



THE MARIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

With God as our Guide we will value each other and work together to achieve our best

Admissions Policy for 2015 – 2016

THE MARIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
OLD WOKING ROAD, WEST BYFLEET, SURREY KT14 6HS

Tel. 01932 344477 www.marist.surrey.sch.uk

ENQUIRIES FOR ADMISSIONS should be made to Mrs Wort, the Head's PA via the school office.

This Admissions Policy was determined by the Governing Body of The Marist School on 20th March 2014

INTRODUCTION

The Marist Catholic Primary School in West Byfleet is a voluntary aided school in the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton. The school was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church and is in Trusteeship of the Diocese. The school is conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with canon law, the teachings of the Catholic Church and the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton. It seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ.

The school offers a Catholic education. The governors expect that parents applying for places for their children will accept and uphold the Catholic character and ethos of the school. The school was set up primarily to serve the Catholic community in the West Byfleet Parish of Our Lady, Help of Christians. The relevant parish map is attached as an appendix to this policy. Although Catholic children have priority of admission, the Governing Body also welcomes applications from those of other denominations and faiths who support the religious ethos of the school.

Having consulted with the Diocese, Local Authority, other admission authorities and other relevant groups, the Governors intend to admit into the reception class, in September 2015, up to 60 pupils without reference to ability or aptitude.

Oversubscription Criteria:

Where the number of applications for admission exceeds 60, and after the admission of pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs where the school is named on the Statement, the Governors will offer places using the following criteria in the order stated:

1. Baptised Catholic looked after children or previously looked after children (see note a)).
2. Baptised practising Catholic children with a sibling at the school at the time of admission **resident in** the Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, West Byfleet, whose families attend Sunday Mass. Evidence of Baptism and residence will be required (see notes b), d) and g)).
3. Baptised practising Catholic children **resident in** the Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, West Byfleet, whose families attend Sunday Mass. Evidence of Baptism and residence will be required (see note b) and note g)).

4. Baptised practising Catholic children with a sibling at the school at the time of admission **resident outside** the Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, West Byfleet, whose families attend Sunday Mass. Evidence of Baptism and residence will be required (see notes b), d) and g)).
5. Baptised practising Catholic children **resident outside** the Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, West Byfleet, whose families attend Sunday Mass. Evidence of Baptism and residence will be required (see note b) and note g)).
6. Other baptised Catholic children with a sibling at the school at the time of admission (see notes b) and d)).
7. Other baptised Catholic children (see note b)).
8. Children baptised in another Christian denomination and whose parent is enrolled in a programme of preparation to come into full Communion with the Catholic Church for at least 6 months prior to the closing date of applications or 'non-baptised' children who together with a non-baptised parent are enrolled on a programme of preparation to come into full Communion with the Catholic Church for at least 6 months prior to the closing date for applications. This will need to be evidenced by either a certified copy of the entry in the Register of Catechumens or a letter of confirmation from a priest involved in the instruction.
9. Other looked after children or previously looked after children (see note a)).
10. Other children with a sibling at the school at the time of admission (see note (d)).
11. Children who are members of Eastern Orthodox Churches. Evidence of Baptism will be required.
12. Children who are members of other Christian denominations that are part of Churches Together in England. Evidence of Baptism (or dedication) provided by a priest or minister of a designated place of worship will be required.
13. Children who are members of other faiths. Evidence of membership of the faith provided by a priest, minister or religious leader of a designated place of worship will be required.
14. Any other children.

Priority within the Oversubscription Criteria (i.e tiebreakers):

The Governors will apply the following order of priorities within any of the above criteria when applications exceed the number of places available and it is necessary to decide between applications through a priority ranking:

- i. Exceptional social or medical need which make the school particularly suitable for the child in question. Strong and relevant evidence must be provided by an appropriate professional authority (e.g. qualified medical practitioner, education welfare officer, social worker or priest) (see note c)).
- ii. For oversubscription criteria 2,3,4 and 5 concerning practising Catholics above, the strength of evidence of practice of the faith as demonstrated by the level of the child's Mass attendance on Sundays (see notes f) and g). This evidence must be provided by the parent/carer and be endorsed by a priest at the church(es) where the family normally worship. Applications will be ranked in the order shown on the School's Supplementary Information Form i.e. firstly those attending Mass at least three times a month, then once or twice a month, then less than once a month.
- iii. Distance from home (the address at which the child resides) to the school (closest proximity receives highest priority) (see note e)). Evidence of residence will be required.

Admission Procedure

The governing body of The Marist Catholic Primary School is responsible for determining the admission arrangements of the school, including the priority of admissions to the school when the school is oversubscribed. When the application deadline has closed, the Local Authority (LA) provides to the school a list of all applicants who have applied to the school. The school will then rank the applications in strict accordance with its published admission arrangements and provide the LA with the ranked list. The LA is responsible for coordinating the allocation of places in its area, offering individual places to parents on behalf of the school governors on the common offer date.

To apply for a place at this school, you should complete and return the following two forms:

1. The **Common Application Form (CAF)**

All applications for places **must** be made on the Common Application Form which is available either from the Local Authority (where the parent lives) or on that Local Authority's website. For a valid application, the CAF **must** be returned either in the paper form or online by 15th January 2015.

2. The school's **Supplementary Information Form (SIF)**.

This is available from the school and the school website and allows the governors to put all applicants in order of priority for admission in line with the published admission policy. Please note that while completion of the SIF is not mandatory, **if a completed SIF is not received**, the governing body will only be able to consider the application based on information provided to the Local Authority on the CAF. To put this in practical terms, if a completed SIF is not received, it is likely that governors will only be able to rank the application within the last i.e. 'Any other children' criterion. The completed SIF must be returned to the school office by 15th January 2015. You are advised to make a copy of the two forms for your records.

Late Applications

All pieces of paperwork are required on or before the published closing dates referenced above. Late applications (those where it is reasonable that a parent could have submitted an application by the closing date) will only be processed when applications received on time have been dealt with.

Any late applications will be considered by the Governors' Admissions Committee, in the event of there being any available places using the above criteria. If all places have been filled, parents will be offered the opportunity of placing their child's name on the waiting list. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place.

Waiting Lists

If the school is oversubscribed, parents of children who have not been offered a place at the school may ask for their child's name to be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list will be operated using the same admissions criteria listed above. Placing a child's name on the waiting list does not guarantee that a place will become available. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place. The waiting list will be maintained for two years. The waiting list will be ranked in line with the oversubscription criteria each time a child is added to the list.

Appeals

Parents whose applications for places are unsuccessful may appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel set up in accordance with sections 88 and 94 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing and must set out the reasons on which the appeal is made. Appeals should be made to the Admissions Appeal Clerk at the school address. Parents/Carers have the right to make oral representations to the Appeal Panel.

In Year Admissions

The oversubscription criteria in this admission policy will also apply to applications made outside the normal age of entry to primary education (Reception Year) i.e. in succeeding years or during the academic year. In year applications must be made directly to the school.

It is mandatory for applications for in year admissions to The Marist to be made using the form titled **“School managed application for in year admission to The Marist Catholic Primary School (IYA-SMA)”**. The form can be obtained directly from the School and is also available on the School’s web site. Applicants must also submit the School’s Supplementary Information Form (SIF).

Visiting the School

We encourage parents to visit our school in order to find out more about how we work and the education we offer. Parents are offered the opportunity to attend one of our Open mornings, details of which can be found on the School’s website or by contacting the School office. However, such visits do not form part of the process of deciding which children are to be offered a place at the school.

Giving us the wrong information

If a parent/carer is found to have supplied false or incorrect information to gain a place at this school, the governing body reserves the right to withdraw any offer of a place even if the child has already started school. An example of false or incorrect information would be the use of an address that is not the child’s normal residence.

Notes (these form part of the admission arrangements):

- a) *‘Looked after children’ are children who are in the care of the local authority (LA) as defined by section 22(1) of the Children’s Act 1989, at the time an application for a school is made. ‘Previously looked after children’ means such children who were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after. It refers to children who have left care through adoption (in accordance with Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002), a residence order (in accordance with Section 8 of the Children’s Act 1989) or a special guardianship order (in accordance with Section 14A of the Children’s Act 1989).*
- b) *‘Baptised Catholic’ describes a member whose Church of Baptism is ‘in communion with the See of Rome’. The Catholic Church comprises the Latin Rite (Roman Catholics) and the Eastern or Oriental Rite (composed of Catholic (Uniate) Churches—see below). This will be evidenced by a certificate of Baptism in a Catholic Church or certificate of reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.*

<i>Eastern or Oriental Rite Catholic Churches in Full Communion with Rome</i>	
<i>ALEXANDRIAN</i>	<i>Coptic, Ethiopian (Gheez)</i>
<i>ANTIOCHIAN</i>	<i>Malankrese, Maronite, Syrian</i>
<i>ARMENIAN</i>	<i>Armenian</i>
<i>CHALDEAN (EAST SYRIAN)</i>	<i>Chaldean, Syro-Malabar</i>
<i>CONSTANTINOPOLITAN (BYZANTINE)</i>	<i>Albanian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Georgian, Greek (Hellenic), Greek-Melkite, Hungarian, Italo-Albanian, Krizevci, Macedonian, Romanian, Russian, Ruthenian, Slovak (Greek), Ukrainian (Greek)</i>

Notes: 1. Eastern Orthodox Churches, including the Coptic Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Russian Orthodox Churches, are NOT in full communion with the See of Rome. 2. ‘Anglican Ordinariates’ are members of the Latin Rite but those describing themselves as ‘Anglo Catholics’ are members of the Anglican Communion and therefore not in communion with the Holy See. Please refer any queries to the Catholic Schools Service.

- c) *Exceptional medical need: If the child has a serious medical condition/disability such that the parent feels the child must go to this school, this must be specified on the Supplementary Information Form. Governors can only consider applications under this category if supporting evidence is attached, e.g. a letter from a registered health professional, setting out the particular reasons why this school is the most suitable and the difficulties that would be caused if the child attended another school. Governors will make their decision based on the medical evidence provided by the child’s medical consultants. Governors will consult the LA’s medical advisers and only agree to a priority placement if the medical advisers consider it necessary for the child to attend this school. Governors will also take into account any information on exceptional medical need that is provided by the Local Authority from the Common Application Form.*

Exceptional social need: If parents feel there are sensitive, individual and serious family circumstances, perhaps involving the support services (e.g. social care) these may be considered at the time of the application for a school place. This will need to be specified on the Supplementary Information Form

and evidence provided, e.g. a report from social services or from a priest detailing why this school is the most appropriate placement for the child given the circumstances of the case. Governors will also take into account any information on exceptional social need provided by the Local Authority from the Common Application Form.

- d) *Siblings: For admission to this school, a sibling is defined as a brother or sister (i.e. another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), or a half-brother/ half-sister or a step-brother/ step-sister or an adoptive or foster brother/ sister, living at the same address. A child will be given sibling priority if they have a sibling at the school at the time of the child's admission.*

Governors will also take into account any information on siblings provided by the Local Authority from the Common Application Form.

- e) *Distance: Distance will be measured by a straight line from the address point of the child's home, as set by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest school gate available for pupils to use. This is calculated using Surrey County Council Admission and Transport Team's Geographical Information System.*

A child's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only/main residence and not an address that is sometimes used due to certain domestic/special arrangements. The address must be the pupil's home address that applies at the closing date for applications and which is either owned by the child's parent, parents, or guardian OR leased or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement. If parents live separately but share responsibility for the child, and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, the 'home address' will be regarded as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of weekday nights. If it is equal shared custody, it will be up to the parents to agree which address to use. If two addresses are provided, the Local Authority will decide which address should be used as the main residence for the purpose of processing the application as they only accept one current address. Parents/Carers must notify the school about any address changes during the application deadlines to ensure all applications are treated in the same way.

A block of flats has a single address point reference, so applicants living in the same block will be regarded as living the same distance away from the school. In the unlikely event that two or more children live in the same block and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child receives the place.

A similar drawing of lots will take place if any children live equidistant from the school and a single place remains. The drawing of lots will be undertaken by an independent person and be witnessed and recorded.

- f) *Parents/carers/family members: The terms 'parent' or 'carer' are used for all persons who legally have responsibility for the child. Where the admission arrangements refer to parents or the family's attendance at Mass, it is sufficient for just one parent to attend.*
- g) *Practising Catholic: The definition of 'Practising Catholic' for the purpose of admission to this school is membership of the Catholic Church (see note b) and attendance at Sunday Mass (this includes the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening as well as other Masses on Sunday), endorsed by a priest.*
- h) *Starting School at Age 4+: Although children are of compulsory school age from the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday, schools must provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can choose for their child to start school on a part-time or fulltime basis in the September following their fourth birthday. It is recommended that any decision about whether a child attends part-time or full-time is reached in discussion with the headteacher (and, if appropriate, staff at the child's pre-school setting).*

Parents may also request that their child's entry be deferred until later in the same school year. The place allocated is then held and is not available to be offered to another child. If parents do not want their child to start school in the September following their fourth birthday, they should talk to the headteacher (and, if appropriate, the head of the pre-school playgroup/ nursery setting) about when the place is taken up. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the school year for which the original application was accepted. Therefore, if your child becomes four years old between 1 April 2015 and 31 August 2015, the latest date the offer of a place may be deferred would be the start of the summer term 2016.

- i) *Infant Class sizes: Current infant class legislation spells out that infant classes (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single school teacher. Additional children may only be admitted under very limited exceptional circumstances. One of these exceptions is where it is a child whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is allocated the final place in an infant class. This school will allow this exception wherever logistically possible.*
- j) *Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) naming the school on the Statement: These children are admitted under a separate procedure.*

Reminder to Parents:

Have you remembered to complete:

- 1) the Local Authority's Common Application Form (CAF); and***
- 2) the School's Supplementary Information Form (SIF)?***



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Pupil Admission - Supplementary Information Form

This form must be submitted to The Marist School by 15th January 2015

This form should be completed when applying for a place at The Marist Catholic Primary School.

ALL applicants should complete Part 1 and Part 4 (and Part 5, if applicable).

Catholic applicants should also complete Part 2A and hand it to your parish priest or priest at the church where you normally worship for him to complete Part 2B. **You must then return the form to the school.**

If you are not a Catholic but a member of another Christian denomination or from another faith, please also complete part 3A and then hand the form to your minister/faith leader who will add his/ her reference in Part 3B. **You must then return the form to the school.**

- NOTE:**
1. While it is not mandatory to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF), if the school does not receive a completed SIF, it is likely that governors will only be able to rank the application within the last oversubscription criterion
 2. You **must** also complete and return a Common Application Form (available from & returnable to the Local Authority)
 3. Please provide proof of home address and proof of baptism when submitting this form to the school

PART 1 (To be completed by ALL parents or carers submitting this form)

Surname of child:		Forename(s) of child:			
Child's date of birth:		Boy		Girl	
Child's home address*:					
Postcode					
Parent/Carer Name:		Mother:		Father:	
Address (if different from above):					
Contact Tel:			Email:		
Siblings who will be attending the school at the time of admission:					
Faith Declaration: - If your child is a member of the Catholic Church or another denomination or faith, please complete A) or B) below, as appropriate - If neither A) or B) applies to your child, please go straight to Part 4 of this form.					
A) I confirm the child is a member of the Catholic Church		<input type="checkbox"/>		Yes	
Date and place of Baptism (or Reception into Church if applicable): _____ If 'yes', now go to Part 2A					
OR					
B) I confirm the child is a member of another denomination/ faith?		<input type="checkbox"/>		Yes Which denomination/faith? _____	
Date and place of Baptism/Dedication (if applicable): _____ If 'yes', now go to Part 3A					

* This should be a residential property that is your child's only or main residence at which your child spends the majority of weekday nights. (see note (e) in admission policy).

PART 2A (To be completed by CATHOLIC APPLICANTS)

Mass normally attended:	Saturday evening vigil at:	(time)	Sunday Mass at:	(time)
Parish in which you live (e.g. Our Lady's, West Byfleet)			Usual place of worship (if different)	
If you've recently moved to the parish please give details of your previous parish:				
How often does the child attend Mass?	Weekly or at least 3 times/month		Less than once a month	
	Once or twice a month		Do not attend	

PART 2B (To be completed by CATHOLIC PRIESTS ONLY)

I am satisfied that the child is a baptised Catholic (or where applicable), has been received into the Church Yes No

Evidence of the child's practice provided by Parent/carers:

CHILD		
Are the parents known to you?	Yes	No
Attendance at Mass weekly/at least 3 times/ month		
Attendance at Mass once or twice a month		
Attendance at Mass less than once a month		
How long have the parents attended your church?		
Does not attend Mass		

Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians
Madeira Road, West Byfleet, Surrey
Tel. 01932 342892

