

PENISTONE ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2009-2010

The Governing Body of Penistone St John the Baptist CE (VA) Junior School is the admissions authority for the school, not the Local Authority.

Making an application

Applications for admission to the school should be made on the common application form enclosed with the Local Authority's admission booklet by the closing date of 13 November 2009.

If you wish to apply under Christian Commitment Criteria you must complete a copy of the School's Information Form (SIF) in the Admissions Booklet and return the SIF with your common application form.

Admission procedures

The admission number for the school is 68. This arrangement follows consultation between the Governing Body, the Diocesan Board of Education, Local Authorities and other admissions authorities in the area. The Governing Body will not place any restrictions on admissions unless the number of children for whom admission is sought exceeds this number

The Local Authority operates a co-ordinated admissions scheme and administers a system of equal preferences under which all applications are considered equally and the Governing Body allocates the available places in accordance with its published admissions policy. In the event that there are more applications than places available, the Governing Body will allocate places using the following criteria, which are listed in order of priority. The Local Authority will inform parents of the offer of a place on 5 April 2010.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The School will admit children with statements of Special Educational Needs in which The School is named on the Statement.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Where the number of applications for Penistone St John the Baptist CE (VA) Junior School received during the normal admissions round exceeds the admission number of the school the Governing Body will apply the following criteria in strict order of priority

- 1 Looked After Children (A child who is looked after by the Local Authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989).
- 2 A child who, or whose parents/guardians, resides within the parishes of Penistone St John the Baptist and Thurlstone St Saviour's, or whose parents/guardians are on the electoral roll of those churches, and who are:
 - a) **'At the heart of the church'**
A regular worshipper. A person who worships at least twice per month. The worshipper could be one or both parents or the child.
 - b) **'Attached to the church'**
A regular but not frequent worshipper. A person who usually attends a monthly family or church parade service or is regularly involved in a weekday church activity including an element of worship.

A 'Supplementary Information Form' (SIF) to provide confirmation of Christian commitment is available in the admissions booklet. The form should be signed by the Vicar, Rector, Priest in Charge, etc. During an interregnum the form should be signed by a Churchwarden.

Parents having moved to become resident in the parish(es) mentioned above, having been on the Electoral Roll of another Anglican parish, will qualify upon proof of membership being provided by the priest of that other parish.

- 3 Children at present on roll at Penistone St. John the Baptist CE (VC) Infant School: **(See Notes 1, 2 & 3)**
- 4 A child who has a brother or sister (including a half-, step- or adoptive brother or sister) attending the school at the proposed date of admission. **(See note 4 – Siblings)**
- 5 Other children

Please note that there is no automatic right of entry from the Infant to the Junior school.

NOTES

- 1 A map showing the ecclesiastical parish boundary(ies) is available at the school.

If there are more applications in a particular category than the number of places available, the remaining places will be offered to the children whose permanent address is nearest to school – the distance being calculated (in a straight line) from the school's front door to the front door of the child's permanent address (Local authority map system).

A map showing the admissions priority area for admissions is available at the school.

2 Parents

'Parents' include all those people who have a parental responsibility for a child as set out in the Children Act 1989. Where responsibility for a child is 'shared', the person receiving Child Benefit is deemed to be the parent responsible for completing application forms, and whose address will be used for admissions purposes.

3 Home Address and Residing in

The Home Address will be the address used for correspondence related to where "Child Benefit" is paid. In cases where there is doubt of the home address or where a child lives between two homes (split families) or other relevant circumstances, proof of the Home Address must be provided to the school to confirm the address used on the application form. Home address will be the address that complies with the above at the closing date for applications set by the Local Authority.

Families who are due to move house should provide

- i) a Solicitor's letter confirming that exchange of Contracts has taken place on the purchase of a property; or
- ii) a copy of the current Rental Agreement, signed by both the Tenants and the Landlords, showing the address of the property; or
- iii) in the case of SERVING H.M. Forces personnel, an official letter confirming their date of posting from the MOD, FCO or GCHQ.

4 The term "Sibling" is defined as:

- a full or half brother or sister
- a step brother or sister
- an adoptive brother or sister
- the children of parents living together in the same family household.

Step-brother, step-sister, half-brother and half-sister are defined as children who belong to only one parent living in the same family household. The Governing Body will, as far as possible, admit twins, triplets or children from other multiple births as long as they comply with the infant class size regulations.

5 Waiting List

Parents who wish their child to be included on the waiting list must inform the school in writing. Any places that become available will be allocated according to the published oversubscription criteria of the admission policy with no account being taken of the length of time on the waiting list or any priority order expressed as part of the main admission round.

In accordance with paragraph 3.27 of The Admissions Code. - As soon as school places become vacant The Governing Body must fill the vacancies from any waiting list, even if this is before admission appeals have been heard. Placing a child's name on a waiting list does not affect a parent's right of appeal against an unsuccessful application.

The waiting list will be reviewed and revised:

- each time a child is added to, or removed from, the waiting list
- when a child's changed circumstances will affect their priority
- at the end of each school year, when parents with a child on the waiting list will be contacted and asked if they wish to remain on the list for the following school year.

It should be noted that children who are the subject of direction by a local authority to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with an In-Year Fair Access Protocol (paragraph 3.28 of The Admissions Code), **must** take precedence over those on a waiting list. Where an admission authority holds a waiting list, they **must** make clear in their admission arrangements that these children will take precedence over any child already on that list. Legislation

enables this to be done immediately without the need to apply to the Schools Adjudicator for a variation in determined admission arrangements¹.

6 Appeals

Where the governors are unable to offer a place because the school is over subscribed, parents have the right to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, as amended by the Education Act, 2002.

Parents who intend to make an appeal against the Governing Body's decision to refuse admission must submit a notice of appeal to:

The Clerk to Aided School Appeal Panel
Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education
Church House
1 South Parade
Wakefield
WF1 1LP

Telephone : 01924 371802

Within twenty one days of receiving the refusal letter.

Normally appeal hearings will be held within six weeks of the closing date for receiving the notice of appeal.

If your child was refused a place in Reception or Key Stage 1 because of Government limits on Infant class sizes, the grounds on which your appeal could be successful are limited. You would have to show that the decision was one which in the circumstances no reasonable Governing Body would have made, or that your child would have been offered a place if the governors' admissions arrangements had been properly implemented.

Please note that this right of appeal against the Governors' decision does not prevent you from making an appeal in respect of any other school.

¹ The School Admissions (Alteration and Variation of, and Objections to, Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/xxxx)