



St Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy

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Admissions Policy and Criteria Nursery 2023/2024

St Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy is situated in the Diocese of Brentwood and is maintained by the London Borough of Redbridge Local Education Authority.

The Trust Board of the Academy is responsible for determining and administering the policy relating to the admission of Nursery pupils into the Academy. It is guided in that responsibility by the requirements of the law, by the advice of the Diocesan Trustees, and its duty to the Academy and the Catholic community.

The Nursery primarily serves the parishes of St Cedd's, St Teresa's and SS Peter and Paul's (north of the High Road, Ilford).

Having consulted the LA and others in accord with the requirements of the law, The Trust Board has set as its planned admission number of 26 pupils to Nursery (26 morning places) for the Academy year commencing September 2021.

Parents wishing to apply for a Nursery place for their child in the school year 2023/2024 must complete the Nursery Application form which is available from the Academy or from our website www.staidansacademy.org. Catholic families should ask their Parish Priest for a Certificate of Catholic Practice and return it to the Academy by the closing date. Families from other faiths should complete the Other Christian Traditions and Other Faith Applicants form which is available from the Academy or from our website www.staidansacademy.org. This should also be returned to the Academy by the closing date. The closing date for the returned applications is 15th January 2023. It should be carefully noted that all applications must be submitted on these forms and all applications will be considered at the same time.

In accord with the provisions of Regulation 49 of the Education (School Government) Regulations 1999, The Trust Board has delegated responsibility for determining admissions to its Admission Committee.

Pupils who are admitted to the Nursery classes will enter the Academy in September 2023. The Trust Board will not admit more than 26 pupils to any one Nursery class.

Please note – Children from Nursery do not automatically transfer to Reception.

Admissions Criteria

The Nursery's admission policy should reflect its purpose of serving its relevant Catholic community. The following criteria are designed to acknowledge that responsibility of The Trust Board. Therefore, when considering applications, the Admissions Committee will apply the criteria in order of priority.

Definitions

Catholic means those baptised by a priest in communion with the See of Rome. The term "Practising" in relation to the Catholic Faith refers to obligations laid on Catholics by the Code of Canon Law primarily that of the obligations to attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (Canon 1247).

Regularity will be confirmed by the issuing of a Certificate of Catholic Practice.

The term 'Looked After Children' refers to children in 'public care' within the meaning of s22 of the Children's Act 1989. This provision relates to children in the care of the Local Authority or provided with accommodation by a Local Authority, Social Services Department, for example children in foster care. It also includes children who have been adopted or become subject to a special guardianship order.

The Trust Board of St Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy will apply the following criteria fairly and equitably to all applications for places in the order of priority stated.

- 1 Looked after children and previously looked after children.
- 2 Baptised Catholic Children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice who are resident in the Parishes of St Cedd's, St Teresa's and SS Peter & Paul's (north of the High Road, Ilford).
- 3 Baptised Catholic children with a certificate of Catholic Practice who are resident in neighbouring parishes at the time of application.

4 Baptised Catholic children.

The Trust Board having met its obligation to the Catholic community will offer any remaining places available to applicants of other faiths/other applicants.

5 Baptised children of other Christian denominations at least one of whose parents regularly practice in their faith and whose application is supported by the appropriate Minister of Religion who must confirm their regular practice of their faith.

6 Baptised children of other Christian denominations.

7 Children of non-Christian denominations at least one of whose parents regularly practice in their faith and whose application is supported by the appropriate Minister of Religion. In such cases the parents must be sympathetic to and supportive of the Catholic ethos of the Academy.

8 Any other applicants.

In the event of over-subscription in the number of applications, then the Admissions Committee will offer places in the following order of precedence for each level of priority:-

- 1 Children who have a sibling at the Academy at the time of likely admission. Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister or child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the Academy place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.
- 2 Children who live nearest to the Academy, distance will be measured as the crow flies from the front door of the child's home (including flats) to the main entrance of the Academy, measured by the Local Authority's computerised measuring system. Those living closer to the Academy receiving the higher priority.
- 3 Should there be more than one applicant for the final place living an identical distance from the in question, the random allocation facility will be used from the Local Authority's system.

Additional Information

The parents of those children to whom the Admissions Committee have agreed to admit as pupils at the Nursery will be informed in writing by the Academy on 25th February 2021 and shall be required within two weeks to confirm acceptance of the offer of a place.

Parents of those children whose application for a place in the Academy was unsuccessful will be informed, in writing by the Academy on 25th February 2022 and the Admissions Committee's reasons for not offering a place.

Further to the above, the Admissions Committee will keep a "waiting list" for admission to Nursery classes of those children who have not been offered a place, and such a list will rank children in strict order of priority as determined above.

Parents of children who have special physical and medical needs are invited to visit the Academy to meet the Headteacher and view the accommodation and resources available.

Applicants must note that gaining a place at Nursery does not guarantee a place in the Reception class. A separate application form for the Reception class is required.