

St Mary's Catholic
Primary School



Admissions Policy
Admissions to Nursery
2024

**Learning and Loving
Caring and Sharing
through
The message of Christ**



**St Mary's Catholic Primary School is
a happy community where we are
loved and valued as individuals.**

**As Disciples of Jesus, we learn
together, pray together and
celebrate together as one in God's
love.**

**Together with parents/carers, the
parish and the wider community,
we prepare our children to live and
build God's kingdom on earth.**

ADMISSIONS TO NURSERY IN SEPTEMBER 2024

The Admissions Policy for the school is based on the requirements of the primary and secondary legislation in force, and in particular:

School Admissions Code – Statutory Code 005/2013, paras 1.9 and 1.10; 2.59 and 2.60 only

School Admissions Appeals Code – Statutory Code 007/2013 Documents issued in July 2013 and January 2014 respectively (Welsh Assembly Government)

The School Standards and Framework Act 1988 – the right to parental preference (s86(1)) and the right of appeal.

The Education Act 2002 – repeal of the right to restrict admission based on a proportion of children from outside the faith group.

The Education Act 2005 – priority for Looked After Children.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006(section 44) –prohibition on interviewing parents and children.

The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006.

Non-statutory guidance is issued also by the Diocese of Wrexham.

The law in Wales does not require a child to start school until the start of the term following the child's fifth birthday. Admission to the Nursery class in accordance with this policy does not entitle a child to a place in the Reception class in September 2025 for which separate arrangements will be in place.

Nursery provision is offered in Saint Mary's on the basis of a half day morning session (two and a half hours per day) five days a week. Children of the age of three are admitted to the Nursery class in the September of the School Year in which they attain their fourth birthday.

There are arrangements in the legislation to deal with in-year requests for admission to the Nursery class. The Governing Body's Admissions Panel will consider these on an ad hoc basis.

The School will admit 48 children in straight Nursery or Nursery/ Reception mixed year classes without any conditions and irrespective of faith. Applications for a place at the school must be made on the appropriate LA forms online and returned to the LA

by the published date at the latest. In addition, the school's 'Supporting Information' forms must be returned to the school no later than the published date.

Oversubscription

If the number of applicants exceeds the Admission number, the Admissions Panel appointed by the Governing Body will apply the following oversubscription criteria in order of priority:

1. Baptised Catholic children who are looked after or previously looked after in public care.
2. Looked after children or previously looked after children who are not of the Catholic faith.
3. Children who have a brother or sister in school on the date of admission. This may be a full, half or step brother or sister and includes siblings who may be adopted or fostered. The Admission arrangements will ensure that multiple birth children are not separated.
4. Baptised Catholic children within the parishes of Wrexham St Mary, Llay (with Rossett) and Ruabon (with Chirk and Llangollen); the parishes the school serves. A map of the Wrexham town area covered by St Mary's Parish is available on request from the School.
5. Baptised Catholic children whose pressing social and pastoral needs can be better met by the school.

For Catholic children in categories 1, 3 and 4, the Admissions Panel will need to see an original Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate, together with a written reference on the prescribed form from the Parish Priest.

For children in category 5, the Admissions Panel will need to see supporting evidence from a doctor, a social worker or the LA as to why the school is the most suitable for the child.

6. Children of other Christian denominations, whose parents have a genuine desire for them to be educated in a Catholic school, and who are fully supportive of its Catholic ethos.

The Admissions Panel will need to see an original Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate, together with a written reference on the prescribed form from the Parish Priest or Minister of Religion

7. Children of other faiths whose parents demonstrate a commitment to the ethos of the school. *A written testimonial from the relevant Minister of Religion/faith leader will be required.*

8. Children whom the LA has asked the school to place.

If there is oversubscription in any of the categories above, the Admissions Panel will offer places to children living nearest to the school as measured by the shortest distance between the home or flat/apartment complex and the nearest school gate, using public highways, and confirmed by the database used by the LA's Transportation Department.

Where a place cannot be offered because of oversubscription the School will maintain a waiting list until the end of September.

Procedures for the Admission Year 2024

1. The school will advertise its admission dates in each of the parishes it serves in September 2023.
2. Admission/preference forms and the 'Supporting Information' form from the parish priest/ minister for 2024 can be accessed on the WCBC website in January 2024. The application should be completed online and the supporting information forms should be returned to the school no later than the published date.
3. The School will organise familiarisation visits for parents who have stated a preference for St Mary's: for non-

Catholic parents this will include a briefing on the Catholic nature of the school, its ethos and curriculum provision.

4. Parents will be notified by **6th May 2024*** whether or not a place has been allocated.

*This date to be confirmed with Wrexham LA

5. If their application is unsuccessful, parents have no right of appeal against a refusal to offer a place.

Notes

1. The Governing Body will need to confirm the arrangements for admissions in **2024** by **15th April 2023**.
2. The Governing Body has already consulted formally on its policy for Admissions in 2018 with the Governing Body of St Anne's Catholic Primary School Wrexham as Admission Authority for the school, and with Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire LAs, together with the Diocese of Wrexham.
3. That consultation raised issues of detail from the LA which required the Governing Body to make minor amendments to the policy.
4. The Admissions Policy for 2024 is the same as that previously the subject of consultation and the Governing Body will therefore determine its Admission arrangements for 2024 before 15th April 2023 and without the need for further consultation.
5. Arrangements for September **2025** and thereafter will need to be considered and determined by the same process and timescale (subject to any statutory variation). The Governing Body has agreed that this shall be a standing item of Governor Business at an Autumn Term meeting of each school year. Depending on the outcome of this annual review, the Governing Body will determine formally whether Consultation in accordance with the Regulations is appropriate or not.