

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY (From 2020-21)

St Andrew's Church of England School has a distinctive Christian ethos which is at the heart of this School and provides an inclusive, caring and supportive environment where children learn and flourish in a setting shaped by Christian values. We are a school rooted in the community and welcome applications from all.

The Governing Body is responsible for the admission of pupils to St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School and admits 30 pupils to reception each year. This admission number has been agreed between the Governing Body and the Local Authority.

The school does not have any specific units or facilities for pupils with particular special needs and there are no specific facilities for pupils with physical disabilities. The school is however on a level site and all the accommodation is on one floor, there are also ramps at all entrances to the playground. As far as possible, the school will ensure that pupils with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as other pupils.

The Governing Body is required to abide by the maximum limits for infant classes (5, 6 and 7 year olds), ie, 30 pupils per class. If there are more applicants than places, places will be allocated according to the following criteria.

Foundation Places

The Governing Body has designated 10 places to be offered to pupils whose families are faithful and regular worshippers in an Anglican Church (note 1). If there are more than 10 applicants, places will be allocated according to the following criteria. These are stated in order of priority:

- Looked or previously looked after children (note 2)
- Children of families who are faithful and regular worshippers at St. Andrew's Church, Lingham Street or St. Michael's Church (Stockwell Parish).
- The presence of a sibling (note 3) in the school at the intended time of admission.
- Children with an exceptional and professionally supported medical or social need for a place at this school (note 4).
- Children of staff who are employed at the school (note 5)
- The nearness of the child's home to the school (note 6).

In the event that two or more applicants have equal right to a place under any of the above criteria, the Governing Body will apply the subsequent criteria, in order of priority, to these applicants. If applicants live equidistant from the school places will be allocated by the drawing of lots, supervised by someone independent of the school

If there are fewer than 10 qualified applicants for foundation places, any unfilled places will become additional open places. Unsuccessful applicants for foundation places will be considered for open places on the criteria below.

Open places

The Governing Body has designated 20 places each year as open places, to be offered to pupils who do not qualify for a foundation place, but whose parents have chosen the school for the type of education it provides. Parents applying for an open place do so knowing that the school aims to provide an education based on Christian principles and therefore, the Governing Body hopes that all pupils will take part in the Christian worship of the school and will attend religious education lessons.

If there are more than 20 applicants, places will be allocated according to the following criteria. These are stated in order of priority:

- Looked or previously looked after children (note 2)
- The presence of a sibling (note 3) in the school at the intended time of admission.
- Children with an exceptional and professionally supported medical or social need for a place at this school (note 4).
- Children of staff who are employed at the school (note 5)
- The nearness of the child's home to the school (note 6).

If two or more applicants have equal right to a place under any of the above criteria, the Governing Body will apply the subsequent criteria, in order of priority, to these applicants. If applicants live equidistant from the school places will be allocated by the drawing of lots, supervised by someone independent of the school

In year entry, waiting lists and appeals

Out of year group applications will be considered on a child-by-child basis by the governing body and, if accepted, prioritised on the same criteria as stated above.

Waiting lists will be drawn up on the same criteria as above, with no account being taken of the length of time on the waiting list. Children will remain on the waiting list indefinitely, though parents will be contacted to confirm they wish their child to remain on the waiting list.

Parents who are not offered a place for their child have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. Parents wishing to appeal should do so in writing. The letter should be sent to reach the Clerk to the Appeal panel, care of the school, within 14 days of the date of the letter confirming the governors' decision not to offer a place. Should some appeals be unsuccessful, the governing body will not consider further applications from those parents within the same academic year unless there have been significant and material changes in their circumstances.

Notes

- 1) Faithful and regular worshippers is defined as meaning attendance at a place of worship at least once a fortnight over the last year before the date of application. Written evidence of applicants' commitment to their place of worship (in the form of a clergy reference) will be required at the time of application.
- 2) Looked after children are children who are in the care of a local authority, or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions as defined by Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to the school. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after immediately prior to being adopted, or who became subject to a residence order, (now termed child arrangement order under the Children & Families Act 2014), or special guardianship order. The Governors will require written confirmation that the child is looked after, or previously looked after, and will be so at the time of making an application to the school.
- 3) A sibling is defined as a blood relative, a step-sibling, a half-sibling or a formally fostered or adopted child who is living at the same address as the child making the application
- 4) This must be supported by written evidence at the time of application, eg, from a specialist health professional, social worker or other care professional. The evidence must set out the reasons why this school is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. The decision to prioritise children on these grounds will be determined via Lambeth council's MEDSOC Panel, which is comprised of Lambeth LA senior management.
- 5) Priority to children of staff will be given where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made.
- 6) Distance will be measured in a straight line from the location of the child's home to the central point of the school site as determined by Lambeth Council's Geographical Information System. Applicants from the same block of flats will be treated as living the same distance from the school, regardless of the floor on which they live. Where a child regularly lives at more than one address, the home address for admissions purposes will be the address of the person with parental responsibility. Where parental responsibility for a child is shared the home address will be the address at which the child spends more school (Monday to Thursday) nights.