

Admission Policy for St Helen's Catholic Primary School 2011-2012

Introduction

St Helen's Catholic Primary School is a Church aided school in the Diocese of Hallam and is maintained by Barnsley LA. This means that the members of Parish and the Diocese of Hallam have contributed towards the cost of building the school and continue to care for its buildings and its people.

The school provides distinctive Christ centred, Catholic education for children aged 4+ to 11+ years, with priority being given to children who live and worship within the parish of Corpus Christi.

It is a Voluntary Aided School in which the Governing Body is responsible for admissions. It is guided in that responsibility by the requirements of law, by advice from the Diocesan Trustees and its duty to the Catholic community and the Common Good.

Please note that admission to St Helen's Catholic Primary School does not guarantee admission to a Catholic High School, which has its own admission policy.

The admission number for 2011/2012 is 20.

Co-ordinated Scheme for Admission Arrangements

The co-ordinated scheme for admissions is a mechanism that ensures that all parents/carers resident in Barnsley LA and who have expressed a preference for St Helen's Catholic Primary School before the closing date will receive a single offer of a school place on the same day from the Authority. In order to provide every parent with an offer of one single place the Authority will be working with the Governing Bodies of the Voluntary Aided primary schools within the Barnsley area, including St Helen's Catholic Primary School. Details of the co-ordinated scheme can be obtained from the Authority.

Applications are made by the completion of the COMMON APPLICATION FORM and the Diocese of Hallam ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FORM both of which are to be found in the LA ADMISSION BOOKLET.

Parental Preference

The Local Authority Common Application Form provides the opportunity for parents/carers to express up to three choices of schools in rank order of preference. You are invited to submit up to three ranked preferences on the Local Authority's Common Application Form. Applications will be considered on an Equal Preference basis, ranking by preference will only be used in the final allocation for a place where there is more than one potential offer.

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU NEED ANY HELP IN APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

Date of Admission to the School for 2011-2012

Although the law does not require children to be admitted to school until the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday, the School Admissions Code makes provision for all children to be admitted to school in the September following their 4th birthday. Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Criteria for Admission:

Please note that children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs that names the school are required by law to be admitted.

Where there are more applications for admission than the planned admission number stated (footnote 1), the Governing Body will apply the following criteria in strict order of priority:

Should the planned admission number be reached mid category, the Governing Body, as the admissions authority will make a decision based on distance – measured by a straight line between the centre point of the child's ordinary place of residence and the main entrance to the school building.

Category One

Catholic children (see footnote 2) who:-

- a) are in Public Care (Looked After Children)
- b) are siblings (footnote 3) of Catholic children attending St Helen's Catholic school at the time of admission
- c) live and worship within the parish of Corpus Christi.
- d) who live or worship within the parish of Corpus Christi

Category Two

Children in Public Care (Looked After Children) who are not baptised Catholics

Category Three

Children who have siblings (footnote 3) attending St Helen's Catholic Primary School at the time of admission.

Category Four

Catholic children who live and worship in other Catholic parishes but who do not have a sibling in the school.

Category Five

Children who are worshipping members of other Christian Churches, who are full members of Churches Together in England (footnote 4) at the time of application, whose parents have sought the written support of their minister and live within the parish of Corpus Christi.

Category Six

Children who are worshipping members of other World Faiths whose parents wish their children to be educated in a Christ centred environment and whose parents have the written support of their Religious Leader.

Category Seven

Children who are baptised members of other Christian faiths.

Category Eight

Children whose parents are seeking a Christian environment for their children's education.

Category Nine

Other children

Footnotes:

Footnote 1.

This number has been calculated according to the capacity of the school, which the law defines and has been agreed with Barnsley LA

Footnote 2

"Catholic children" are children who have been baptised into the Roman Catholic Church, those formally received into the Roman Catholic Church, or those whose parents have been formally received into the Roman Catholic Church, Catechumens, Candidates for Reception (those formally preparing to be received into the Roman Catholic Church) or those members of Churches who are in Full Communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

Definition of a Catechumen

Catechumens are those children who have expressed an explicit desire to be baptised into the Roman Catholic Church and who are currently preparing to receive the same by regular participation in Sunday worship and a recognised programme of preparation.

Definition of a Candidate for Reception

Candidates for Reception into Full Communion with the Roman Catholic Church are already baptised in another Christian Tradition, who have expressed an explicit desire to be incorporated into the Roman Catholic Church and who are currently preparing to be received into the Church by regular participation in Sunday worship and a recognised programme of preparation. It is advisable that records of any such reception or incorporation are maintained by the parish.

A list of those Churches which are in Full Communion with the Roman Catholic Church is available from the Diocesan Schools' Department (0114 2566440)

Footnote 3

For the sibling criterion to be applicable one of the following conditions must exist:

- A) brother and/or sister to be permanently resident at the same address
- B) stepbrother and/or stepsister to be permanently resident at the same address (to include half brother/sisters)

Footnote 4

Churches Together in England

For the most up to date list please see www.churches-together.org.uk or contact the school. Confirmation of full membership of Churches Together in England should be obtained via the Minister / Religious Leader's Reference on the additional information form.

Place of residence

The child's ordinary place of residence will be deemed to be a residential property at which the parent or persons with parental responsibility for the child resides at the closing date for receiving applications for admission to the school.

Where parental responsibility is held by more than one person and those persons reside in separate properties, the child's ordinary place of residence will be deemed to be that property at which the child resides for the greater part of the week.

Late Applications

Late applications will be dealt with in accordance with the LA scheme.

Waiting List

Waiting lists will be dealt with in accordance with the LA Scheme.

False Information

1. Where the Governing Body has made an offer of a place at this school on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent, which has effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim to a place at the school, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

2. Where a child starts attending the school on the basis of fraudulent and intentionally misleading information the place may be withdrawn by the Governing Body, depending on the length of time that the child has been at the school.
3. Where a place or an offer has been withdrawn, the application will be re-considered, by the Governing Body and a right of independent appeal offered if the place is refused.

Applications outside of the normal admissions round

Applications outside of the normal admissions round will be dealt with in accordance with the LA scheme.

Appeals against the Governing Body's decision to refuse admission

1. If a place is not available, parents have the right of appeal. Such appeals against non admission will be heard by an Independent Appeals Panel formed in accordance with the DCSF Code of Practice. Details of the appeals process will be made available to all unsuccessful applicants

Parents who intend to make an appeal against the Governing Body's decision to refuse admission must submit a notice of appeal by the date specified in the refusal letter to: The Admissions Officer
Berneslai Close
Barnsley
S70 2HS

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

Timetable Closing date for receipt of applications	15 January 2011
Offer Day	11 April 2011
Appeals completed	30 June 2011

Documentation Required

1. The school requires additional information not contained on the common application form. This additional information is needed to place your application in the correct priority of admission category.
2. The Additional Information form, obtainable in the LA admission booklet, should be completed, securely attached to the Common Application form and returned to the LA by 15 January 2011
3. A copy of the child's baptism certificate if the applicant is Roman Catholic/ baptised Christian

4. Ministers Reference if the child is a member of another Christian Church or other World Faith.
5. The Additional Information form is not an application for admission to the school and its return does not guarantee a place at the school.
6. Failure to complete and return the Additional Information form may affect the admission category your application is placed in.