



St. Joseph's RC Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy

Christ Be Our Light



In Life, Love and Learning.

Admission to Nursery Policy

Approved by **LMB**
Approved by HT

Date: July 2015
Date:

Review Date: July 2017

St Joseph's is a Church aided school in the Diocese of Middlesbrough. The school provides distinctive Christ centred, Catholic Education for children aged 3 - 11 years, with priority being given to children who live and worship within the parishes of **St Joseph & St Cuthbert (Loftus), St Anthony of Padua (Brotton) and Our Lady Star of the Sea (Staithes)**.

It embodies the teaching and practice of the Catholic faith among pupils and staff and in so doing, joins with Catholic parents in their duties and obligations in bringing up their children in the Catholic faith. It is a Voluntary Aided School in which the Governing Body is responsible for admissions. The school exists primarily to serve the Catholic community. However, the Governing Body welcomes applications, subject to the availability of places, from those of other denominations and faiths who support the religious ethos of the school.

Background to Early Years Free Entitlement

Redcar & Cleveland Local Authority is required in legislation (Childcare Act 2006, section 7 (1)) to secure free early years provision for all eligible children in the area from the relevant date following their third birthday until they reach compulsory school age.

This free early years provision is known as the Free Entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds. From September 2010 the Free Entitlement increased to 15 hours a week (570 hours a year) over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year.

This policy supports the Redcar & Cleveland Local Authority in fulfilling its statutory duties.

Nursery Class Admission Limits

Our school nursery class admission limits are:

26 places mornings , 13 places afternoons

This is set by the Local Authority. We would provide extra staff should requests for Nursery exceed 13 places for an afternoon session so that places can increase to 26.

Eligibility for the Free Entitlement

A child first becomes eligible the term after their third birthday.

A child born in the period	Will be eligible for a free place from:
1 st April to 31 st August	01 September following child's 3 rd birthday (Autumn school term)
1 st September to 31 st December	01 January following child's 3 rd birthday (Spring school term)
1 st January to 31 st March	01 April following child's 3 rd birthday (Summer school term)

We admit three year old children to our nursery class earlier, as soon after their third birthday as possible, subject to a place being available.

If our school is unable to provide a place in our nursery class for a child as soon as he/she becomes eligible, we will refer the parent /carer to the Local Authority. A free place will be offered with an alternative Local Authority approved private or voluntary setting.

The School Flexible Offer

St. Joseph's RC Primary School is able to offer parents/carers their free entitlement in the following way:

1. 3 hours a day for 5 days of the week, the morning session runs from 8:35am until 11:35am, the afternoon session from 12:15pm until 3:15pm.

Our school will consider any requests from parents/carers to take their entitlement in a more flexible way that meets their families' needs. If the request cannot be accommodated, the parent /carer will be referred to the Local Authority. A free place will be offered at an alternative Local Authority approved private or voluntary setting.

Over-subscription Criteria

In allocating places in our nursery class, children will be admitted in accordance with the order of the criteria listed below:

- Children who are cared for by the Local Authority and children who were in care, but ceased to be so, because they were adopted or became subject of a Residence Order or Special Guardianship Order immediately after having been looked after.
- Baptised Catholic children aged 4+ who live within the defined admission zone for the school.
- Children aged 4+ who live within the defined admission zone.
- Baptised Catholic children aged 3+ who live within the defined admission zone for the school.
- Children aged 3+ who live within the defined admission zone.
- Children aged 4+ or 3+ who live outside the defined admission zone.

When decisions have to be taken on prioritising admissions for pupils within the same admissions category, priority will be given to the oldest child in that category. The oldest children will be admitted first.

Access & Inclusion

Our school will offer all children the opportunity to experience a challenging and enjoyable programme of learning and development, irrespective of ethnicity, culture or religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties or disabilities, gender or ability.

Admission

We will notify parents/carers of their child's confirmed admission date as soon as possible. A home visit will take place and accompanied visits to Nursery are encouraged before a child takes up their place. Admission of children to our nursery class may be phased in over a short period at the beginning of the term in which they first become eligible or as soon after their third birthday.

Admission to full time education

Attendance at our Nursery does not guarantee admission to the school when the child reaches compulsory school age. Parents will still need to

apply to the Local Authority for a place at our school if they want their child to transfer to reception class.

Parents do not have to enrol their child at our Nursery in order to secure a school place. Places for full time education in our school will be allocated in accordance with criteria as described in the Local Authority Admissions Guide for Parents.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the LMB.