

St Peter-in-Chains RC Infant School

Admissions Criteria 2021-2022

St Peter-in-Chains aims to provide a Catholic education for all its pupils. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education is fully supported by all families in the school. All applicants are therefore expected to give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. Responsibility for the admission of pupils rests with the Governing Body as the admissions authority.

Application Procedure for 2021 - 2022

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round, you **must** complete an online application form from your local authority (paper forms are also available on request.) You should also complete the **School's Supplementary Information Form (SIF)**. Whilst this is not compulsory, the information on the SIF enables the Governing Body to assess your application fully against the School's criteria in the event of oversubscription. Please return the SIF (in person or by post) to the school, together with all other relevant paperwork required for your application. If you do not complete both of the forms described above and return them by **15th January 2021**, the Governing Body will be obliged to consider your application against the oversubscription criteria and your child will be ranked under the lowest criterion.

The governing body is the admission authority and has responsibility for admissions to the school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round. The governing body has set its Published Admissions Number (PAN) at 30 children for the school year which begins in September 2021. Applications for Reception are welcome from families whose child reaches his/her 4th birthday between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application, on or about Friday 16th April 2021. This information will also be available on line for those who have submitted an online application. Parents should accept or decline the place as soon as possible. If you are unsuccessful (unless your child was offered a place at a school you ranked higher) you will be informed of the reasons, related to the oversubscription criteria listed above and you will have right of appeal to an independent appeal panel. Should you wish to appeal please contact the school as soon as possible for an appeal form on which you must list your reasons for making an appeal. Appeals should be submitted to the school in writing by Friday 21st May 2021.

In this policy applicant refers to the person making an application on behalf of a child and candidate refers to the child on whose behalf the application is being made.

Oversubscription Criteria

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority:

1. 'Looked After' Catholic children and previously 'Looked After' Catholic children (see notes 2-5)
2. Baptised Catholic children.
3. Other 'Looked After' children and previously 'Looked After' children (see notes 2-5)
4. Children of catechumens (7) and members of an Eastern Christian Church (8) (see notes 7 & 8)
5. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order:

- i. The Governing Body will give top priority, within a category, to an application where compelling evidence is provided at the time of application, from an appropriate professional such as a doctor, priest or social worker, of an exceptional social, medical, pastoral or other need **of the child**, which can only be met at this school.
- ii. The attendance of a brother/sister at St Peter-in-Chains Catholic Infant School or St Gildas' Catholic Junior School at the time of admission will increase the priority of an application within a category, so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made, after children in (i) above.

The governing body will admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last ranked within the school's PAN.

Applications in previous years

For the *past* three years the governing body has been able to offer places to applicants up to criterion 5.

Tie break

Where the offer of places to all the applicants in any of the sub-categories listed above would still lead to oversubscription, the places up to the admission number will be offered to those living nearest to the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the Ordnance Survey address point of the child's home to the Ordnance Survey address point of the school, calculated using a computerised mapping system. In the case of equidistance from the school applicants will be ranked by random allocation in the presence of an independent witness.

Late Applications

Applications received after the closing date will be dealt with after the initial allocation process has been completed.

Reception Year Deferred Entry

A child is entitled to a full-time school place in the September following his/her 4th birthday. Applicants may defer entry to school up until compulsory school age i.e. the first day of term following the child's fifth birthday. Applications should be made in the usual way and then the deferral until January or April is requested. The place will then be held until the first day of the spring or summer term as applicable. Entry may not be deferred beyond compulsory school age or beyond the year for which the application has been made. Therefore applicants whose children have birthdays in the summer term may only defer until the 1st April 2022. Upon receipt of the offer of a place a parent should notify the school as soon as possible if they wish to defer until the spring or summer term.

Part-time attendance

Applicants may also request that their child attend part-time until compulsory school age is reached. Upon receipt of the offer of a place a parent should notify the school as soon as possible if they wish to take up a part-time place.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside his/her normal age group e.g. if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill-health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child i.e. a child born between 1st April - 31st August, may request that the child be admitted out of his/her normal age group, starting reception at 5 years of age. Any such request should be made in writing to The Chair of Governors c/o the school. The governing body will make its decision based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child, taking into account school organisation issues and the views of the parents and any professionals involved. **Parents must have received the agreement of the governing body before**

any admission application for delayed entry is made. If permission is received then the parents will make their admission application in the normal way for the year in which they wish their child to start school. No age-related priority will be given. **Applications cannot be held over from one academic year to the next.** If permission is refused then parents must make their admission application at the normal time.

Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful candidates will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year. Names will be removed from the waiting list on 31st July 2022 unless applicants request in writing to remain on the list. **Inclusion on the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.**

In-Year Applications

An application for admission can be made for any child at any time outside the normal admissions round. Applications should be made directly to the school. If a place is available and there is no waiting list the child will be admitted. If a place cannot be offered at this time then you may ask us for the reasons and you will be informed of your right of appeal to an independent panel and your child will be placed on the waiting list. This list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. When a place becomes available the Governing Body will make an offer to the person at the top of the list. The local authority will be informed of the offer as soon as it has been accepted.

Fair Access

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admissions round, the Governing Body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol that has been agreed by both the local authority and the Governing Body for the current school year. The Governing Body has this power even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

Change of Details

If any of the details on either of your forms changes between the date of application and the receipt of the letter of offer or refusal, you **must** inform the School and the local authority immediately. If misleading information is given or allowed to remain on either of your forms, the Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the place, even if the child has already started at the School.

NOTES (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. **An Education, Health and Care Plan** is a plan made by the local authority under S.37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the educational provision required for a child.

2. A **'Looked After child'** has the same meaning as in S.22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents at the time of making an application to the school.) A previously 'Looked After' child is a child who was Looked After, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order.

3. **'Adopted'**. An adopted child is any child who has been formally adopted, having previously been in care and whose parent/ guardian can give proof of this.

4. **'Child Arrangements Order'**. A Child Arrangements order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8 settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live. Children 'Looked After' immediately before the order is made qualify in this category.

5. **'Special Guardianship Order'**. A special guardianship order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.14A appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s). A child 'Looked After' immediately before the order is made qualifies in this category.

6. **'Catholic'** means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism in a Catholic church or a Certificate of Reception into full communion with the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy this includes a Looked After Child in the process of adoption and living with a Catholic family, where a letter from a priest demonstrates that the child would have been baptised were it not for his/her status as a Looked After child. For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception in the Catholic Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their parish priest who, after consulting with the diocese will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

7. **'Catechumen'** means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will normally be evidenced by a Certificate of Reception into the Order of Catechumens for a child aged 7 or over. For a child under 7 years of age it will be the certificate of the parent.

8. **'Eastern Christian Church'** includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism or Reception from the authorities of that Church.

9. **'Brother or Sister'** includes:

All natural brothers and sisters, half-brother and sisters, adopted brothers and sisters, stepbrothers and sisters, foster brothers and sisters. The sibling must reside at the same address as the child applying for the place.

10. A **'Parent'** means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for the child or any adult with legal responsibility for the child.

11. **'Resident'** - A child is deemed to be resident at a particular address when he/she resides there for more than 50% of the school week.

Pupils with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHC) - (see note 1)

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. If your child has an EHC plan you must contact your local authority SEN officer. Children with this school named in their EHC Plan will be admitted. (see note 1)