



**Mongleath Road
Falmouth
Cornwall
TR114PW**

Admission arrangements 2018/19

Introduction

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is part of Plymouth CAST Multi Academy Trust and the Governing Body is the Admission Authority for the school. The school will participate fully in the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol and the Local Authority's Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes. Details of these schemes are available on the Council's website (www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions) or on request from the Local Authority. Closing dates and other details about the application process will be stated in those Schemes.

Applying for a place

All applications for places in reception or during the school year must be made direct to the applicant's home local authority on the appropriate application form. The application form and supporting information will be available on the Local Authority's website. **There is a supplementary information form required by the Governing Body.**

However, if your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan or Statement of Special Educational Needs, you **do not** need to complete an application form as a school place will be identified through a separate process.

Allocation of places

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan or Statement of Special Educational Needs that names the school will be admitted regardless of the number on roll in the year group.

Children in Care who are directed to the school by the Local Authority (or Secretary of State in the case of academies) will be admitted to the school regardless of the number on roll in the year group.

The published admission number (PAN) for reception in 2018/19 will be 30. Places will be allocated up to this number. In the event that more applications are received than places available, the oversubscription criteria listed later in this document will be used to decide on allocations. If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be admitted.

Deferred/delayed entry

All children are entitled to start school full-time in the September following their fourth birthday. However, parents may choose deferred or part-time entry to the reception year for their child, bearing in mind that by law children have to be in full-time education by the start of the term following their fifth birthday – when they reach ‘compulsory school age’. Parents of summer-born children may also seek a place for their child outside their normal age group i.e. entry to reception a year later than normal, for example if the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. Parents choosing part-time or deferred entry or wishing to delay entry to the reception year must contact the Headteacher.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Those wishing to request placement outside the normal age group should contact the Headteacher. Such requests will be considered on a case by case basis and in the best interests of the child concerned. Guidance can also be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions or on request from the School Admissions Team. Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent admission appeal panel. However, they do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like.

Appeals

Applicants refused a place at the school have the right of appeal. Appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel arranged by the Local Authority on behalf of the Governing Body. Further details and a timeline can be found in the Local Authority’s Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. Applicants can only appeal again for a place in the same school within the same academic year if the admission authority for that school has accepted a further application because there has been a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent or carer, child or school (e.g. a change of address into a school’s designated area), but has determined that the new application must also be refused.

Waiting lists

If the school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held from when allocations have been made [for the whole of the academic year/for the first term of the year of entry] and parents/carers can request that their child is added to this list if they are refused a place. The waiting list will be based on the school’s oversubscription criteria and a child’s place on a waiting list is subject to change according to additional information received about applications or children being added to the list – so their place on the list might move up or down. No priority is given to the length of time that a child has been on the list. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan or Statement of Special Educational Needs and children in care or children that were previously in care will take precedence over those on the waiting list. Children admitted under the Fair Access Protocol will also be given priority over children on the waiting list.

Oversubscription Criteria

In the event of there being more than 30 applications for places in reception for the 2018/19 academic year or more applications than places for any year group during the school year, the following oversubscription criteria will be used to prioritise applications, after the admission of children whose Education, Health and Care Plan or Statement of Special Educational Needs names the school:

1. Children in care and children who were previously in care but immediately after being in care became subject to an Adoption, Child Arrangement, or Special Guardianship Order.
2. Children who are baptised Catholics. (Evidence: Baptismal certificate or a signature of a Catholic priest confirming their knowledge of the child's baptism) see supplementary information form.
3. A child who has a sibling/s who will be attending the school at the time of application for admission.
4. At least one parent is a baptised/member of the Catholic Church. (Evidence: Baptismal certificate or a signature of a Catholic priest confirming their knowledge of this) see supplementary information form.
5. A baptised Christian child/member of another recognised Christian church. (Evidence: Baptismal certificate or equivalent or signature from the appropriate Minister of religion) see supplementary information form.
6. At least one parent is a baptised/member of a recognised Christian Church. (Evidence: a Baptismal certificate or equivalent or signature from the appropriate Minister of religion.) see supplementary information form.
7. A member of a World Faith tradition (Evidence: signature of an appropriate Minister of religion) see supplementary information form.
8. A child whose parents seek admission for them at the school. (Evidence: submission of the Cornwall Council's Common Application form naming the school among their preferences).

Notes and definitions

Children in care

A 'child in care' may also be referred to as a 'looked after child' and is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

A 'child arrangement order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989. 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).

Siblings

'Siblings' means brothers or sisters. They are defined as children with at least one natural or adoptive parent in common, living at the same or a different address. Children living permanently in the same household at the same address would also be counted as siblings, regardless of their actual relationship to each other. To qualify as a sibling a child must be on the roll of the school in question at the date of application, allocation and admission.

If a child is a sibling of a multiple birth (e.g. twins, triplets, etc.) and has been offered a place at the requested school, every effort will be made to offer places to siblings at the same school, which may mean allocating places above the Published Admission Number (PAN) where this is possible. However, where this is not possible, parents will be invited to decide which of the children should be allocated the available place(s).

Recognised Christian Church

Includes any Church affiliated to 'Churches Together in England and Ireland.'

Other Faiths

Examples of other faith traditions are Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

Tie-breakers

If any of the criteria outlined earlier leave more children with an equal claim than places available, priority will be given to the child who lives nearer to the school.

Final tie-breaker

Should the tie-breakers above still leave children with an equal claim because distances are exactly the same, random allocation will be used to decide on priority. The school will use the Local Authority's Random Allocation Protocol, supervised by an independent person, which is available on request.

Distances

Home to school distances used for tie-breaking will be measured by a straight-line measurement as determined by Capita One and supported by Cornwall Council's nominated Geographical Information System (currently DataMap). Measurements will be between your home address (the centre of the main building of the property) and the main gate of the school (as determined by Cornwall Council).]

Home address

Each child can have only one registered address for the purposes of determining priority for admission and transport entitlement. This address should be the place where the child is normally resident at the point of application or evidence of the address from which a child will attend school, in the form of written confirmation of a house purchase or a formal tenancy agreement. Exceptional circumstances in relation to the provision of a home address will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If there is shared residence of the child or a query is raised regarding the validity of an address, the LA will consider the home address to be with the parent with primary day to day care and control of the

child. Residency of a child may also be clarified through a Child Arrangement Order where it is shown who has care of the child. Evidence may be requested to show the address to which any Child Benefit is paid and at which the child is registered with a doctor's surgery.

It is expected that parents will submit only one application for each child. Any disputes in relation to the child's home address should be settled before applying, the admission authority will not become involved in any parental disputes. If agreement cannot be obtained before an application is made then parents/carers may need to settle the matter through the courts. Where no agreement is reached or order obtained, Cornwall Council will determine the home address.

For information on disputes between persons with parental responsibility in relation to school preferences please see the LA's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for the relevant year.

Applications for children of Service Families will be processed and places allocated based on the proposed address (with supporting evidence) or, if the family are not able to confirm a proposed address and a unit or quartering address is provided, an allocation will be made based on the unit or quartering address. Until a fixed address is available, the unit postal address or quartering area address will be used to determine allocation of a school place. For the purposes of measuring distances, the main entrance of the unit will be used.

Policy agreed by the Governing Body on: 29th September 2016

Next review date: Autumn term 2017

