



St John's Catholic Primary School, Bridgnorth



"I am the vine you are the branches" – John, 15.

Admissions Policy

Reviewed: October 2024

Reviewed by: C. Derwas

Next review date: October 2025

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSION POLICY – 2026-27

St John's Catholic Primary School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. 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 Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with these admission arrangements.

The **governing body** is the admission authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round¹. The admission authority has set the school's Published Admissions Number ("PAN") at **30** pupils to be admitted to the reception year in the school year which begins in September 2026.

The admission authority will, where logistically possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within the school's PAN.

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (see note 1)

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

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 and previously looked after children. (see notes 2 & 3)
2. Catholic children who are resident in the parish(es) of **St John the Evangelist** (see notes 3 & 9)
3. Catholic children who are resident in other parishes **for whom St John's is the nearest Catholic school**. (see notes 3 & 9)
4. Other Catholic children (see note 3)
5. Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion
6. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader.
7. Any other children.

¹ This is for admission to the school at the start of the school year in September and not for applications made in-year.

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

- (i) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each 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 (see note 8).

Tie Break

Priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. Distances are calculated [on the basis of a straight-line measurement between the front door of the child's home address (including the community entrance to flats) and the main entrance of the school using the local authority's computerised measuring system. In the event of distances being the same for two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the school. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

Application Procedures and Timetable

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round², you must complete a Common Application Form available from the local authority in which you live. You are also requested to complete the Supplementary Information Form attached to this policy if you wish to apply under oversubscription criteria 1 to 4 or 6 to 8. The Supplementary Information Form should be returned to **The School Office by 15th January 2025**.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application on 16th April or the next working day, by the local authority on our behalf. If you are unsuccessful (unless your child gained a place at a school you ranked higher) you will be informed of the reasons, related to the oversubscription criteria listed above, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

If you do not provide the information required in the SIF and return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, your child may not be placed in criteria 1 to 4 or 6 to 8, and this may affect your child's chance of being offered a place.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 15th January 2025.

Late Applications

Late applications will be administered in accordance with your home Local Authority Primary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

Admission of Children Below Compulsory School Age and Deferred Entry

A child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday. A child's parents may defer the date at which their child, below compulsory school age, is admitted to the school, until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which an offer was made. A child may take up a part-time place until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age. Upon receipt of the offer of a place a parent should notify the school, as soon as possible, that they wish to either defer their child's entry to the school or take up a part-time place.

² This is for admission to the school at the start of the school year in September and not for applications made in-year.

Starting School / Deferred entry:

Children can attend primary education from the September following their fourth birthday. The law requires that children attend school from the prescribed day of or following their fifth birthday (the prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August).

Most children do start school in the September after they turn four. However, a child doesn't need to start school until they reach compulsory school age.

Summer-born children

Children born from 1 April to 31 August are known as summer-born children. They don't need to start school until the September after their fifth birthday, a year after they could first have started school. This is when summer born children reach compulsory school age.

Parents of summer-born children have two options if they feel their child isn't ready to start reception in September with their natural cohort:

Option 1 - delayed start

A parent of a summer-born child starting school aged 4 can, if they wish, agree with the allocated school a pattern of part-time attendance or a deferred start until later in that school year (but not later than the beginning of the summer term). You can discuss this with the school.

This will require the parent to apply on time (by 15 January) using the application process provided by your local authority. Once places are allocated on the 16 April the parent can contact the headteacher to discuss the delayed start.

Option 2 - defer for a full year

If a parent decides that their summer-born child will start school aged five and wants that child to start school in reception (not year 1), they need to make a request to the local admission authority. This is called requesting admission out of the normal age group – because children born from 1 September in one year to 31 August the following year are normally educated together in one year group.

This means that you'll need to decide whether or not you want to request admission out of the normal age group in the autumn following your child's third birthday. Remember that your child will do lots of growing and developing before they reach the point at which they could start school.

This information doesn't apply to children with education, health and care (EHC) plans. If your child has an EHC plan and you wish them to start school in reception (not year 1) when they're five, you should [contact the SEN team](#). Having special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) doesn't necessarily mean a child should delay starting school. It may be better for them to start school before compulsory school age so that they can access the support available there.

If you decide that you want to defer for a full year

You should still apply for a school place as normal by 15 January – as if your child was going to start school at age four – even if you want to delay their start until age five.

You should also submit a request for admission out of the normal age group ideally by 15 January. Shropshire residents can email school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk to request this. The admission authority decides whether children who start school at compulsory school age should be admitted to reception or year 1. They must make this decision in the child's best interests.

If you decide to delay your child starting school until the September following their fifth birthday but don't request admission out of their normal age group at this time, your child will start school in year 1. You'll need to make an in-year application for a school place for your child, and we can advise you on when it would be best to make such an application. Please note that some schools

are likely to be full at this point and unable to offer you a place. Schools are unable to hold a place for your child from the previous year.

Please be advised that should a summer-born child defer for a year, it's currently a requirement to make another request to defer their entry to the next phase of their education. When a child of year 6 age is being taught in year 5, an application for secondary school and a request to defer their entry to secondary school will need to be made. Another point to be aware of is a summer-born child deferred for a year will reach school leaving age at the end of year 10, rather than year 11. The school won't ask them to leave, but they'll no longer be required by law to attend school, and the school may not be able to enforce their attendance. Children usually take their GCSEs in year 11.

School transport is another consideration as local authorities only have to provide school travel for certain children of compulsory school age. If your child gets free travel, it may stop when they reach the end of year 10.

Please visit the Gov.UK website for further [information on summer-born children starting school](#)

Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside of their normal age group, for example, 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 and 31st August, may request that the child be admitted out of their normal age group, to reception rather than year 1.

Any such request should be made in writing to Shropshire LA Admissions at the same time as the admission application is made. The admission authority will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the head teacher, including the head teacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the admission authority will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals, as appropriate.

Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful children will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting 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. The waiting list will be held open until **18th July 2025**.

Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

In-Year Applications

The responsibility for the coordination and processing of any and all applications for places at each of its schools falls to Shropshire Council. However, The school still makes all decisions regarding admissions of children to their schools.

Mid-term applications will be dealt with using the same admissions criteria given above. Applications must be made via the Shropshire Council online portal ([Synergy - Homepage \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](#)) If there is a space in the relevant year group a place will be offered. A formal letter from Shropshire Council's Admissions Team will be sent to the parent on our behalf,

advising them of our decision to offer a place and the need to contact school directly to arrange a start date.

If there are no vacancies in the year group, Shropshire Council's Admission Team will speak to the Headteacher to consider whether additional places can be offered. A decision must be notified to parents within 15 days of making the application.

If a place cannot be offered, parents will receive a formal letter and information on how to appeal against the decision from Shropshire Council's School Admissions Team on our behalf.

Shropshire Council will maintain a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants. If any vacancies arise, places will be offered to applicants included on the waiting list in strict accordance with normal published oversubscription criteria. If a place can be offered the applicant will be expected to take up the place within 6 school weeks or by the start of the next half term, whichever is the earliest date, with the exception of Reception children who have deferred entry until later in the same academic year. If an offer of a place is refused, the name will be removed from the waiting list.

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The order of priority on the waiting list is the same as the list of criteria for over-subscription and does not depend on the date on which an application is received. Therefore, each time a new child is added to a waiting list will cause it to be ranked again in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria. The length of time a pupil has spent on the waiting list does not affect their ranking on it.

Appeals

SCHOOL is required to offer all pupils refused admission the right to an appeal in front of an independent appeals panel. The school is responsible for setting up the appeal and must do so in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. The panel must be independent of the school. The Trust has arranged for Shropshire Council to administer admissions appeals on its behalf. Parents/carers wishing to appeal should do so via the Shropshire Council Website www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions Parents must be given at least 10 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to lodge an appeal.

Fair Access Protocol

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 admission round the admission authority is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol. The admission authority has this power, even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the PAN (subject to the infant class size exceptions).

The admission authority reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place or, where a child is already attending the school the place itself, where it is satisfied that the offer or place was obtained by deception.

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 section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.
2. 'Looked after children' ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ or children who were previously 'looked after', but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear to the admission authority, the Diocese of Shrewsbury to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
3. '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 the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic.

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the 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.

4. "children of other Christian denominations" means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

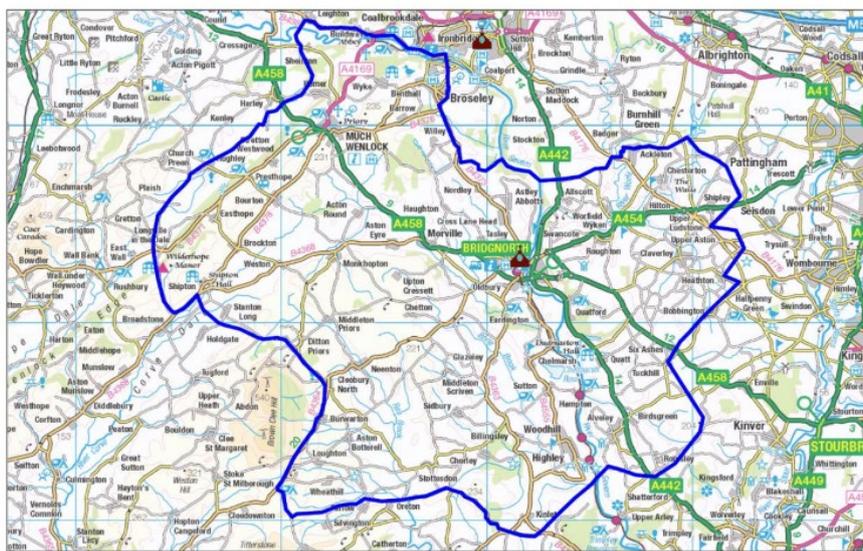
All members of Churches Together in England and CYTÛN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

5. "children of other faiths" means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian denominations' at 6 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:
 - A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
 - A religion which does not involve belief in a God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.

6. 'brother or sister' includes:
 - (i) all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and
 - (ii) the child of a parent's partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.
7. A 'parent' means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.
8. For the purposes of this policy, parish boundaries are as shown on the attached map and will be applied to the admission arrangements for **2026-27**.

St John the Evangelist, Bridgenorth



9. A child's "home address" refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer, and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form ("CAF"). Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.