

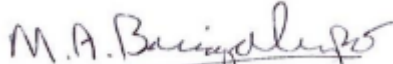


St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Y Santes Fair
Milford Road, Newtown, Powys,
SY16 2EH



Headteacher: S Ruggeri

Admissions Policy

Reviewed and approved by the Governing Body:	9 th December 2024
Next Review Date:	Autumn Term 2025
Signed by Governor representative	

Our Vision:

“Love one another as I have loved you, then everyone will know that you are my disciples”. *John 13:34*

Our Mission Statement anchors our purposeful learning, so that valued in our uniqueness we nurture our skills and talents to our fullest potential. Our stimulating experiences promote our joy of learning as we thrive, growing in our self-belief, happiness and independence. We inspire and motivate each other to strive for

excellence in our increasingly digital world, as we become advocates for our ever-changing future. We develop our inclusivity and compassion for our global neighbours as we encourage each other in our responsibility to care for God's world. Together, we build a stronger community through mutual respect of our differences and similarities, celebrating our home in Cymru and our place in the wider world as we

Listen, Laugh and Live in the Light of the Lord.



Our Mission Statement

*"Love one another as I have loved you....
By this all men will know that you are my disciples"*
John 13. 34

Status

Statutory

Rationale

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a voluntary aided school in the Diocese of Wrexham and is maintained by Powys County Council. This admissions policy has been formally adopted by the governing body of St Mary's Catholic Primary School. As a voluntary aided school, the governing body is the admissions authority and is responsible for the school's admissions arrangements. It is guided by the law and by its duty and responsibilities to the Bishop and the Trustees, to preserve the Catholic character of the school and to maintain provision according to the Church's work in education.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is in the Diocese of Wrexham and serves the parishes of God the Holy Spirit, Newtown, St Winefride's Welshpool and Our Lady and St Richard Gwyn, Llanidloes. As a Church school, we ask all parents applying for a place here to recognise and respect the distinctive ethos and education the school provides 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 a place here.

The school accepts pupils between the ages of three and eleven years of age. **The published admission number (PAN) for the school for 2024/25 is 18.** The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires LA's and Governing Bodies to admit pupils up to the school's pupil admission number.

The school provides distinctive Christ centred, Catholic education for children aged 4 to 11 years, with priority given to children who live and worship within the parishes of God the Holy Spirit, Newtown, St Winifred's Welshpool and Our Lady and St Richard Gwyn, Llanidloes. The school follows the Wrexham Diocesan Policy on admissions.

Relationship with other policies

The effectiveness of this policy is relevant to all of the school's policies and should be read in conjunction with them.

Admission Arrangements

Children may be admitted into our Reception group at the beginning of the academic year in which they achieve their 5th Birthday.

Our main priority is to provide an education for Catholic children, but we do welcome requests for admission to the school from parents of children who are members of other faiths or no faith. In expressing a preference for St Mary's, parents/carers are declaring their support for the aims and ethos of the school.

Admissions Criteria

The order of criteria for admissions, with priority for Looked After Children (LAC) in each category is:

1. All baptised Catholic children within the catchment area of the school.
2. Children who previously attended Catholic primary schools.
3. Children with siblings at the school. A 'sibling' is defined as a full (multiple birth), half or step brother/sister, adopted or fostered.
4. Children whose parents are practising Christians and who seek for their children denominational education which is not available locally.

Looked after and previously looked after children

Looked after and previously looked after children are a priority. If the school is oversubscribed, these children will be admitted before others, except those with a statement of special education needs that names the school.

Children from the Gypsy traveller community or travelling groups will be treated in accordance with Welsh Assembly Government Circular No: 003/2008 'Moving Forward - Gypsy Traveller Education'.

The school will not discriminate between boys and girls, or against applicants on the basis of ability, race, nationality or national or ethnic origin.

Oversubscription Criteria

In the event of oversubscription, i.e. only when there are more applications for admission than places available, then the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below, to decide which pupils to admit:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children who are baptised Catholic.
2. Baptised Catholic children whose home address is within the parish boundaries named for the school. A map showing the parish boundaries of God The Holy Spirit is available at the school.
3. Other looked after and previously looked after children.
4. Catholic children whose home address is outside of the parish served by the school for whom this is their nearest Catholic school.
5. Children who will have an older sibling attending the school in September; so not in Year 6. (see definition of sibling in the later section of the policy)
6. Children, who are baptised or dedicated members of other Christian Churches.
7. Children of other faith traditions whose parents express a desire for a Church School education.
8. Pupils who have no particular faith background but whose parents desire a faith-based education for them in a Catholic school.

Please note, *any child for whom the school is named in a statement of special education needs will be admitted before the application of oversubscription criteria.*

Governors will seek confirmation of these *details* from the local priest on a supplementary form which can be found attached to this policy.

Within each category those living nearest to the school are accorded higher priority. The distances are calculated by use of the Local Authority Geographical Mapping System which accurately measures the distance from the home address to the school with the safest travelling route. If distances are equal, as calculated by the GIS system, for example a flat in a block of dwellings with the same front door entrance, a differentiation by floor level will be used.

Waiting List

Following the allocation of places during the normal admissions round, applicants will remain on the waiting list until 31st August in the school year in which the application is received.

Applications

Parents/carers complete a Parental Preference for Primary School Admission (Appendix E Primary and Secondary Schools Information and Admission Arrangements), obtainable from Powys County Council, which provides the opportunity for parents/guardians to express up to two choices of schools in order of preference. The form is returned to the Local Authority which then notifies the school. Parents who visit the school will be given a school application pack. On receipt of a completed school application form, the parents will be subsequently informed as to whether their child will be admitted. Catholic applicants will be required to provide a copy of the child's baptismal certificate.

Late Applications

The school will consider late applications in cases where a viable reason is given. These include special circumstances such as where a family has just moved into the area, or is returning from abroad, provided applications are received before offers of places are made.

Appeal

Parents/carers may appeal an admission decision to an independent appeals panel, made up of individuals unconnected with the admission process.

Definitions used under the policy.

'Parents' include all those people who have a parental responsibility for a child as set out in the Children's Act 1989. Where responsibility for a child is 'shared', the person deemed to be the person responsible for completing the application is the person receiving Child Benefit and whose address will be used for admission purposes.

Parental Responsibility (from current guidance):

Unless otherwise determined by a court order:

- Mothers automatically have parental responsibility
- Fathers also have parental responsibility for a child if the father is married to the mother at the time of the child's birth. This continues after any divorce/separation/remarriage even if the child lives apart from them
- Unmarried fathers have parental responsibility where the mother and father register the birth of the child together (this is an amendment to the Children Act 1989, which came into force on 1st December 2003 and is not retrospective)
- Unmarried fathers, step-parents, relatives and other persons can obtain parental responsibility but they do not have it automatically. In such cases parental responsibility can be granted through a residency order; being appointed a guardian; being named in an emergency protection order (limited to taking reasonable steps to safeguard or promote the child or young person's welfare); or by adoption.

In case of dispute between parents, where more than one parent has parental responsibility and they do not agree to an application being made to a particular school, a temporary school place will be offered until any dispute is resolved by both parents as a personal matter.

Definition of Sibling

For applications made in the normal admission round a relevant sibling is a child who has a brother, sister, stepbrother or stepsister, half-brother or half-sister or is a foster child or adopted child living in the same family unit in the same family household and address who attends the preferred school in any year group excluding the final year. Biological siblings who attend the preferred school in any year group excluding the final year will also be treated as siblings irrespective of place of residence.

Children residing in the same household as part of an extended family, such as cousins, will not be treated as siblings.

'Residing In' and 'Home Address'

The home address will be the address used for correspondence and is determined by where "Child Benefit" is paid. In cases where there is doubt of the home address or where a child lives between two homes (split families) or other relevant circumstances, proof of the home address must be provided to the school to confirm the address used on the application form. Home address will be the address that complies with the above at the closing date for applications set by the local authority. Families who are due to move house should provide

- i) a Solicitor's letter confirming that exchange of Contracts has taken place on the purchase of a property; or
- ii) a copy of the current Rental Agreement, signed by both the Tenants and the Landlords, showing the address of the property; or
- iii) in the case of serving H.M. Forces personnel, an official letter confirming their date of posting from the MOD, FCO or GCHQ.

Twins, Triplets, Multiple Births

When the Governing Body are considering twins, triplets or other multiple births for one remaining place, the family will be offered the place and may decide (a) if they will accept it for one sibling whomever they decide or (b) they decline the place and it is offered to the next person in the allocation after the twins/triplets/multiple births. Please note the multiple birth sibling(s) would not be given priority on admission other than considered as a sibling link once the family had accepted the place(s) offered for one of the twins/triplets/multiple births.

Definition of 'Baptised Catholic'

These are children who have been formally received into the Catholic Church. Applicants seeking admission under criteria 1,2 or 4 will be asked to provide evidence that the child has been baptised. A baptismal certificate or a letter from their priest confirming their baptism or reception will suffice.

Admission appeals

Nursery education is not statutory provision and parents have no right of appeal under the Education Act 1980 if they are unsuccessful in gaining a place.

If we do not offer a child a place at this school, it is because the increase in numbers would adversely affect the education of our current pupils. Parents who are dissatisfied with the decision of the Governing Body not to admit a child may appeal. If you exercise that right, the appeal must be forwarded to the Clerk of the Governors of the school.

The appeal will be considered by an independent admission Appeal Panel, nominated by the Diocese according to the Welsh Assembly Government's code of practice on school Admission Appeals. The Appeals Panel then meets to consider all appeals by parents who have been refused a place at our school. This decision is binding for all parties concerned.

Review

The policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the Governing Body in response to directives from the Diocesan Schools Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

For application to St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

This form should be completed by parents not **more than 3 months before the closing date of applications** then handed to your priest, with a **stamped addressed envelope** to the school. The priest should return it **directly** to the school. It need only be completed by those applicants applying under church criteria.

Name and address of child:	
Date of Birth:	

Certificate of Baptism Date of Baptism.	
Name of parish to which you belong now. Name of Priest.	
Parent's signature:	Date
Which family members attend parish worship:	Mother, Father, Child/ren
Does your child attend worship with a parent or someone else, please specify	Yes No
How long have you regularly attended?	Less than 6 months, 6 months to a year 1 year to 18 months, More than 2 years More than 3 years
How often have you attended during this period?	Once a week Once a fortnight Monthly/family service

Priest Statement. Please can you confirm the details completed above with any comments you think may be helpful for the school to understand the Christian commitment of this family, then pass the form directly to the school in the envelope the parents have provided. Thank you.

Priests Signature	Date.