

## Admissions policy for Catholic Primary Academies in The Northern Lincolnshire Catholic Academy Trust



Academy	Published Admission Number	Parish(es) Served
St Mary's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy, Brigg	28	St Mary, Brigg St Augustine Webster, Barton upon Humber Holy Rood, Market Rasen with St Thomas More, Caistor, St Francis de Sales, Hainton and Our Lady and St Joseph, Osgodby
St Norbert's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy, Crowle	15	St Norbert, Crowle with St Joseph and St Dymphna, Luddington
St Augustine Webster Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy, Scunthorpe	60	Holy Souls, Scunthorpe
St Bernadette's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy, Scunthorpe	40	St Bernadette, Scunthorpe
St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Cleethorpes	30	St Mary on the Sea, Grimsby with Saint John Fisher, Scartho.  Saint Pius X, Grimsby, Corpus Christi, Cleethorpes and Our Lady Star of the Sea, Immingham
St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Grimsby	30	

This admission policy will operate from September 2016. It will apply to all admissions for the school year 2016-2017.

The Catholic Primary Academies listed above are under the Trusteeship of the Diocese of Nottingham and belong to the Nottingham Diocesan family of schools. They are founded by and are part of the Catholic Church and seek at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. Religious education and worship are in accordance with the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church.

This does not affect the right of parents or carers who are not of the faith of these schools to apply for and to be considered for places. We ask all parents or carers applying for a place to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community.

The Catholic Primary Voluntary Academies are principally provided to serve the Catholic communities of North and North East Lincolnshire. The Governors also welcome applications from all parents and carers, regardless of faith or background, who would like their children to be educated in a Christian environment.

The Northern Lincolnshire Catholic Academy Trust is the admission authority for the above academies and is responsible for determining the admissions policy. All decisions relating to admission applications will be taken by the Governing Body of the Academy applied for. On behalf of the Trust the admissions process for St Mary's, Brigg, St Norbert's, St Augustine Webster and St Bernadette's is coordinated by North Lincolnshire Local Authority and for St Joseph's and St Mary's, Grimsby by North East Lincolnshire Local Authority.

Parents residing in North Lincolnshire should consult the Local Authority website, [www.northlincs.gov.uk](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk) which gives full details of the admissions process, including information on the admissions cycle.

Parents residing in North East Lincolnshire should consult the Local Authority website, [www.nelincs.gov.uk/education/schools/admissions](http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/education/schools/admissions) which gives full details of the admission process, including information on the admissions cycle.

## **HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY**

### **The Common Application Form**

Applications must be made on the Common Application Form provided by your home Local Authority. The form must be completed by all applicants and returned by the closing date set by your home Local Authority.

### **The Supplementary Form and Supporting Evidence**

#### **Applicants – North Lincolnshire Catholic Voluntary Academies**

Applicants applying for a place at a Catholic Voluntary Academy within North Lincolnshire should complete the North Lincolnshire Supplementary Form available from North Lincolnshire Council.

#### **Applicants – North East Lincolnshire Catholic Voluntary Academies**

Applicants applying under faith criteria for a place at a Catholic Voluntary Academy within NE Lincolnshire should complete the Supplementary Form for those schools which is available from NE Lincolnshire Council and from any of the Catholic Voluntary Academies within NE Lincolnshire.

The completed forms, together with any required evidence, (see below), should be returned to your home Local Authority with the Common Application Form.

Parents/carers of Catholic children should also supply one of the following documents:

- A copy of the child's baptism certificate
- If the child has been received into the Catholic church, written verification, signed by a Catholic priest and stamped with the parish stamp.
- If the child is participating in a course of preparation leading to baptism or reception into the Catholic church, written verification signed by a Catholic priest and stamped with the parish stamp should be provided.

Parents/carers whose children are members of other Christian denominations should supply a baptism certificate or certificate of dedication.

**If the Supplementary Form or any of the required documents are not provided, the child might be ranked in a lower admissions category.**

### **Transfers from Infant Schools**

This policy also applies to applications from parents who wish to transfer children from an infant school to Year 3 in one of the Catholic Primary Voluntary Academies. Your home Local Authority will provide information about how this can be done. However, parents need to be aware that as our academies are primary academies (age 4–11) places may have already been filled.

### **Deferred Admission**

If your child is offered a full time place before s/he reaches compulsory school age, you have the option of deferring the child's entry up until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age (a child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his/her fifth birthday or on his/her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day. The prescribed days are 31<sup>st</sup> December, 31<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> August). A place will be held and will not be offered to another child provided the place is taken up within the same academic year.

Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

### **Admission of children outside the normal age group**

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of the normal age group for example if the child is exceptionally gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

In addition, the parents of summer born children may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted outside of their normal age group to Reception rather than Year 1.

The school anticipates that children will be educated out of their normal age group in only a small number of very exceptional circumstances. However should you wish to seek a place for your child outside of their normal age group you should still make an application for a school place for your child's normal age group but you should also submit a request for admission out of the normal age group at the same time and follow the procedure set out by the local authority within which the school is located.

Any request for admission out of the normal age group will be considered taking into account the circumstances of each case and the best interests of the child. Once a decision has been reached on which age group the child should be admitted the oversubscription criteria will be applied to determine if a place can be offered at the school.

The school is not required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission out of the normal age group.

Your statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which you have applied is unaffected. However the right to appeal does not apply if you are offered a place at the school but it is not in your preferred age group.

Details of how to make a request for admission outside of the normal age group are provided in the Local Authority admissions process.

### **Late Applications**

Late applications will be administered in accordance with the Local Authority Primary Coordinated Admissions Scheme within which the academy is located. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

### **Applications during the School Year**

Details of the application process are available from the academy and from the Local Authority within which the academy is located. Once an application has been made, it will be passed to the Admissions Committee of the Governing Body for consideration. If the respective year group total is below the published admission number for that year group, the child will be offered a place.

Decision letters will be issued in writing. Offers of places may be withdrawn if they are offered in error, a parent has not responded within 10 school days or it is established that an offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.

In cases involving school transfers that do not require a house move or where there is no need for an immediate move, arrangements may be made for the child to start school at the beginning of term to minimise disruption to their own and other children's education.

If your application is refused you have a statutory right to appeal (see 'Appeals' below). Your appeal should be lodged within twenty school days after the date of your decision letter.

### **Waiting Lists**

Parents whose children have not been offered their preferred school in the normal admissions round will be added to their preferred school's waiting list. Waiting lists for admission will normally remain open until

the end of the Autumn Term in the admission year but schools may maintain waiting lists after this date and for year groups other than the intake year. Please contact the academy to request further details.

Waiting lists are ranked in the same order as the oversubscription criteria listed below. Your child's position on the waiting list may change. This means that a child's waiting list position during the year could go up or down.

Any late applications will be added to the list in accordance with the order of priority for allocating places. Inclusion on a school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

### **Appeals**

If a child is not allocated a place, Parents/Carers have a statutory right to appeal. This should be done by writing to the Clerk to Governors, care of the Academy no later than twenty school days after the decision letter has been received. The appeal will be arranged on behalf of the governors by the Catholic Schools Appeals Service and will be heard by an independent panel. The decision of the panel will be binding on the academy.

### **Fair Access Protocols**

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full.

### **Infant Class Size Regulations**

Infant classes may not, by law, contain more than 30 pupils with a single qualified teacher. Parents/carers should be aware that when the Governing Body is considering applications for places, they must keep to the 30 limit. Parents/Carers do have a right of appeal in accordance with the Infant Class Size Regulations if the school is oversubscribed and their child is refused a place.

### **Applications for twins / multiple birth children**

Where a place available is offered to a child from a twin or multiple birth the Governors will normally offer places to both twins, triplets etc even if this means exceeding the published admission number.

### **Attendance at Nursery**

Attending a nursery, or a pre-school setting on the site of the academy, does not give any priority within the oversubscription criteria for a place in the academy.

### **Fraudulent Information**

If the allocation of a place has been made on the basis of fraudulent or intentionally misleading information, the governors reserve the right to withdraw the place.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

Where an academy has more applications than places available, Governors will draw up a ranked list based on the criteria listed below and will allocate places accordingly.

Children who have an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school will be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available.

**First priority** in all categories will be given to siblings (*see Note 4*) that is, children who will have brothers or sisters attending the academy at the proposed time of admission.

1. Catholic looked after or previously looked after children (*see Notes 1 and 2*)
2. Catholic (*see Note 2*) children living in the parish(es) served by the academy

3. Catholic (*see Note 2*) children living outside these parish(es)
4. Other children who are looked after or previously looked after children (*see Note 1*).
5. Children who are baptised or dedicated members of other churches which belong to 'Churches Together in England' (*See Note 3*).
6. Other children

**If any of the above categories are oversubscribed, priority, (after sibling priority), will be given to pupils whose home address is nearest to the academy with distance measurements being supplied by the Local Authority within which the academy is located (see below).**

In a very few cases, it may not be possible to decide between the applications of those pupils who are the final qualifiers for a place (eg children who live at the same address or have the same distance measurement). In this exceptional situation, if there is no other way of separating the applications then the governors will admit the additional child above the planned admission number. If however, admission would result in the legal limit of 30 children being exceeded, then the place will be allocated by the drawing of lots supervised by someone independent of the Academy.

***Distance measurement – North Lincolnshire***

The distance will be determined by measuring the shortest available route using the public road network from the pupil's home to the main school gate, as determined by the Local Authority. The distance will be measured by using a computerised geographical information system (GIS). Priority will be given to those living nearest to the school using this system. Pupils living in flats where the distance measures the same, priority will be given in ascending order of flat number/letter/floor.

***Distance measurement – North East Lincolnshire***

Distance will be measured by the safest walking route from the front door of the child's home address (including flats) to the main entrance of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

**Note 1 - Definition of looked after children or previously looked after children**

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 s.22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

A "previously looked after child" is a child who:

- (a) ceased to be looked after because they were adopted (this includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 [see s.12 adoption orders] and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 [see s.46 adoption orders] , or
- (b) became subject to a child arrangements order (under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014 - an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live), or
- (c) became subject to a special guardianship order (see S.14A of the Children Act 1989 - an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian [or special guardians]).

**Note 2 - Definition of Catholic**

- A child baptised in the Catholic Church (Roman or Eastern rites) whose members are in full ecclesial and canonical communion with the Bishop of Rome, (Pope Francis). (see footnote\* below). Further advice available from Diocesan Education Service.
- A child baptised in another Christian denomination who has been received into full ecclesial and canonical communion with the Catholic Church

- A child who, with his or her family, is participating in a recognised course of preparation leading to baptism or reception into the Catholic church (parishes are requested to keep appropriate records).

\*Full ecclesial and canonical communion with the Catholic Church requires the recognition that the Bishop of Rome has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered (Catechism of the Catholic Church, §882). For Christians baptised outside of the Catholic Church, the restoration of full ecclesial and canonical communion requires reconciliation and a formal act of reception into full communion. Full communion with the Catholic Church is not established by the reception of Holy Communion alone.

### **Note 3 – Churches Together in England**

See [www.cte.org.uk](http://www.cte.org.uk) for details of ‘member churches of Churches Together in England’.

### **Note 4 - Definition of brothers and sisters (siblings)**

The governors of each academy use the same definition as used by the Local Authority within which the academy is located.

### **Note 5 - Place of Residence**

The governors of each academy use the same definition as used by the Local Authority within which the academy is located.

### **Note 6 - Parents/Carers**

The governors of each academy use the same definition as used by the Local Authority within which the academy is located.