

# Bathwick St. Mary Church School



## Admissions Policy: 2021/2022

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Prepared by:	Local Governing Body		
Reviewed by:	Admissions Committee	Date:	10 <sup>th</sup> October 19

Our School Policies should be understood as part of the overall strategy of the School, and put into practice within the context of our Vision, Mission and Christian Values (**Love, Joyfulness, Respect, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Fairness**) as a Church School, with a particular focus on the promotion of equality.

### Admission Arrangements for starting school in September 2021 or joining any year group during the 2021/22 academic year

#### 1.0 Introduction

These Admission Arrangements for Bathwick St Mary Church School (an academy school) comply with the requirements of the 2014 School Admissions Code and the School Admission Appeals Code issued by the Department for Education under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and are reviewed and published annually by the Bath and Wells Academy Trust (the Admissions Authority for the school), taking into account the recommendations of the Local Governing Body of the school. Should the Trust propose to alter any aspect of policy or practice a public consultation will, (other than purely in relation to technical statutory compliance), be conducted in accordance with the statutory requirements set out in the School Admissions Code.

Admissions enquiries and decisions in connection with admission applications are managed directly by the school itself, and accordingly references to the governing body, governors and Admissions Committee shall be construed as references to bodies of the school.

**We seek to be an inclusive school that is open to all children in our community, regardless of any characteristic or belief. As a church school we hold fast to the Christian values of openness and inclusivity which are at the core of what we do and who we seek to be.** The Church of England vision for education is for all children to, 'Have life, life in all its fullness'. [John 10:10]. Bathwick St Mary's School ethos is built upon our Christian foundation. We provide a caring, supportive and secure environment, based upon these values, through which children can grow as individuals, lifelong learners and positive global citizens. We aim to nurture every child to 'be the best they can be' and by each member of our community striving to do their best, we all 'Achieve excellence through the pursuit of [doing] good'.

Governors liaise with Bath and North East Somerset Local Authority (B&NES), who co-ordinate admission applications for Reception Class for all maintained schools in the B&NES area. Therefore, this document should be read in conjunction with B&NES Primary Admission Booklet published by or on 12 September which is available from the B&NES website. (See contact details at end of this document). The School is responsible for In-Year Applications. Admission arrangements are subject to the current DfE Admissions Code and the Appeals Code which are available on the B&NES website.

As a school we promote equality of opportunity and are committed to ensuring that there will be no discrimination on the grounds of any protected characteristic (as defined in the Equality Act 2010 and described in the appendix to the School Admissions Code). In accordance with present policies for Equality; and to take into account the promotion of community cohesion we will do everything possible to ensure that the admissions process is fair and equitable to pupils.

## **2.0 The Published Admission Number and Admission Limits**

The Published Admission Number for the Reception year group and the admission limit for Years 1 and 2 is **30**. The admission limit for every other year group is **34**. The governors will normally admit up to these limits and refuse all other applications.

## **3.0 Admission to the Reception and other year group for the first time in September 2021**

All application forms for first admission in September 2021 must be submitted to your home Local Authority by 23.59 hours on 15 January 2021. Any Supplementary Information Forms must be submitted to our school by the same date. All applications will be subject to the national Equal Preference with Ranking system of allocation. In accordance with the coordinated admissions scheme, B&NES will forward applications to the school and the Governing Body will allocate every child a place if the school is undersubscribed, or rank every application against the governors' published oversubscription criteria if there are more applications received than places available. Places will be allocated in strict order up to the Published Admission Number and all other applications refused. The governors' decision will be notified to B&NES and as per the coordinated admissions scheme, your home Local Authority will inform you of the outcome of your application on 16 April 2021.

## **4.0 Admission during the 2021/22 academic year (In-Year admission)**

Applicants must complete an In-year application form which is available from the school office or by downloading from the school or B&NES website. Completed application forms must be returned directly to the school office. (See contact details at the end of these arrangements).

The governors Admissions Committee will consider every application against the admission limit for the year group concerned and if necessary apply the oversubscription criteria in order to determine whether a place can be made available. Decisions will be notified by the school office to applicants within ten days and B&NES also will be notified.

If the response to an offer is not received by the school within ten days the offer may be withdrawn. Additional information required to support a school place under category 3 must be provided only on the specific Supplementary Information Form (SIF A) and additional information required to support a school place application under category 5 must be provided only on the specific Supplementary Information Form (SIF B) which is available from the school office or to download from the school website. If a SIF is completed it must be sent direct to the school.

If there are more applications than places available, the governors will rank them against the published Oversubscription Criteria set out below

## **5.0 Over Subscription Criteria**

Following the admission of any children with a Special Educational Needs Statement or Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) naming this school, the governors will consider all other applications. If the number of applications for admission exceeds the Published Admission Number (PAN), or admission limit for the year group concerned, the Governors will apply the following Oversubscription Criteria to every application received and rank children in priority order, admitting up to the PAN or admission limit and refusing all other applications.

1. Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children (see definition).
2. Children with a sibling attending this school at the time of admission.
3. Children who, at the time of application live within the Bathwick Parishes and are eligible to receive a Pupil Premium. (Supplementary Information Form must be completed)
4. Children of School Staff (see definition). (Supplementary Information Form must be completed).
5. Children who themselves, or whose parent(s) / carers regularly attend\* a service of Christian worship at the Bathwick Parish Churches and live within the Bathwick Parishes (Supplementary Information Form must be completed).
6. Children who, at the time of application, live within the Bathwick Parishes.
7. Children not satisfying any of the above criteria.

(\* defined as at least 15 times per year for a minimum of two years before the application)

## **6.0 Tie Breaker**

A tie breaker will be applied where the Admission Number is reached part way through any oversubscription criterion and there is a need to decide which children meeting this criterion are to be allocated places and which are to be refused. For this purpose, a straight line measurement will be calculated between home and school for each child falling within the particular criterion. Places will be allocated to those children living nearest to the school by straight line, according to a Geographic Information System (GIS) measurement. Where two distances are exactly identical, the place will be decided by the drawing of lots. This will be undertaken by a person entirely independent of the Admission Authority and the draw will be held on the school site, with at least one independent witness present.

## **7.0 Right of Appeal**

Parents whose school place application is turned down by the Governing Body have the legal right to appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Details concerning how to appeal will be explained in the decision letter sent from the school.

## **8.0 Waiting Lists**

Where a child is formally refused admission to start in the Normal admission round in September 2021, if requested in writing, his/her name will be held on a waiting list in ranked order according to the oversubscription criteria. If a place becomes available within the Published Admission Number this will be offered to the highest ranked child at that time.

In Year admissions will be offered a place if available, otherwise the name can be held on a waiting list in ranked order according to the oversubscription criteria if the parents so wish.

At the end of each academic year parents need to contact the school in writing if they wish their child to remain on the list.

### **9.0 Applications for Retained or Accelerated application**

The governors will consider applications for delayed or accelerated entry in cases where parents would like their child to be admitted to a year group either side of the chronological age year group. The reasons for the request must be fully explained and included with the school place application form.

### **10.0 Multiple birth applications (for example twins)**

In the case of multiple birth applications, the Published Admission Number and admission limit for years R, 1 and 2 will be increased at the point of allocation to ensure multiple birth siblings can be allocated places at the same school (sibling definition applies). In the event of a junior year group (3,4,5,6) being oversubscribed, if the applicant for the final qualifying place(s) available within the admission limit is the parent of twins, triplets or other multiple births, the parent will be asked to identify which of their children will be taking up the available place(s).

### **11.0 Children from Overseas**

Applications will be considered in line with the guidance given in the Admissions Code. Governors may require evidence of residency – see glossary and definitions. The only exceptions are children of UK Service personnel and other Crown servants (including Diplomats) returning to the area.

### **12.0 Fair Access Protocol**

All Admission Authorities must participate in the Local Authority Fair Access Protocol to ensure unplaced children are allocated a place quickly. Refer to the Admissions Code for further details.

### **13.0 Fraudulent or Misleading Applications**

Where a school place has been offered and it subsequently becomes clear that the information provided on the Admission Application Form used to inform the admission decision was fraudulent or misleading (whether or not in relation to the home address) the School will consider withdrawing the offer (or where the child has already started to attend the School will consider removing the child from the School Roll) and the admission application will be considered afresh taking into account the new information and circumstances, and after first offering to discuss the matter with a Parent (as defined in paragraph 14.0)

## **14.0 Glossary and Definitions**

### **Looked After Children and Immediately Adopted Children**

In line with the School Admissions Code these children are given the highest priority within the oversubscription criteria. The Code defines a Looked After Child as a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions at the time of making an application to the school. Previously Looked After Children are defined as children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order).

### **Siblings**

For the purposes of Admissions, a sibling is defined as a child living at the same address as a half or full brother or sister, step brother or sister, foster brother or sister or the child of the parent/carer's partner.

Children in attendance will also include those that have accepted an offered place but may not yet have been admitted to the relevant year group.

### **Children of School Staff**

A member of staff may apply for a Reception place at the school for their child. They must have been employed at the school for at least two consecutive years at the time of application. Members of staff are full time and part time, teaching and non-teaching staff employed at the school and who are paid through the school's payroll system. Staff parents who apply to the Local Authority for a Reception place must also complete Supplementary Information Form that accompanies this Policy and send it to the school by 15 January 2021.

### **Parent**

A 'parent' in education law includes; natural parents, whether they are married or not; a person other than the natural parent(s) who has legal parental responsibility or care of a child or young person. (Having legal parent care of a child or young person means that person with whom the child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what that relationship is with the child.)

### **Home Address**

"Home Address" is where the child is living at the time of application for a place at the school, with the parent (as defined above), and where that child spends the majority of the school week (that is to say excluding weekends). We may ask to see documentary evidence of ownership, rental agreement, or other arrangements if there are any reasons why a child does not live at his or her parent's address, or in respect of a prospective change of address. Child care arrangements are not sufficient for giving another address.

### **Distance Measurements**

For the purpose of measuring home to school distance, all calculations will be measured using the Local Authority's straight line measurement from the address point of the home to the address point of the school using a Geographical Information System (GIS) method.

### **Supplementary Information Forms**

For [category 3](#), the Supplementary Information Form which is separate but forms part of this Policy must be read and completed by the applicant with accompanying evidence as detailed on the form.

For category 4, the Supplementary Information Form which is separate but forms part of this Policy must be read and completed by the applicant and the Headteacher.

For category 5, the Supplementary Information Form which is separate but forms part of this Policy must be read and completed by the applicant and the Parish Priest.

In all cases, it is the parent or carer's responsibility to ensure the school receives the form by the deadline.

### **Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs and Disability or EHCP**

There is a different procedure for the admission to school for children with Statements of Special Educational Need and Disability or an EHCP. This is administered by the Local Authority (LA) in whose area the family lives. The LA is responsible for issuing the Statement or EHCP and consulting parents and the Governing Body of Bathwick St Mary Primary School, before the school is named in the Statement or EHCP. If the school is named in the Statement or EHCP the child will be admitted. Wherever possible the place will be offered within the Admission Number for the School.

### **Parishes map**

For categories 3, 5 and 6, a map of the Bathwick parishes can be obtained from the school office and the school website.

### **Contact Details**

Mrs. L Harper, School Secretary, Bathwick St. Mary Church School, Darlington Road, Bath, BA2 6NN

Tel. 01225 465654 / [office@bsm.bwmat.org](mailto:office@bsm.bwmat.org)

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