

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD23 1SU

Telephone: 01923 493040

Fax: 01923 493041

Email: admin@sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Carolyn Hatch



Admission policy for 2016/2017

Living, learning and loving happily together, with Christ at the Centre

There is no automatic transfer from Nursery to the Reception class.

Formal application to the Board of Governors must be made for entry to Reception.

Admissions to Reception for 2016/2017:

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery exists primarily to provide education for Catholic children in the parish of Sacred Heart & St. John the Evangelist. Applications are invited for September 2016 from families whose child attains 5 years of age between 01/09/2016 and 31/08/2017.

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 is fully supported by all families in the school. All applicants are therefore expected to give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. The school constitution states that religious observance and education in the school shall be in accordance with the practices and doctrines of the Catholic Church. The school's Catholic-centred ethos is reflected in its Mission Statement and supporting aims.

Applications must be made to your own Local Authority (LA) and returned to them in accordance with their instructions. Governors will be informed of all applications made to your own LA and will consider these applications. Applications received after the deadline date will be considered only if the full quota of places has not been filled. Change of status notified before the admissions committee allocation meeting will be considered by the Governors.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school is 40. The Governors will admit up to 40 children into the Reception year group each year. Offers of places will be made to eligible applicants in line with the Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) timetable.

Oversubscription Criteria

In reaching the decision concerning a child's admission to the school, the Governors will give preference to baptised Catholics from practising Catholic families. 'Practising Catholic' means a Catholic child from a practising Catholic family where weekly practice is verified by a Certificate of Catholic Practice from a Catholic priest in the standard format laid down by the Diocese. 'Family' includes the Catholic or Catholics who have legal responsibility for the child.



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD23 1SU

Telephone: 01923 493040

Fax: 01923 493041

Email: admin@sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Carolyn Hatch



The only evidence used by the Governing Body to determine whether or not a child is a member of a practising Catholic family is the Certificate of Catholic Practice. The priest's Certificate of Catholic Practice is only required for criteria 2, 3 and 4. Applicants wishing to be considered for criteria 2, 3 or 4 must submit a Certificate of Catholic Practice along with the fully completed Supplementary Information Form (SIF). The Certificate of Catholic Practice must be submitted even if one has previously been supplied on application to the School Nursery.

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. Catholic 'looked after' children and Catholic children who have been adopted or made subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders, immediately after having been looked after.
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a baptised sibling attending Sacred Heart School at the time of admission, and whose parent(s) is/are practising Catholics.
3. Baptised Catholic children who are resident in the parish of Sacred Heart & St. John the Evangelist and whose parent(s) is/are practising Catholics.
4. Other Baptised Catholic children, whose parent(s) is/are practising Catholics.
5. Baptised Catholic children who have a baptised sibling attending Sacred Heart School at the time of admission, and whose parent(s) is/are not practising Catholics.
6. Baptised Catholic children who do not fit criteria 1-5.
7. Other children looked after (CLA) and children who have been adopted (or made subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after.
8. Christians of other denominations whose parents or guardians wish them to have a Catholic education and who have a brother/sister attending Sacred Heart School at the time of admission.
9. Christians of other denominations whose parents or guardians wish them to have a Catholic education.
10. Non-Christians whose parents or guardians wish them to have a Catholic education and who have a brother/sister attending Sacred Heart School at the time of admission.
11. Any other applicants.

A map of the Parish of Sacred Heart and St John the Evangelist can be found on the school website www.sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk .

In addition to the above categories, the Governors will give top priority to an applicant within a category where compelling evidence is provided from the appropriate authorities (for example a letter from a registered health professional such as a doctor or social worker), at the time of application, of an exceptional social, medical, pastoral or other need of the child, which can only be met at this school.



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD23 1SU

Telephone: 01923 493040

Fax: 01923 493041

Email: admin@sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Carolyn Hatch



Pupils with a Statement or EHCP

The admission of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are dealt with by a completely separate procedure. This procedure is integral to the making and maintaining of statements by the pupil's home LA. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. If your child has a Statement of SEN or EHC plan you must contact your local authority SEN officer.

Multiple applications from the same family

The Governing Body will admit twins, triplets or other multiple applications from one family for the same year group, or armed forces personnel even if the statutory limit of 30 places is exceeded only if one child has been allocated the last place available.

Tie Break

Where the offer of places to all the applicants in any of the sub-categories listed above would still lead to oversubscription, the places up to the admission number will be offered to those living nearest to the school, distance as measured by Hertfordshire County Council.

Application Procedure and Timetable

In order to make an application, a **Common Application Form (CAF)** from your local authority must be completed. The **School's Supplementary Information Form (SIF)** should also be completed. The information on the SIF enables the Governing Body to assess your application fully against the school's criteria in the event of oversubscription. The SIF is obtainable from the school and also from the school website www.sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk. The Certificate of Catholic Practice can be downloaded from the school website and taken to your parish priest to be signed. The SIF, the Certificate of Catholic Practice and a copy of the Baptismal Certificate should all be returned to school to complete your application.

If **both** forms described above are not completed and returned by 15 January 2016, the Governing Body may be unable to consider an application fully and it is very unlikely that a place will be offered. Applications received after this time will be dealt with after the initial allocation process has been completed.

Closing date for online applications to be submitted to the LA	15 January 2016
Statutory deadline for receipt of paper applications	15 January 2016
Applications forwarded to F/VA Schools and Academies	5 February 2016
F/VA Schools/Academies provide LA with ranked list of applicants	25 February 2016
Allocation information available to primary schools	14 April 2016
Offer letters posted for delivery	18 April 2016
Date by which parents/carers to accept or reject place offered	2 May 2016
Date by which parents/carers return appeal forms	TBC



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD23 1SU

Telephone: 01923 493040

Fax: 01923 493041

Email: admin@sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Carolyn Hatch



Appeals

Unsuccessful applicants will be advised of their right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. Reasons related to the oversubscription criteria listed above will be given. The Governing Body can be contacted by writing to the school. At transfer time Hertfordshire parents wishing to appeal who applied on line should log into their online application and click on the link 'register an appeal'. If you did not apply using Hertfordshire's on line application system please contact the Customer Service Centre on 0300 123 4043 to request an appeal pack. For In Year applications parents wishing to appeal should contact the school directly in the first instance.

Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful candidates will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained for this academic year in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and **not** in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. In the event of a place being offered, the Governing Body will allocate in line with the criteria. Children are automatically removed from the waiting list at the end of the academic year.

Fair Access Protocols

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 admissions round the Governing Body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol that has been agreed by both the Diocese and the Governing Body for the current school year. The Governing Body has this power even when admitting a vulnerable and/or hard to place child would mean exceeding the published number.

Cross Border Co-ordination

Parents must apply for Primary places on their home Local Authority's application form.

DEFINITIONS

'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. For the purposes of the admission policy, the definition of a Catholic includes a looked after child who is part of a Catholic family where a Priest's Certificate of Catholic Practice demonstrates that the child would have been baptised or received if it were not for their status as a looked after child (e.g. a looked after child in the process of adoption by a Catholic family).

'children looked after' Places are allocated to children in public care according to Chapter 7, Section 2 of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012. These children will be prioritised under rule 1. Highest priority will also be given to children who were looked after,



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD23 1SU

Telephone: 01923 493040

Fax: 01923 493041

Email: admin@sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Carolyn Hatch



but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a residence order or a special guardianship order.

A child looked after is a child who is:

- In the care of a local authority, or
- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (section 22(1) of The Children Act 1989)
- Children in the process of being placed for adoption are classified by law as children looked after providing there is a Placement Order and the application would be prioritised under Rule 1.

'resident' This is where a child legally resides for more than 50% of the school week. The address of another relative or a temporary address is not acceptable unless there is a residency order at this address. Any attempt to mislead the school will render the application void and/or any subsequent offer of a place will be withdrawn. Families in the process of moving house must refer to the additional information in the HCC "Applying for a School Place" booklet.

'sibling' This is the sister, brother, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister or step brother and sister, and in every case living in the same house on Monday to Friday.

'distance' This will be measured by County using a 'straight line' distance measurement from the address point of the child's home to the address point of the school. Distances are measured using a computerised mapping system to two decimal places. The measurement is taken from the AddressBase Premium address point of your child's house to the address point of the school. AddressBase Premium data is a nationally recognised method of identifying the location of schools and individual residences.

'Special Guardianship Order' A Special Guardianship Order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.14A which defines it as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s).

'Child Arrangements Order' A Child Arrangements Order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8 settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live. Children 'looked after' immediately before the order is made qualify in this category.

'parent' Means the adult or adults with legal responsibility for the child.

'practising Catholic' Means a Catholic child from a practising Catholic family where weekly practice is verified by a reference from a Catholic priest in the standard format laid down by the Diocese. 'Family' includes the Catholic or Catholics who have legal responsibility for the child.



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD23 1SU

Telephone: 01923 493040

Fax: 01923 493041

Email: admin@sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Carolyn Hatch



‘Christian’ For the purposes of this policy, means a member of one of the Churches affiliated to ‘Churches Together in Britain and Ireland’.

Age of Admission and Deferral of Places

The school’s policy is that children born on and between 1 September and 31 August would normally commence primary school in Reception in the academic year beginning in September. All Hertfordshire infant, first and primary schools provide for the full-time admission of all children offered a place in the Reception year group from the September following their fourth birthday. If a parent wants a full-time place for their child from September (at the school at which a place has been offered) then they are entitled to that full-time place.

Parents can defer the date their child is admitted to school until later in the same academic year or until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age. Summer born children are only able to “defer” entry to Reception class until the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Where parents wish, children can attend part-time until they reach compulsory school age. Any parents wishing to take up a part-time place or deferred entry should contact the individual school(s) to discuss their child’s requirements.

Reception intake and summer born children

Legally, a child does not have to start school until the start of the term following their fifth birthday. Recent guidance (8 September 2015) from the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb, has indicated that the government intends to amend the School Admissions Code to allow summer born children to be admitted to the Reception class at age 5 if it is in line with their parents’ wishes. Summer born children are those born between 1 April 2012 and 31 August 2012. Currently summer born children are expected to start Reception at the age of 4.

In anticipation of this change to School Admissions Code, which will require public consultation, the school has amended its policy regarding summer born children. If your child was born between 1 April and 31 August 2012, and you do not believe they will be ready to start Reception in the 2016/17 academic year, you may instead make an application for your child to start Reception in September 2017.

Children Educated Out of Their Chronological Age Group

Any application for a child to be educated out of his/her age group will be considered by governors on an individual basis and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Parents should write to the Chair of Governors during the Autumn term in the (academic) year of application, giving reasons and providing compelling professional evidence.



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD23 1SU

Telephone: 01923 493040

Fax: 01923 493041

Email: admin@sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Carolyn Hatch



In-Year Admissions

Applications for In-Year admissions are made directly to the school. If a place is available and there is no waiting list, the child will be admitted. If there is a waiting list, then applications will be ranked by the Governing Body in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. If a place cannot be offered at this time then you may ask us for the reasons and you will be informed of your right of appeal. You will be offered the opportunity of being placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained by the Governing Body in the order of the oversubscription criteria and not in the order in which the applications are received. Names are removed from the list at the end of each academic year. When a place becomes available the Governing Body will decide who is at the top of the list and make an offer.

