



St. Mary's RC Primary School, Clive Road, Failsworth, Manchester. M35 0NW

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*"Called to love as God loves"*

## **ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **NURSERY ADMISSION POLICY AND ARRANGEMENTS**

**2023/24**

**St Mary's RC Primary School** is a Catholic School in the trusteeship of the Diocese of Salford. It is maintained by **Oldham Local Authority** and is a voluntary aided school. The Governing board is the admissions authority and is responsible for taking all decisions on applications for admissions.

The school's role is to participate in the mission of the Catholic Church by providing a curriculum, including Catholic religious education and worship, which will help children to grow in their understanding of the Good News and in the practice of their faith. The school will help the children develop fully as human beings and prepare them to undertake their responsibilities as Catholics in society. The school requires all parents applying for a place here to understand and respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the rights of parents who are not of the Catholic faith to apply for a place here.

Admission to the nursery will be made by the Governing Body in accordance with the stated parental preferences it receives subject to the following criteria which will be used to form a priority order if there are more applications for admission than the nursery has places available:-

1. Baptised Roman Catholic Looked After Children, Baptised Roman Catholic previously Looked After Children and Looked After Children adopted from overseas.
2. Baptised Roman Catholic children resident in the parish of St Mary's (a description of the catchment area of St Mary's parish is included in the notes for applicants) – full-time places.
3. Baptised Roman Catholic children resident in the parish of St Mary's (a description of the catchment area of St Mary's parish is included in the notes for applicants) – part-time places.
4. Other Baptised Catholic Children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission – full-time places.
5. Other Baptised Catholic Children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission – part-time places.
6. Other baptised Catholic children – full-time places.
7. Other baptised Catholic children – part-time places.
8. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
9. Baptised Catholic children of staff at the school where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time the application is made.
10. Rising 3 pupils currently attending St Mary's nursery – full-time places.

11. Rising 3 pupils currently attending St Mary's nursery – part-time places.
12. Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission – full-time places.
13. Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission – part-time places.
14. All remaining applicants – full-time places.
15. All remaining applicants – part-time places.

If it is not possible to offer places for all applications within any criterion above, priority will be given to those living closest to the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address to the school using an online computerised measuring system with those living closest to the school having priority. In the event of distances being the same for 2 or more applicants, places will be allocated by a random lottery in a public place.

### **Notes for Applicants:**

- a. If you wish to visit the school before applying for a nursery place, please contact us directly.
- b. The Governing Body is the admissions authority. The admissions committee is comprised Chair of Governors, Parish Priest and Headteacher.
- c. 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 (under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989. A previously Looked After Child is one who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear to the governing board to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- d. For a child to be considered as a Catholic evidence of a Catholic Baptism or reception into the Catholic Church is required. Written evidence of reception into the Catholic Church can be obtained by referring to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the Church in which the Rite of Reception took place. If, for example, a child has been baptised in the Church of England and the parents are subsequently admitted to the Catholic Church through the RCIA programme, the child must also be admitted to the Church by the Rite of Reception.  
 The governing board will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Reception before applications for nursery places can be considered for categories of 'Baptised Catholics'. A Certificate of Reception is to include full name, date of birth, date of reception and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of reception.  
 Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to the parish priest who, after consulting with the Episcopal Delegate will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with Canon Law.
- e. Home Address is considered to be the address where the child normally lives. Where care is split and a child moves between two addresses, the household in receipt of the child benefit would normally be the address used but the admission authority body reserves the right to request other evidence as fit the individual circumstance. Applicants should not state the address of another relative or person who has daily care of the child.
- f. 'Sibling' is defined in these arrangements as full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address and are

part of the same family unit. This does not include cousins or other family relationships.

- g. A waiting list for children who have not been offered a place will be kept and will be ranked according to the admission criteria. The waiting list does not consider the date the application was received or the length of time a child's name has been on the waiting list. This means that a child's position on the list may change if another applicant is refused a place and their child has higher priority in the admissions criteria.
- h. The governing board reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a nursery place where false evidence is received in relation to the application.

### **St Mary's Parish Boundary**

St Mary's sits within the Parish of the Nativity and located to the left of the M60 as per the map below.

