

**The Holy Spirit Catholic Multi Academy Company**  
**OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL**  
**ADMISSIONS POLICY 2017-2018**

**Ethos statement**

The school was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The school is to be conducted as a Catholic School in accordance with the canon law and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and in particular:

- (a) religious education is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church;
- (b) religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church;

and at all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Mission Statement**

We the family of Our Lady of the Angels are all valuable members of Christ's community. As a Catholic infant school we provide the highest possible quality of education within the context of the Catholic faith. We treat each individual with the dignity and value of a child of God.

**Aims**

- To have high expectations of our children throughout a broad curriculum related to the needs of each child.
- To provide a happy and secure environment for teaching and learning.
- To value and respect all cultures.
- To encourage growth and independence.
- To show responsibility, compassion and thoughtfulness to others.
- To ensure equality for all.
- To provide opportunities for our children to develop personal and social skills.

**Children's motto**

Smile because you're special

## Policy Pre-Amble

The content and methods employed in the implementation of this school admissions policy are consistent with and supportive of the school's ethos, mission statement, aims and objectives as set out above

The admissions process is part of the Warwickshire LA co-ordinated scheme.

The admission authority for Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Infant School is the Board of Directors of The Holy Spirit Catholic Multi Academy Company. The Board of Directors has delegated responsibility for the processing of the admission arrangements for the school to the Academy Committee of Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Primary School.

The Admission Policy of the Academy Committee of Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Infant School is as follows:

The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. The school 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 Jesus Christ. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

The School's Admission Number for the school year 2017/2018 is 70

If the number of applications exceeds the admission number, the academy committee will give priority to applications in accordance with the criteria listed, provided that the academy committee are made aware of that application before decisions on admissions are made (see Note 1 below). A map of the parish boundary is available at the school and parish or by post on request.

1. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 10 below) who are in the care of a local authority (Looked After children) or are provided with accommodation by them, eg, children with foster parents (s22 Children Act 1989) and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order)
2. Baptised Catholic children whose home address is within the priority area of Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church Nuneaton and who have a brother or a sister (see Note 5 below) either at the school or at St Joseph's Catholic Junior School, Nuneaton at the time of admission;
3. Baptised Catholic children whose home address is within the priority area of Our Lady of the Angels Roman Catholic Church Nuneaton.
4. Baptised Catholic children whose home address is outside the priority area of Our Lady of the Angels Roman Catholic Church Nuneaton. but who have a brother or sister either at the school or at St Joseph's Catholic Junior School, Nuneaton at the time of admission.

5. Baptised Catholic children whose home address is outside the priority area of Our Lady of the Angels Roman Catholic Church Nuneaton.

6. Non – Catholic Children who are in the care of the local authority (Looked After children) or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents) (s22 Children's Act 1989) and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).

7. Non-Catholic children who have a brother or sister (see Note 5) either at the school or at St Joseph's Catholic Junior School, Nuneaton at the time of admission.

8. Other non-Catholic children.

### ***OVER-SUBSCRIPTION***

Where there is a need to split any category or group of pupils, places will be offered in accordance with distance between the child's home and school (shortest distance = highest priority). Distance will be calculated by the straight line measurement from centre point of the applicant's home address location to the centre point ("centroid") of the preferred school. (All measurements are subject to slight change due to updates of mapping data)

In a very small number of cases it may not be able to decide between the applicants of those pupils who are 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 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 legal limit to be exceeded, the individual priority for each applicant will be set by random allocation (lottery). The draw will be carried out by two officers of the Admissions Service, People Group in the presence of a Local Authority solicitor. The order of draw will be recorded and countersigned at the time. As an exception, the school academy committee will give careful consideration to offering places above the Admission Number to applications from children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted even when there are no other vacant places

### **Note 1**

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that names the school must be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to other applicants.

### **Note 2**

In all categories, for a child to be considered as a 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 Baptism/Reception should contact their Parish Priest.

Failure to provide evidence of Catholic Baptism/Reception may affect the criterion the child's name is placed in.

**Note 3**

The definition of a brother or sister is:

- A brother or sister sharing the same parents;
- Half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one common parent;
- Step-brother or step-sister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage;
- Step-brother or step-sister;
- Adopted or fostered children.

The children must be living permanently in the same household

**Note 4**

The home address of a pupil is considered to be the permanent residence of a child. The address must be the child's only or main residence for the majority of the school week. Documentary evidence may be required.

Where care is split equally between mother and father, parents must name which address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place.

**SCHOOL ENTRY**

Children must, by law, start school by the beginning of the term after their fifth birthday. A parent may defer a child's entry to the school, but not beyond the academic year for which the application is accepted. Parents may discuss this with the head teacher.

Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

**NURSERY**

Parents must apply on the LA form for a place in Reception Class. Attendance at the nursery does not automatically guarantee that a place will be offered in main school.

**APPEALS**

Parents who wish to appeal against the decision of the School Academy Committee to refuse their child a place in the school may apply in writing to committee via the school. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel.

**REPEAT APPLICATIONS**

Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time outside the 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 admission authority has accepted a second application from the appellant because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission.

**LATE APPLICATIONS**

Late applications will be dealt with according to the LA co-ordinated scheme.

## **WAITING LISTS**

Waiting lists for admission will remain open until the end of December 2017 and will then be discarded. Parents may apply for their child's name to be reinstated until the end of the academic year when the list will be discarded. The waiting list will be kept by the school academy committee in admission criteria order. This means that a child's position on the waiting list could go up or down. Inclusion of a child's name on the waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

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

## **APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN TO BE CONSIDERED INTO A CLASS OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP**

If parents wish for their child to be considered for admission to a class outside of their normal age group, they should make an application for the normal age group in the first instance. Parents should then submit a formal request to the School Academy. This request should be in the form of a written letter of application outlining the reasons why you wish for your child to be considered to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group, and enclosing any supportive evidence and documentation that you wish to be taken into account as part of that request. The School Academy Committee will consider applications submitted and advise the parents of the outcome of their application before the 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 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>

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 (i.e. Latin Rite, Byzantine Rite, Coptic, Syriac, etc, Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1203). 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 *Right 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 School Academy Committees of Catholic schools 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.

School Academy Committees 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.)