

Nursery arrangements for 2026-2027

St Mary's is an academy within the All Saint's Trust. Each school is conducted by the All Saint's Trust as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and articles of association and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 be 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.

Preference will be given to Catholic children whose application is accompanied by a Baptismal Certificate and a Certificate of Catholic Practice from the Parish Priest at the Church where the family usually worships. Verification of address may also be required.

Applications are welcome from families whose child reaches his/her 3rd birthday between 1st September 2025 and 31st August 2026. Currently, the school offers 26 full time Nursery places.

The Governing Body is the Admission Authority and as such is fully responsible for all admissions to the school.

Oversubscription criteria

If there are more applications than our published admissions number of 26 places, the Governors will offer places in accordance with the following criteria, listed in order of priority:

1. Catholic looked after children and previously looked after Catholic children who have been adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having being looked after.
2. Baptised Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice from the priest at the parish where the family normally worships.
3. Children who have been baptised as Catholics or received into the Catholic Church.
4. Other looked after children and other previously looked after children who have been adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after.
5. Children of Catechumens or members of an Eastern Christian Church.
6. Members of other Christian Churches whose practice is supported by either a baptism certificate or a letter from their priest or minister confirming membership of the parish community.
7. Any other children.

Note 1: The Governing Body will give top priority after the appropriate category of looked-after children, to an application where compelling evidence is provided at the time of application, from an appropriate professional such as a doctor, priest or social worker, of an exceptional social, medical, pastoral or other need of the child, which can only be met at this school.

Note 2: In each of the above categories, the presence of a brother or sister, foster or half brother or sister or step brother or sister in the school at the time of admission will increase priority within that category.

Note 3: Where the admission of twins or all siblings from a multiple birth would cause the school to rise above 26, both twins or all of the siblings will be admitted.

Note 4: Address used will be the address where the child spends 50% or more of the school week.

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Where all else is equal, higher priority will be accorded to the child living nearest to the school, the distance being measured by a straight line from the front door of child's house to the main entrance of school. Where there are applicants living in flats at the same address, the distance will include the distance from the front door of the flat within the building i.e. the flat nearest to the main door to the building will have priority. This distance is measured by the Local Authority.

Fair Access

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 Governing Body and the Diocese for the current school year. The Governing Body has the power even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number

The completed St Mary's form should be returned along with a copy of the child's baptismal certificate and to St Mary's School by the closing date which will be 15th January 2025.

The closing date for applications will be 15th January 2026.

Notes (these notes form part of the over-subscription criteria)

"Looked after child" has the same meaning as in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989, and means any child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents).

"Adopted". An adopted child applies to all children with proof of adoption.

"Child Arrangements Order". A Child Arrangements Order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8 which defines it as an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live.

"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).

"Parent" is the person or persons who have legal responsibility for the child.

'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 in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the

purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child who is part of a Catholic family where a letter from a priest 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).

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest who, after consulting with the Diocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the laws of the Church.

“Sibling” refers to brothers and sisters, step brothers and sisters, half brothers and sisters or adopted brothers and sisters.

“Home Address” is defined as the address at which the child resides for at least 50% of the school week.

“Catechumen” means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the order of catechumens.

“Eastern Christian Church” includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.

“Children of other Christian denominations” means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God’s revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God’s will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England and CYTŪN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.