



ADMISSIONS POLICY
2015-2016
CONSULTATION DRAFT

**Admissions Policy
for St Mary's CE School
2015-2016**

Agreed by Governing Body:

Annually

Admissions Procedure for 2015/16

(Governors' Policy Document)

St Mary's is a Voluntary Aided Church of England primary school and responsibility for admissions rests with the Governors. Governors hope that parents who have chosen this school for their child have done so with the knowledge that it is a Church of England school with a distinctive Christian ethos. Governors, therefore, expect parents to give their full support to the ethos of the school.

Entry criteria for Reception

The Notes below give an explanation of the terms we use in our criteria.

We will accept 90 children into our Reception Year in September 2015. The infant class size regulations do not allow for more than 30 children per class; therefore, where there are more applicants than places, criteria for entry will be applied in the following order:

- A. Looked after children¹ and previously looked after children.
- B. Children for whom this is the nearest school and who have exceptional medical needs which make this school, rather than any other, the most suitable. In this case the Common Application Form must be accompanied by supporting medical evidence from an appropriate authority. A GP's report alone is not sufficient. Parents should supply at the time of application all documentation that they would wish to rely on in the event of any later appeal. Applicants are encouraged to supply as many relevant documents as possible.
- C. Children who will have a sibling² at the school at the proposed time of admission. In the event of there being more sibling applicants than available spaces, places will be allocated according to proximity as in E below.
- D. Twenty-four (24) Foundation places for either:
 - i. Baptised or dedicated children, one or both of whose parents worship regularly³ at, the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Twickenham or:
 - ii. Baptised or dedicated local⁴ children, one or both of whose parents are members of, and worship regularly⁴ at another Christian⁵ church. If the Foundation places are over-subscribed, we will allocate places according to geographical proximity as in E, below.

¹ "Looked after children" are children who are either in the care of a local authority or have been 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) at the time of making an application to a school).

² We include full, step-, half- and adopted siblings living in the same household.

³ By regularly, we mean attendance at a minimum of two services a month for a minimum of two years. Those who have been attending their present church for less than this period can still apply for a Foundation place but will have to submit two Supplementary Information forms – one from their previous minister and one from their current minister.

⁴ By local, we mean children who live within the following three Parish boundaries: St Mary the Virgin, All Hallows, St Stephen's (see map and list of roads attached).

⁵ We take a Christian church to mean a church belonging to the Anglican Communion, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, or the Evangelical Alliance.

E. Children who live⁶ nearest⁷ to the front gate of the Amyand Park Road school site.

The school cannot go above its published admissions number. In the exceptional circumstance that there is one remaining space available and two or more applicants cannot be distinguished on the basis of the school's oversubscription criteria then the final place shall be awarded via the drawing of lots.⁸

Pattern of entry to school

For 2015/16, it is anticipated that all children offered a place in our Reception Year will have a staggered start in September with all pupils attending full time during October.

It is the expectation of the school that any departure from the pattern of attendance will be agreed in consultation with parents before the start of term and to minimise disruption, variation to the agreed pattern will then only be agreed in exceptional circumstances.

Application forms

I. Common Application Form:

The Local Authority administers the admission process for all the primary schools within its area. Parents or guardians should apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk by **15th January 2015*** or request a paper Common Application Form from their home Local Authority (LA) and return it to the LA by 15 January 2015*. Late applications are considered only after all on-time applications have been allocated places. In April 2015* the home LA will send parents a letter informing them whether their child is being offered a place for the following September.

II. Supplementary (Foundation) Form:

In addition to the Common Application Form, parents applying for a Foundation place should complete a Supplementary Foundation Form, available from the school, related to church attendance and involvement, so that the governors may consider their application fully. This should be filled in and signed by the family's parish priest or minister and returned by the priest or minister to the school by **15 January 2015***.

Waiting list (for all years, including late Reception applications)

If there are more applicants than places, the school will place an applicant's name on the waiting list. The governors will then work with the local authority to offer places, as they

⁶ Any offer of a place on the grounds of distance is conditional on the child living at the address provided on the closing date for applications. A business address, a child-minder's address, or any other address other than the child's permanent home will not be accepted. We will not accept a temporary address if you still possess a property that was previously used as a home address, nor will we accept a temporary address used solely or mainly to obtain a school place. We will also review the application of any family that decides to move after taking up a school place, up to a year following the closing date.

⁷ We will use the Local Authority's methodology, which determines the shortest route by road or maintained footpath, accompanied as necessary. Accessibility of private or public transport is not considered. Distances are measured using a computerised Geographical Information System, which measures the distance from the middle (the seed-point) of the home property, into the middle of the road, then along the middle of roads and publicly maintained footpaths, without cutting corners, to the front gate of the Amyand Park Road school site. Paths through car parks, cemeteries, golf courses and other enclosed spaces will not be used.

⁸ Clause 2.15 of the DfE code makes special provisions in the event that twins or triplets are eligible and competing for the remaining space available in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

become available, using the same oversubscription criteria set out above (i.e. criteria A-E). Late applications will be slotted in to the waiting list in the same way. The waiting list will remain open until 31 August 2016, after which applicants will drop off the waiting list unless parents have confirmed in writing that they wish their child to remain on the list for the following academic year.

Admission of older children

Applications are co-ordinated by the school in conjunction with the local authority's in-year admission officers. An Application Form should be completed and returned to the school. If applicable, they should also obtain a Supplementary (Foundation) form, available from the school, and return it to the school.

We can admit older children at any time, and will work to offer a place as soon as there is one available in the appropriate class. Applicants will be ranked according to the oversubscription criteria A-E set out above. We cannot exceed our published admissions number of 30 per class, with the exception of children moving into the area for whom no other school within a reasonable distance can be found.

As indicated above, the total number of places available for Reception is 90. For 2015/16 the number of places varies according to year as set out in the table below:

Year 1	90
Year 2	90
Year 3	90
Year 4	90
Year 5	60
Year 6	90

Where an in-year offer has been made, the applicant will be expected to respond within seven days, after which the place will be offered to the next applicant on the waiting list. Once an offer has been accepted, the child will be expected to start as soon as possible, with the exact date being determined in consultation between the headteacher and parents. The school does not hold places open.

The Unit

The Unit provides places for children with communication and interaction difficulties who have a statement of Special Educational Needs. Children are nominated for the Unit by the Local Authority, not the Governing Body. Parents/guardians should apply to:

SEN Service Manager (principal case officer),
Education and Children's Services,
London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames,
42 York Street,
Twickenham TW1 3BW.

Pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs

The governors have a duty to admit a child with a statement of special educational needs naming the school. This process is dealt with by the SEN section of the Local Authority, which can be contacted at the address above.

Visiting the school

Parents who are considering sending their children to St Mary's are welcome to visit the school and talk to the Headteacher. Appointments can be made by telephoning the school on 020 8892 5840 (Infants), 020 8249 6836 (Middle) or 020 8892 7849 (Juniors).

Appeals

If a child is not offered a place at the school, parents may appeal in writing to:

The Clerk of the Governing Body,
St Mary's CE School,
Amyand Park Road,
Twickenham TW1 3HE

In infant class appeals, an appeal panel can only overturn the Governing Body's decision in limited circumstances:

- i. that an error has been made in applying the admission policy to an application and the child would have been admitted had the error not been made;
- ii. that the Governing Body has acted unreasonably and could have made arrangements to admit more children without breaching the legal class size limit of 30 pupils.

** These dates are provisional and will be confirmed on the Common Application Form.*