

ST JOHN'S ANGELL TOWN C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY STATEMENT

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2017/18

DRAFT



Admissions Policy Foundation/Open Place for Reception Class 2017/18

St John's, Angell Town is a Church of England Primary School and has a distinctive Christian ethos. This ethos is at the heart of the School and provides an inclusive, caring and supportive environment where children learn and flourish in a setting shaped by Christian values. We welcome applications from all members of the community and we ask all parents to respect the Christian ethos of our school and its importance to our community.

The Governing Body is responsible for the admission of pupils to St John's Church of England School and admits 90 pupils to reception each year.

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.

The School is part of the locally agreed co-ordination scheme and the timescales for applications to be received and processed are those agreed with the local authority. Parents/Guardians must complete the Local Authority's Common Application Form and return the form to the Authority; if applying for a place at this School, parents must name this School as one of the preferences on the Common Application Form. Parents/Guardians who wish to apply for a church place must also complete the school's supplementary form and return this to the School. Failure to return the supplementary form will mean that the school cannot consider the application under the church criteria, in this case the application will be considered under the next most appropriate criteria based on the information on the Common Application Form.

Foundation Places

The Governing Body has designated that up to 55 of the Reception class places are to be offered to children whose parent/guardian is a practising member of St John the Evangelist Church, Angell Town, or another Anglican church or other Christian denomination (see note 1) and live within the Anglican Deaneries of Lambeth North and South.

Written evidence of applicants' active and regular commitment to their place of worship will be required at the time of application on the School's Supplementary Information Form which must be returned to the School; this evidence must be endorsed by your priest, minister, church or religious leader.

If there are more than 55 applicants, places will be allocated according to the following criteria. These are stated in order of priority:

1. Looked after children or previously looked after children. A 'looked after child' is a child who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority – according to section 22 of the Children Act 1989. *A previously looked after child is a child who was adopted, or subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order, immediately following having been looked after.*
2. Children with an exceptional and professionally supported medical or social need for a place at this school. This must be supported by written evidence, e.g., from a specialist health professional, social worker, or other care professional which sets 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.
3. Children from families where at least one parent is an active and regular member of St. John's Church Angell Town and has worshipped at least twice a month for the past year and whose name is entered on the electoral roll of the parish. The children must also be attending the church with their parent on a regular basis (see Note 2).



4. Children with a sibling (brother or sister) (see note 3) who already attends the school, and would not have left the school at the time of admission and whose parent/guardian is a practising member of another Church of England church or other Christian denomination and live and worship within the Anglican Deaneries of Lambeth North and South .

In the event that two or more applicants have equal right to a place under any of the above criteria and there are insufficient places, the Governing Body will use distance, in the first instance, to decide between applicants; if applicants live the same distance from the school the Governing Body will draw lots to decide between applicants.

If there are less than 55 qualified applicants for foundation places, any unfilled places will become additional open places. Unsuccessful applicants for foundation places will be considered for any open places remaining unfilled at the end of the allocation procedure.

Notes:

1. A Christian Church/denomination is one that is a full member of a local Churches Together Group, and recognised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland or the Evangelical Alliance. Practising members are families who currently practice their religion and have attended their church or place of worship at least fortnightly for a minimum of two years prior to the submission of the admission application.
2. If the family have recently moved, and have not attended St. John's or the church where they are currently worshipping for a year, they will need to supply the name and address of their previous church on the supplementary form, and the written evidence must come from the minister of that church.
3. A sibling is defined as a full/half/step brother or sister, living at the same address, a child who is living as a part of the family by reason of a court order or a child who has been placed with foster guardians at that address as a result of being looked after by the Local Authority.

Open Places

The Governing Body has designated up to 35 of the Reception class places as open places, to be offered to children who do not qualify for a foundation place, but whose parents have chosen the school for the type of education it provides. Parents/Guardians 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 children will take part in the Christian worship of the school and attend religious education lessons.

If there are more than 35 applicants, places will be allocated according to the following criteria. These are stated in order of priority:

1. Looked after children or previously looked after children. A 'looked after child' is a child who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority – according to section 22 of the Children Act 1989. *A previously looked after child is a child who was adopted, or subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order, immediately following having been looked after.*
2. Children with an exceptional and professionally supported medical or social need for a place at this school. This must be supported by written evidence, e.g., from a specialist health professional, social worker, or other care professional which sets 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.
3. Children with a brother or sister who already attends the school, and would not have left the school at the time of admission. A sibling is defined as a full/half/step brother or sister, living at the same address, a child who is living as a part of the family by reason of a court order or a



child who has been placed with foster guardians at that address as a result of being looked after by the Local Authority.

4. Children who have a parent/guardian who is a member of staff at St John's Angell Town C of E Primary School and has been employed for a year and whose retention and recruitment enables the school to overcome a demonstrable skill shortage.
5. Children in order of nearness to the school. Distance will be measured by a straight line from the school gate to the exterior door of the building in which the child lives.

In the event that two or more applicants have equal right to a place under any of the above criteria and there are insufficient places, the Governing Body will use distance, in the first instance, to decide between applicants; if applicants live the same distance from the school the Governing Body will draw lots to decide between applicants.

In year applications

Applications for year groups 1 to 6 will be treated as per this policy with up to 20 foundation places and up to 10 open places for each year group.

Waiting List

The School operates a waiting list (**Foundation/Open**) which is ordered in accordance with the above criteria. Parents/Guardians may request in writing to join the waiting list which will be re-ordered each time there is a new applicant. The list will be maintained until the 31st August of each academic year.

Appeals

Parents/Guardians who are not offered a place for their child have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. Parents/Guardians wishing to appeal should obtain an appeal form from the school. The form should be sent to reach the Clerk to the Appeal panel, care of the school, within 20 school 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.

Deferred entry

The School admits children to the Reception class in the September of the school year following their fourth birthday. Parents/guardians may opt to defer entry to the reception class until the beginning of the term in which their child is five years old, but cannot defer entry beyond the end of the school year. Parents/guardians may also request that their child attends part-time until their child reaches the age of five.

Late Applicants

The School will consider late applications in accordance with the procedure in the local authority's primary admissions booklet.

Special educational needs

Parents/Guardians of pupils who have a statement of special educational needs are required to apply for school places separately through the local authority from which advice is available. If a child with a statement is placed in the school by the local authority before the normal admission round, the number of places available to other applicants will be reduced.

