

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS POLICY 2017/2018

St. Aloysius' Catholic Junior School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. 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 is fully supported by all families in the school. St Aloysius welcomes applications for children of all faiths and of none and all applicants are expected to give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school.

The Governing Body has sole responsibility for admissions to this school and intends to admit 60 children in the school year which begins in September 2017. Applications for the junior school are welcome from families whose child/ren reaches his/her 7th birthday between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017.

Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic applicants in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Westminster. Applications will be ranked using the criteria listed below.

In this policy applicant refers to the person making an application on behalf of a child; candidate refers to the child on whose behalf the application is being made.

Parents will be notified by Camden Admissions for places in year 3 School year 2017/2018, by 17th April 2017.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

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

1. Catholic 'looked after' children and previously 'looked after' children, who have been adopted or made subject to child arrangements order or special guardianship order.
2. Baptised Catholic children living in the parish of St Aloysius' with siblings in St Aloysius Catholic Junior School at the time of admission; (September 2017).
3. Baptised Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice who are resident in the parish of St. Aloysius.'
4. Catholic children who live in other parishes and attend St. Aloysius' Catholic Infant School.
5. Catholic Children of Catholic staff who have worked at the school for a minimum of two years at the time of application.
6. Catholic children who live in other parishes and attend other primary schools.
7. Other looked after children and previously 'looked after' children who have been adopted (or made subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship orders).
8. Children of non Catholic Staff who have worked at the school for a minimum of two years at the time of application.
9. Children of catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church
10. Christians of other denominations whose application is supported either by a certificate of baptism or by a letter from their Minister of Religion confirming membership of the faith community.

11. Children of other faiths whose application is supported by a letter from their religious leader, confirming membership of the faith community.
12. Any other children

EXCEPTIONAL NEED

The Governing Body will give top priority, after the appropriate category of looked-after children, to an application where compelling evidence is provided at the time of application, from an appropriate professional such as a doctor, priest or social worker, of an exceptional social, medical, pastoral or other need of the child, which can only be met at this school.

MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

Where the final place is offered to a child who has other siblings applying for a place in the same school year, these siblings will also be admitted.

TIE BREAK

Where the offer of places to all the applicants in any of the sub-categories listed above would still lead to oversubscription, the places up to the admission number will be offered to those living nearest to the school as measured in a straight line from the applicant's home to the school. The measurement will be conducted by the Local Authority (LA). Distance will be measured by the Borough of Camden from the front door of the child's residential address (including flats) to the centre of the school. If distances are identical, the Governing Body will draw lots in the presence of an independent witness.

FAIR ACCESS

The school 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 admissions round, the Governing Body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol that has been agreed by both the local authority and the Governing Body for the current school year. The Governing Body has this power even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

CHILDREN EDUCATED OUTSIDE THEIR CHRONOLOGICAL AGE GROUP

Parents may apply for their child to be educated outside his/her chronological age group i.e. a year behind or a year ahead. Application should be made to the Chair of Governors at the time of application and any supporting evidence should be submitted at the same time. Governors will consider each case on its own merits and permission will only be given in exceptional circumstances.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

Applicants applying under criteria [2 and 3] must submit a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) by the closing date. The Certificate is available from the school or from the diocesan website. Parents should fill in the top part of the form with their details and then take it to their parish priest (or the priest at the parish where they normally worship) for signature. It is the parent's duty to ensure that the CCP is submitted to the school in good time. The priest will only give you the Certificate if he knows you. You will need to get a separate Certificate signed for each Catholic school that requires one.

The local authority will inform you of the outcome of your application on behalf of the Governing Body, on or about Monday 17th April 2017. This information will also be available on line for those who have submitted an e-application. Parents/carers should accept or decline the place as soon as possible.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Applications received after the closing date will be dealt with after the initial allocation process has been completed. If the school is oversubscribed it is very unlikely that late applicants will obtain a place.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

If you are unsuccessful you may ask us for the reasons for the refusal of a place. These reasons will be related to the oversubscription criteria listed in the policy and you will have the right of

appeal to an independent panel. Should you wish to appeal please contact the school as soon as possible for an appeal form on which you must list your reasons for making an appeal. Appeals must be submitted to the school in writing by Friday 27th May 2017.

WAITING LIST

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful candidates will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out in the policy and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Names will be removed from the list on 31st August 2018, unless applicants request in writing to remain on the list.

PUPILS WITH AN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (EHC)

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. (This used to be called a Statement of Special Educational Needs). Details of this separate procedure are set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. If your child has an EHC plan you must contact your local authority SEN officer. Children with this school named in their EHC Plan will be admitted.

CHANGE OF DETAILS

If any of the details on either of your forms changes between the date of application and the receipt of the letter of offer or refusal, you must inform the School and the local authority immediately. If misleading information is given or allowed to remain on either of your forms, the Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the place, even if the child has already started at the School.

IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

Applications for In-Year admissions are made directly to the school. If a place is available and there is no waiting list the child will be admitted. If there is a waiting list, then applications will be ranked by the Governing Body in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. If a place cannot be offered at this time then you may ask us for the reasons and you will be informed of your right of appeal. You will be offered the opportunity of being placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained by the Governing Body in the order of the oversubscription criteria and not in the order in which the applications are received. Names are removed from the list at the end of each academic year. When a place becomes available the Governing Body will re-rank the list and make an offer to the person at the top of the list. The local authority will be informed of the offer as soon as it has been accepted.

NOTES (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

'Looked after child' has the same meaning as in S.22 of the Children Act 1989, and means any child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents at the time of making an application to the school).

'Adopted'. An adopted child is any child who has been formally adopted, having previously been in care and whose parent/ guardian can give proof of this.

'Child Arrangements Order'. A Child Arrangements order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8 settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live. Children 'looked after' immediately before the order is made qualify in this category.

'Special Guardianship Order'. A special guardianship order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.14A appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s). A child 'looked after' immediately before the order is made qualifies in this category.

'Parent' means the adult or adults with legal responsibility for the child.

'Sibling' means brother or sister, to include adopted brothers and sisters, half, step or foster brothers and sisters. A sibling relationship does not apply when the older child will leave before the younger one starts.

‘Catholic’ means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will be evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism in a Catholic church or a Certificate of Reception into the full communion with the Catholic Church.

Certificate of Catholic Practice means a certificate given by the family’s parish priest (or the priest in charge of the church where the family practises) in the form laid down by the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

‘Catechumen’ means a child or parent who is a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will be evidenced by a Certificate of Reception into the Order of Catechumens for a child aged 7 or over. For a child under 7 years of age it will be the certificate of the parent.

‘Eastern Christian Church’ includes Orthodox Churches, and is evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism or Reception from the authorities of that Church.

‘Christian’ for the purposes of this policy, means a member of one of the Churches affiliated to ‘Churches Together in Britain and Ireland’.

‘Resident’ – A child is deemed to be resident at a particular address when he/she resides there for more than 50% of the school week.

Parish Boundaries – for the purposes of this Policy, parish boundaries are as shown on the attached map. (If parishes or other geographical areas are mentioned in the oversubscription criteria a map must be provided.)

‘Distance from school’ means distance as measured by a straight line, from the front door of the child’s residential address (including flats) to a point at the school. [Governors of schools whose distance measurements are carried out by the local authority are strongly advised to include the same wording used by the local authority in their current booklet]. If distances are identical, the Governing Body will draw lots in the presence of an independent witness.

PLEASE NOTE

Acceptance at St. Aloysius’ Catholic Infant School does not guarantee a place at St. Aloysius’ Catholic Junior School. Priority for admission to the Infant School is similar to the Junior School. Therefore, if families move out of the parish or are no longer practising Catholics, a child may not be accepted at the Junior School.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR 2017-2018

In order to make an application, you must complete an application form from your local authority either online at www.eadmissions.org.uk or on paper and return it to them. You should also complete the **School’s Supplementary Information Form (SIF)**. Whilst this is not compulsory, the information on the SIF enables the Governing Body to assess your application fully against the School criteria in the event of oversubscription. Please return the SIF (in person or by post) to the school, together with all other relevant paperwork required for your application. If you do not complete both of the forms described above and returned them by 15th January 2017, the Governing Body will be unable to consider your application against the oversubscription criteria and your child will be ranked under the lowest criterion. It is very unlikely that your child will be offered a place if an SIF is not supplied.

February 2016