

## St. Mary's R.C. Primary School Admission Policy 2011/2012

The Governors of St. Mary's R.C. Primary School will admit 34 children in the Reception class each academic year, this number having been agreed with the Thurrock Unitary Authority. Applications for admission will be considered from parents who wish for a Catholic education for their children. Preference will be given to applicants according to the following criteria, in the following order:

1. Look after children.  
*'looked after children' 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 carers)*

The Diocesan Schools' Commissioners & Directors of Religious Education state:

***Catholic Schools may give top priority to Catholic 'Looked After Children', then may admit other children who meet their Catholic criteria, going on thirdly to give priority to 'Looked After Children' of other faiths and none before finally, other children, in accordance with their admissions criteria.***  
(17.2.2006)

2. Baptised Catholic children of practising\* Catholic families, living in the Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Joseph whose Parish Priest can confirm regular practice.
3. Baptised Catholic children of practising\* Catholic families from the Parishes within Thurrock Unitary Authority whose priest can confirm regular practice.
4. Baptised Catholic children residing with in the Thurrock Unitary Authority.
5. Children of practising Christian parents resident in the Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Joseph, whose minister can confirm regular practice and who accept the Catholic ethos and practices of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School.
6. Children of other faiths, resident in the Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Joseph, whose parents are in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the school and whose application is supported by a religious leader.
7. Any other applicants.

Within each category, preference is given to applicants who have siblings\*\* already attending the school.

Where the number of applications received exceeds the number of places admitted, places will be offered to those living nearest the school, measure in a straight-line in metres.

*'Catholic' means a member of a Church in 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.*

\*Practising: means Baptised practising Catholic children who attend Mass with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation at their Parish church.

\*\* For the purpose of allocating places, the following will be classified as siblings:

Full siblings living at the same address

Step siblings living at the same address

Half-siblings living at the same address

Long-term foster siblings living at the same address

Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs that names the school must be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to applicants.

Admission to the nursery does not guarantee a place in our reception class.