

ST BONIFACE RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS ADMISSIONS POLICY 2021 -2022



'As a Catholic School we recognise our call to serve and contribute to our local and parish communities and to appreciate the broader multicultural /faith community in which St Boniface is situated.'

St Boniface Roman Catholic Primary School is a voluntary aided school in the Diocese of Southwark. It is in the trusteeship of the Diocese. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. The school exists primarily to serve the Catholic community and Catholic children always have priority of admission. However, the Governing Body also welcomes applications from those of other denominations and faiths who support the religious ethos of the school.

Having consulted with the Local Authority, the Diocese and other admission authorities, the Governors intend to admit 45 pupils without reference to ability or aptitude to the Reception class in the school year that begins in September.

Oversubscription Criteria

If the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan where the school is named in the Statement or Plan, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in order:

1. Looked after Catholic children or looked after children in the care of Catholic families and those who ceased to be looked after children because they were adopted, or because they became subject to a residence order, child arrangements order or a special guardianship order (*see notes 1,2 and 3*).
2. Catholic children, a baptismal certificate or evidence of reception into the Catholic Church must accompany the supplementary information form. (*see note 1*)
3. Other looked after children and those who ceased to be looked after children because they were adopted, or because they became subject to a residence order, child arrangements order or a special guardianship order (*see note 2*).
4. Children enrolled in the catechumenate. Evidence of enrolment in the catechumenate will be required.
5. Children who are members of Eastern Orthodox Churches. Evidence of Baptism will be required.
6. Children of families who are members of other Christian denominations that are part of Churches Together in England. Evidence of Baptism (or dedication) provided by a priest, minister of a designated place of worship will be required.
7. Children who are members of other faiths. Evidence of membership of the faith provided by a priest, minister or religious leader of a designated place of worship will be required
8. Any other children.

Tiebreakers

The following order of priorities will be applied when applications within any of the above categories exceed places available and it is necessary to decide between applications.

1. For category two above, the strength of commitment to the faith as demonstrated by the level of the family's Mass attendance on Saturday evenings or Sundays over a period of at least the past three years. The evidence must be provided by the parents /carers and be endorsed by the priest at the church(es) where the family normally worship. Applications will be ranked in the order shown on the supplementary information form; firstly, those who attend Mass weekly, then once or twice a month etc.

It is the intention of the governing body to seek a variation from the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator, in relation to Catholic practice. Granting of this variation is, at this time, pending.

COVID 19 - please note the following information:

On the advice of the Education Commission of the Archdiocese of Southwark, the governing body of St Boniface school has agreed the following statement in order to clarify how its faith-based oversubscription criteria will be interpreted whilst churches are closed or attendance at church is not possible due to COVID 19. This statement has been shared widely with parishes in order to ensure that determinations made by parish priests concerning regular practice of the faith are being made on a consistent basis.

'The suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass was announced on 18th March 2020 by Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. If a parent/carer attended Mass at a particular parish (or parishes) prior to 18th March 2020 then they will be considered to have attended Mass in that parish (or parishes) regularly since that time. This will remain the case until the Sunday obligation is reintroduced by the Bishops.'

2. Children with a sibling (*see note 4*) on the school roll at the time of admission. Evidence of the relationship may be required.
3. Living in the parish of St Boniface (Tooting), Our Lady of the Assumption (Links Road) or St Joseph's (Colliers Wood).
4. Children with a professionally supported acute medical need or exceptional need for a place at the school, as decided by the Governing Body.
(Applications made on acute medical grounds must be supported by a current letter from a specialist health professional. Applications made on exceptional social grounds must be supported by a current letter from a social worker or other care professional working with the family. The letters must give the reason why the child's condition or circumstances make it necessary for the child to attend the school, and the difficulties that would be caused if they had to attend an alternative school. If this information is not provided by the application closing date, the application will not be considered under this criterion.)
5. Children of staff employed as teachers in the school
A maximum of up to three places may be offered to children of teachers who have been employed by the school for at least three consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made.
6. Children in order of straight-line distance from home to school, as measured by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System.
(The straight-line measurement used to prioritise applicants for admission to schools in Wandsworth commences in all cases at the location of the property determined by the National Land Planning Gazetteer and terminates at the

central point of the school site as determined by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System. Measurements by alternative systems and/or to other points will not be taken into account in any circumstances. Where applicants have identical distance measurements, priority amongst them will be determined at random.)

Note 1 Catholics include members of the Ordinariate and the Latin and Oriental Rite Churches that are in union with the Bishop of Rome. Reference to other Christian denominations refers to denominations that are full members of Churches Together in England.

Note 2 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). An adopted child is defined by section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A residence order is defined by section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989. A child arrangement order is defined by section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

Note 3 Families are defined as being the child's natural or adoptive parents or officially designated carers. It would not include grandparents or other relatives unless they are officially designated carers.

Note 4 A sibling is defined as:

- a full brother or sister;
- a step/half brother or sister living at the same address;
- a child who is living as part of the family by reason of a court order;
- or a child who has been placed with foster carers as a result of being looked after by a local authority.

Admission procedures

To apply, the following forms need to be completed:

- The **Common Application Form** supplied by your home local authority which can be completed online. Wandsworth residents should apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk, or use the link from the council's website at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions. If you cannot apply online, paper forms available from the admissions section of your local authority will be available. The closing date for application is **15 January 2021**.
- A **Supplementary Information Form**, available from the school and school website, should also be completed. Completion of this form is not mandatory; however, if one is not received the Governors will not be able to apply their admission criteria and the application will be considered under the 'any other children' category. The form needs to be completed and returned to the school by **15 January 2021**.

Parents will be notified of the outcome of their application by their home local authority on **16 April 2021**.

Admission of children below compulsory school age and deferred entry to school

The governors will provide for the admission of children in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year. Parents can request that their child attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

In exceptional circumstances, parents may request a place for their child outside of their normal age group. The request should be in writing to the Chair of Governors and should set out the reasons why this would be in the best interests of the child.

Appeals: Parents whose applications for places are unsuccessful have a right to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. Parents wishing to pursue this right of appeal should contact the Wandsworth Education Appeals Service (educationappeals@wandsworth.gov.uk or 020 8871 7554). Information on the deadline for appeals will be available on the council's website at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissionsappeals.

Fair Access Protocol: The school participates in the local authority's Fair Access Protocol to allocate places to vulnerable and other children in accordance with the School Admission Code 2014. Admitting pupils under the protocol may require the school to admit above the planned admission number for the relevant year group.

Waiting Lists: Parents of children who have not been offered a place at the school may ask for their child's name to be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list, which will be maintained until the end of June 2020, will be operated using the same admissions criteria listed above. Placing a child's name on the waiting list does not guarantee that a place will become available. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place. It is possible that when a child is directed under the local authority's fair access protocol they will take precedence over those children already on the list.

Arrangement for visits for parents considering applying for the school: An open morning and guided tour of the school at work is held for parents interested in a place for their child at St Boniface on Wednesday 6th November from 9:00am to 10:30am. After this date, parents should contact the school and make an appointment to visit the school. Visits to the school do not form part of the formal admissions process.

Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan

The admission of pupils with a statement or EHCP is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

Late Applications: Any late applications will be considered by the Governors' Admissions Committee after the initial offer day of 16 April 2021, in the event of there being any available places using the above criteria. If all places have been filled, parents will be offered the opportunity of placing their child's name on the waiting list. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place.

IN YEAR ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Application for in year admissions must be made to Wandsworth Council on the Council's in year application form. The Council will refer the application to the school which will inform the applicant whether or not a place can be offered and advise the Council of the outcome. In order to rank applicants, a **Supplementary Information Form**, available from the school, should also be completed. Completion of this form is not mandatory; however, if one is not received the Governors will not be able to apply their admission criteria and the application will be considered under the 'any other children' category. The form needs to be completed, signed and returned to the school.