

Admission Information

St George and St Teresa School Nursery Admission Criteria – 2017/18

St George and St Teresa Nursery Admission Criteria for Children

Nursery education is provided at St George and St Teresa School for children beginning in September following their third birthday. For September 2017/18, this will apply to children born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014. We offer five half-day sessions per week. These are for three hours per morning session. There is no charge for this provision although currently a contribution of £20 per term is requested for the Nursery Fund. We offer additional **childcare facilities on site**, offering either a top-up to half-day sessions or full-time childcare during term-time. This is called wrap-around provision.

You must apply for a nursery place on the Solihull Council nursery application form. This form must be completed and returned by the published date. If you have any queries please telephone the School Admissions Team at Solihull Council on 0121 704 6693 or contact our school office 01564 774906. The nursery application form allows you to make three equal preferences. These preferences can be for any school in Solihull. You will be asked to rank the schools in order of preference, putting your favourite school first. Additional details of admission are available in the Solihull Primary Education – A Parents' Guide.

Governors' Nursery admission policies are quite distinct and separate from those of the main school of St George and St Teresa. Parents are advised that admission to Nursery Class does not guarantee a place in the Reception Class. To avoid misunderstandings later, all parents will be requested to sign a statement acknowledging that they recognize that it may not be possible for their child to be subsequently offered a place in Reception. Parents of children in Nursery Classes must complete an application form in order to apply for a place in the Reception Class in the school when it will be considered against the criteria for admissions. Attendance at the school's Nursery will provide no advantage when applying to the school's Reception Class.

St George and St Teresa Catholic Primary School

The Admission process is part of the Solihull LA co-ordinated scheme. The Admission policy of the Governors of St George and St Teresa School is as follows:

The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. 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 Jesus Christ. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the rights of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

The School's Admission Number for the school year 2017/18 is 30.

If the number of applications exceeds the admission number, the governors will give priority to applications in accordance with the criteria listed, provided that the governors are made aware of the application before decisions on admissions are made. (See note 1 below) If there is over-subscription within a criterion, the governing body will give priority to children living closest to the school determined by shortest distance. (See Note 4)

A map of the parish boundary is available at the school and parish church or by post on request.

Nursery Admissions Criteria September 2017/18

If our school receives more applications than it has nursery places available, places will be allocated in accordance with the following criteria.

1. Baptised Catholic children who are in the care of the local authority (looked-after children) or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents) (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989), and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
2. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) living within the Parish of St George and St Teresa of the Child Jesus who have a brother or sister (see Note 3 below) at the school at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children living within the Parish of St George and St Teresa of the Child Jesus.
4. Other Baptised Catholic children who have a brother or sister in the school at the time of admission.
5. Other Baptised Catholic children.
6. Non-Catholic children who are in the care of the local authority (looked-after children or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents) (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989), and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.
7. Non-Catholic children who have a brother or sister in the school at the time of admission.
8. Non-Catholic children.

Please note that the parish of St George & St Teresa of the Child Jesus includes Balsall Common.

OVER-SUBSCRIPTION

If there is over-subscription within a category, the Governors will give priority to children living closest to the school. Distances are measured by the Local Authority's computerised admissions system. The admissions system uses six-figure grid references provided by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). The grid references provide a unique point on each property (see Note 4 below).

St George and St Teresa Catholic Primary School

Admission to School – Beyond Nursery

The first year of your child's school is called Reception. You will need to apply for your child's school place in the October prior to your child starting school.

Admission to our Reception Class for September 2017/18 is for children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013.

Children who are in the Key Stage One will move to Key Stage Two in the September following their seventh birthday.

The admissions process is part of the Solihull LA co-ordinated scheme.

The reception form may be obtained via the school admissions office at Solihull Council House. The office may be contacted by telephoning 0121 704 6693. The reception application form allows you to make three equal preferences. These can include any school in Solihull. You will be asked to rank schools in order of preference, putting your preferred school first.

All applications must be received by the published closing date.

The Admission Policy of the Governors of St George and St Teresa School is as follows:

The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. 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 Jesus Christ. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the rights of the parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

The School's Admission Number for the school year 2017/2018 is 30.

If the number of applications exceeds the admission number, the governors will give priority to applications in accordance with the criteria listed, provided that the governors are made aware of the application before decisions on admissions are made. (See note 1 below) If there is over-subscription within a criterion, the governing body will give priority to children living closest to the school determined by shortest distance. (See Note 4)

A map of the parish boundary is available at the school and parish church or by post on request.

1. Baptised Catholic children who are in the care of the local authority (looked-after children) or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents) (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
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3. Baptised Catholic children living within the Parish of St George and St Teresa of the Child Jesus.
4. Other Baptised Catholic children who have a brother or sister in the school at the time of admission.
5. Other Baptised Catholic children.
6. Non-Catholic children who are in the care of the local authority (looked-after children) or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents) (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.

7. Non-Catholic children who have a brother or sister in the school at the time of admission.
8. Non-Catholic children.

Please note that the parish of St George & St Teresa of the Child Jesus includes Balsall Common.

Note 1

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that names the school must be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to applicants.

Note 2

In all categories, for a child to be considered as a Catholic, evidence of Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Church will be required. For a definition of a Baptised Catholic see the Appendix. Those who face difficulties in producing written evidence of Catholic Baptism should contact their Parish Priest.

Parents making an application for a Catholic child should also complete the school's supplementary information form (SIF). Failure to complete the SIF/provide evidence of Catholic Baptism/Reception may affect the criterion the child's name is placed in.

Note 3

The definition of a brother or sister is:

- *A brother or sister sharing the same parents;*
- *Half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one common parent;*
- *Step-brother or step-sister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage;*
- *Step-brother or step-sister;*
- *Adopted or fostered children.*

The children must be living permanently in the same household.

Note 4

Distances are calculated on the basis of a straight-line measurement between the applicant's home address and the school. The Local Authority uses a computerised system which measures all distances in miles. British National grid references are used to plot the school and an applicant's home address within this system.

In a very small number of cases it may not be able to decide between the applicants of those pupils who are qualifiers for a place, when applying the published admission criteria. For example, this may occur when children in the same year group live at the same address, or if the distance between the home and school is exactly the same, for example, blocks of flats. If there is no other way of separating the application according to the admissions criteria and to admit both or all of the children would cause the legal limit to be exceeded, the local authority will use a computerised system to randomly select the child to be offered the final place. As an exception, the governing body will give careful consideration to offering places above the Admission Number to applications from children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted even when there are no other vacant places.

The home address of a pupil is considered to be the permanent residence of a child. The address must be the child's only or main residence for the majority of the school week. Documentary evidence may be required.

Where care is split equally between mother and father, parents must name which address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place.

SCHOOL ENTRY

Children must, by law, start school by the beginning of the term after their fifth birthday. A parent may defer a child's entry to the school, but not beyond the academic year for which the application is accepted. Parents may discuss this with the Headteacher.

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

In Solihull children start Primary School from September following their fourth birthday. The first year of school is called the Reception year. You will need to apply for your child's first place as laid down by the dates to be published by the LA before commencement in September. All school application forms must be completed and returned by the elected date and will be treated equally. Returning your application form after this date may affect the offer of a school place. Offer and refusal letters will be sent to parents on the published dates as the LA timetable.

Application for classes with the exception of Reception Class may be made when a place is required.

Applications for children to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group

If parents wish for their child to be considered for admission to a class outside of their normal age group, they should make an application for the normal age group in the first instance. Parents should then submit a formal request to the Governing Body. This request should be in the form of a written letter of application outlining the reasons why you wish for your child to be considered to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group, and enclosing any supportive evidence and documentation that you wish to be taken into account as part of that request. The Governing Body will consider applications submitted and advise the parents of the outcome of their application before the national offer day, having taken into account the information provided by the parents, the child's best interests and the views of the Headteacher.

If parents are considering submitting an application for their child to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group, it is strongly recommended that they also read DFE Guidance which can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission>.

NURSERY

The school has a separate admission policy for Nursery children. Admission to our Nursery Class does not guarantee a child a place in our mainstream classes Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of St George and St Teresa School, as there is a separate admission criteria for this. All parents will still have to re-apply for places in the Reception Class of their preferred school. To avoid misunderstanding later, it is requested that all parents offered a place in our Nursery, sign a statement acknowledging that they recognise that it may not be possible for their child to be offered a place in our Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

CONSIDERING AN APPLICATION

Parents are welcome to visit the school but this visit is not part of the Admissions process.

Once you have decided you would like to send your child/children to this school, you must complete an application form from the Local Authority.

APPEALS

Parents who wish to appeal against the decision of the Governors to refuse their child a place in the school may apply in writing to Chair of Governors. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel. The Nursery has a separate admission policy and four year olds entering the Nursery do not have rights of appeal. It is only mainstream school aged pupils.

REPEAT APPLICATIONS

Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time outside the admissions round. Parents do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the admission authority has accepted a second application from the appellant because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Applications received after the closing date will only be considered alongside those received by the closing date under the following circumstances:

- The family were unable to complete an application form before the closing date because they moved into the school's parish area after the issue of application forms OR
- The family were unable to comply with the admissions timetable because of exceptional circumstances which prevented the application arriving on time – the circumstances must be given in writing and attached to the Application Form.

Applications received after the notification date (after places are offered) will be added to the school's waiting list in admission criteria order.

WAITING LISTS

Waiting lists for admission will remain open until the end of December 2017 and will then be discarded. Parents may apply for their child's name to be reinstated until the end of the academic year when the list will be discarded. The waiting list will be kept by the governing body in admission criteria order. When a new child joins the waiting list, all applicants on this list will be re-ranked to ensure that the list is always maintained in over-subscription order. This means that a child's position on the waiting list could go up or down. Inclusion of a child's name on the waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

Children who are the subject of a direction by a local authority to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol take precedence over those on the waiting list.

APPLICATIONS OTHER THAN THE NORMAL INTAKE TO RECEPTION CLASS (In-year applications)

An application should be made to the local authority who will need to consult with the governors.

There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to this school.

DEFINITION OF A “BAPTISED CATHOLIC”

A “Baptised Catholic” is one who:

- Has been baptised into full communion (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 837) with the Catholic Church by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various ritual Churches in communion with the See of Rome (i.e. Latin Rite, Byzantine Rite, Coptic, Syriac, etc, Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1203). Written evidence* of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place (Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, 877 & 878).

Or

- Has been validly baptised in a separated ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the *Right of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church*. Written evidence of their baptism and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases, a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the *Rite of Reception* took place (Cf. *Rite of Christian Initiation*, 399).

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF BAPTISM

The Governing bodies of Catholic schools will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Baptism or Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of “Baptised Catholics”. A Certificate of Baptism or Reception is to include: the full name, date of birth, date of Baptism or Reception, and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of Baptism or Reception.

Those who would have difficulty obtaining written evidence of Catholic Baptism/Reception for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to their parish priest who, after consulting the Vicar General, will decide how the question of Baptism/Reception is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

Those who would be considered to have good reason for not obtaining written evidence would include those who cannot contact the place of Baptism/Reception due to persecution or fear, the destruction of the church and the original records, or where Baptism/Reception was administered validly but not in the Parish church where records are kept.

Governors may request extra supporting evidence when the written documents that are produced do not clarify the fact that a person was baptised or received into the Catholic Church, (i.e. where the name and address of the Church is not on the certificate or where the name of the Church does not state whether it is a Catholic Church or not.)

PRIMARY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, SOLIHULL

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

School Name: **St George & St Teresa Catholic Primary School**

The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. 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 Jesus Christ. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Child's Surname | |
| Child's First Name(s) | |
| Date of Birth | |
| Address | |
| Contact Number | |

Please tick the appropriate box:

| | | | | |
|---|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| Is the above named child a Baptised Catholic or been Received into the Catholic Church? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is the certificate of Catholic Baptism/ Reception attached? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

A certificate of Catholic Baptism/Reception should be provided in order for the application to be considered in a Catholic category. Failure to provide evidence of Catholic Baptism/Reception may affect the criterion the child's name is placed in.

To help all the Catholic Primary Schools in Solihull ensure that children's applications are placed in the appropriate category for admissions we would like to share Baptism information between Solihull Primary Catholic Schools. This makes the process easier and fairer for parents and schools. Please indicate below your agreement for us to do this.

Please tick the appropriate box:

| | | | | |
|--|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| I/We are happy for Baptism information to be shared amongst Catholic Schools | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|

Please note that you must complete a local authority application form. This supplementary information form is only for school use to enable the governing body to rank applicants using the published criteria.