school's data retention policy.

10. To read about your individual rights you can refer to the school's fair processing notice and data protection policies.

11. If you wish to complain about how we have collected and processed the information you have provided on this form, you can make a complaint to our organisation by contacting the Board of Directos of the Holy Spirit Multi Academy Company (holyspiritmac.co.uk). If you are unhappy with how your complaint has been handled, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office via their website at ico.org.uk

I confirm that I have read the Admissions Policy of the school and that the information I have provided is correct. I understand that I must notify the school immediately if there is any change to these details and that, should any information I have given prove to be inaccurate, the Board of Directors may withdraw any offer of a place even if the child has already started school.

Signed …… Date……

Print Name …….