

**ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN LEICESTERSHIRE**

School	Published Admission Number	Parish(es) served	Located within Local Authority
Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School Barkby Thorpe Lane THURMASTON Leics LE4 8GP admin@bishopeillis.leics.sch.uk	50	St Theresa's, Birstall with Sacred Heart, Rothley Divine Infant of Prague, Syston St Gregory's , Sileby	Leicestershire

This policy will apply for admission into Reception Class for the academic year 2021-22.

The Catholic school listed above is under the Trusteeship of the Diocese of Nottingham and belongs to the Nottingham Diocesan family of schools. It is founded by and is part of the Catholic Church and seek at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. Religious education and worship are in accordance with the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church. This does not affect the right of parents or carers who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and to be considered for places. We ask all parents or carers applying for a place to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community.

The school is principally provided to serve the Catholic communities of Leicestershire. The Governors also welcome applications from all parents and carers, regardless of faith or background, who would like their children to be educated in a Christian environment.

The Governing Body is the admission authority and is responsible for determining the admissions policy and for all decisions relating to admissions. The admissions process is coordinated by Leicestershire Local Authority on behalf of the school governors.

Parents should consult the Local Authority website www.leics.gov.uk which gives full details of the admissions process.

Application Procedure and Timetable

Applications must be made on the Common Application Form provided by your home Local Authority. Applications must be made to your home Local Authority by the national closing date of 15th January.

In addition **all applicants wishing to apply for a place under a faith criterion** (oversubscription criteria 1-7) should complete the Supplementary Information Form. This form can be downloaded from the Local Authority website within which the school is located and is also available from the school. The completed form, together with any required evidence, (see notes 3-8), should be returned to the school by the national closing date of 15th January.

If you do not provide the additional required evidence and return it by the closing date your child will be ranked in a lower admissions category and this may affect your child's chances of being offered a place.

Admission of Children below Compulsory School Age, Deferred Entry and Summer Born Children

If your child is offered a full time place before s/he reaches compulsory school age, you have the option of deferring the child's entry up until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age (a child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his/her fifth birthday or on his/her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day. The prescribed days are 31st December, 31st March and 31st August). A place will be held and will not be offered to another child provided the place is taken up within the same academic year.

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

Parents of summer born children, i.e. a child born between 1st April and 31st August, may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted outside of their normal age group to Reception Year rather than Year 1. However, parents need to be aware that **if** the request is approved (see below on decisions on applications for 'admission outside of normal age group') they will need to apply again in the next admissions round for a place in that Reception Year and should be aware that a place is not guaranteed as the application will be considered alongside all other applications in that year and the Oversubscription Criteria will still apply.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of the normal age group for example if the child is exceptionally gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. The school anticipates that children will be educated out of their normal age group in only a small number of very exceptional circumstances.

Should you wish to seek a place for your child outside of their normal age group you should still make an application for a school place for your child's normal age group **and** you should also submit a request for admission out of the normal age group at the same time, following the procedure set out by your home local authority.

A decision will then be made on which age group the child should be admitted taking into account the circumstances of each case and the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the head teacher, including the head teacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the governing body will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals.

Once that decision has been made the oversubscription criteria will be applied to determine if a place can be offered at the school.

Your statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which you have applied is unaffected. However the right to appeal does not apply if you are offered a place at the school but it is not in your preferred age group.

The school is not required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission out of the normal age group.

Late Applications

Late applications will be administered in accordance with your home Local Authority Primary Coordinated Admissions Scheme. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

Applications during the school year (In-Year Applications)

Details of the application process are available from the school and from the Local Authority. Once an application has been made, it will be passed to the Admissions Committee of the Governing Body for consideration. If the respective year group total is below the published admission number for that year group, the child will be offered a place. If the published admission number has been reached, the child will be only offered a place if the Admissions Committee decides that the education of pupils in that year group will not be detrimentally affected by the admission of an extra pupil.

Offers of places may be withdrawn if they are offered in error, a parent has not responded within 10 school days of issuing of the offer letter issue or it is established that an offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.

In cases involving school transfers that do not require a house move or where there is no need for an immediate move, arrangements may be made for the child to start school at the beginning of term to minimise disruption to their own and other children's education.

If your application is refused you have a statutory right to appeal (see 'Appeals' below). Your appeal should be lodged within twenty school days after the date of the decision letter.

Waiting Lists

Parents whose children have not been offered their preferred school in the normal admissions round will be added to their preferred school's Waiting List. The Waiting List will normally remain open until the end of the Autumn Term in the application year. However, schools may maintain the Waiting List until the end of the academic year. Please contact the school to request further details.

Waiting Lists are maintained in the same order as the oversubscription criteria listed below and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the Waiting List. This means that your child's position on the Waiting List may change during the year.

Any late applications will be added to the Waiting List in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

Inclusion on a school's Waiting List does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

Appeals

If a child is not offered a place, parents/carers have a statutory right to appeal. This should be done by writing to the school setting out your grounds for appeal no later than twenty school days after the decision letter has been received. The appeal will be arranged on behalf of the governors by the Catholic Schools Appeals Service and will be heard by an independent panel. The decision of the panel will be binding on the school.

Fair Access Protocols

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full.

Infant Class Size Regulations

Infant classes may not, by law, contain more than 30 pupils with a single qualified teacher. Parents/carers should be aware that when the Governing Body is considering applications for places, they must keep to the 30 limit. Parents/Carers do have a right of appeal in accordance with the Infant Class Size Regulations if the school is oversubscribed and their child is refused a place.

Applications for twins / multiple birth children

Where a place available is offered to a child from a twin or multiple birth the Governors will normally offer places to both twins, triplets etc even if this means exceeding the published admission number as long as the governing body decides that the education of pupils in that year group would not be detrimentally affected.

Attendance at Nursery

Attending a nursery, or a pre-school setting on the site of the school, does not give any priority within the oversubscription criteria for a place in the school. Attendance at the school's nursery does not guarantee that a place will be offered at the school and for children attending the school's nursery, application to the reception class of the school must be made in the normal way, to the local authority and using the Common Application Form.

Fraudulent Information

The Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place or, if a child is already attending the school the place itself, where it is satisfied that the offer or place was obtained on the basis of fraudulent or intentionally misleading information.

Oversubscription Criteria

Where schools have more applications than places available, Governors will draw up a ranked list based on the criteria listed below and will allocate places accordingly.

In accordance with legislation Pupils with an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (a plan made by the Local Authority under Section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014 which specifies the special educational provision required for a child) which names the school will be allocated a place first. This will reduce the number of places available.

1. Catholic looked after or previously looked after children. (See Notes 1 and 2).
2. Catholic (see Note 2) children living in the parish(es) served by the school
3. Catholic (see Note 2) children living outside the parish(es) served by the school
4. Other looked after or previously looked after children (see Note 1).
5. Catechumens, Candidates and members of Eastern Christian Churches (see Notes 3, 4 and 5)
6. Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion (see note 6)
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader (see note 7)
8. Any other children not within categories 1-7.

First priority within the individual criteria will be given to applications for children who will have siblings (see Note 8) attending the school in years R - 6 at the proposed time of admission.

Distance Measurement

Within each criterion applications will be ranked on distance with priority given to children who live nearest to the school. Measurement of distance will be in a straight line from the point that the home property's front entrance

(including flats) meets a public highway to the school's main designated front gate, using a computerised mapping system.

Tie Breaker

In a very few cases, it may not be possible to decide between the applications of those pupils who are the final qualifiers for a place (e.g. children who live at the same address or have the same distance measurement). In this exceptional situation, if there is no other way of separating the applications then the governors will admit the additional child above the planned admissions number. If however, admission would result in the legal limit of 30 children being exceeded, then the place will be allocated by the drawing of lots supervised by someone independent of the school.

Notes (these form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. A looked after child is 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 in accordance with section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to a school.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

Child arrangements orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

2. '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 full communion with the Catholic Church signed by a Catholic Priest and stamped with the parish stamp. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child who is part of a Catholic family where a letter from a priest demonstrates that the child would have been baptised or received if it were not for their status as a looked after child (i.e. a looked after child in the process of adoption by a Catholic family).

For a child to be ranked as Catholic within the oversubscription criteria, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest.

3. 'Catechumen' means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the order of catechumens or a letter of verification signed by the parish priest and stamped with the parish stamp.

4. 'Candidate' means a candidate for reception into the Catholic Church. This will be evidenced by a letter of verification signed by the parish priest and stamped with the parish stamp.

5. 'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches, and is evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.

6. 'Children of other Christian denominations' means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service to the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England (CTE) and Churches Together in Wales (CYTUN) are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

Evidence will be a Baptism Certificate, a Certificate of Dedication or a letter of verification signed by the minister of religion for that church.

7. 'Children of other faiths' means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian denominations' at note 7 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:

- A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
- A religion which does not involve belief in a God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.

This is evidenced by a Baptism Certificate, a Certificate of Dedication or a letter of verification signed by the religious leader of the community.

8. 'Siblings' means a child who lives as a brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters with either one or both parents in common, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, or the child of a parent's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. It also includes natural brothers or sisters where the child for whom the school place is sought is not living in the same family unit as the same address as that sibling.

9. A '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.

10. Home Address: The governors of each school use the same definition as used by the Local Authority within which the school is located.

11. For the purposes of this policy, parish boundaries are as shown on the map available on the school website.