

ST MARY ABBOTS SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY for entry from September 2012

St Mary Abbots school has a history of being oversubscribed. Where there are more applications than places available places are awarded at our school strictly in accordance with Admissions Criteria approved by the London Diocesan Board for Schools. They are statutorily binding. **In your Application you must say under which criterion you wish your child to be considered.** For your application to be considered you **must** complete the Common Application Form and return it to the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. If you want to apply for a Foundation Place then you will also need to complete the Schools Application Form & Clergy Form. These forms must be returned to the school office.

The reception class has thirty places, and they are awarded to children in the following sequence:

1 **CHILDREN IN PUBLIC CARE**

Over-riding priority will be given to children who are in public care with a local authority (“looked after children”) who can be shown to be members of Anglican churches or other Christian churches .

2 **SIBLINGS**

That is, children with any blood, half, step, adoptive and foster siblings who live at the same home address already attending the school and who will still attend the school on the date of the candidate’s proposed admission.

3 **OPEN PLACES**

The school welcomes applications from families who practise faiths other than Christianity or who proclaim no religious faith. Open Places are therefore available to those who do not qualify for a Foundation Place. After ‘Looked After Children’, Sibling Places, and places taken by those with a statement naming the school have been awarded, and subject to the maximum class size of 30 children, we will offer as Open Places *either* two places *or* thirty percent of the places that remain, whichever is the greater. In the event of over subscription, Open Places will be allocated by the Governors according to nearness of the candidate’s home to the school*.

4 **FOUNDATION PLACES**

Foundation Places are offered to children from families who can demonstrate sustained commitment to a Christian church – that is, one which is a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland - within the Kensington Deanery**. By ‘sustained commitment’ we mean participation in Sunday worship in a church at least twice a month for at least three years before the closing applications date for Reception admissions. Evidence for such commitment and involvement must be supported by a form, supplied by the school, filled in by your Priest or Minister.

We award Foundation places in accordance with the following order of priority :

- (1) to the children of families who live within the Kensington Deanery who can demonstrate sustained commitment to St Mary Abbots Church or Christ Church Kensington;
- (2) to the children of families who live within the Kensington Deanery who can demonstrate sustained commitment to other Kensington Deanery Church of England Churches;
- (3) to the children of families who live within the Kensington Deanery who can demonstrate sustained commitment to churches of other denominations being members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI).
- (4) to the children of families who can demonstrate sustained commitment to St Mary Abbots Church or Christ Church Kensington but who live outside of the Kensington Deanery.

In the event of over subscription in any of the aforesaid categories, Foundation Places will be allocated by the Governors according to nearness of the candidate's home to the school*.

When a family has only moved into the area within the last three years, we will take into account evidence of their commitment to their previous church, as supported by a form filled in by the previous priest or minister as well as the form filled in by the priest or minister at their current church (i.e. there will be at least two clergy forms to submit for those who have moved to a qualifying church within the past 3 years).

If, once Siblings, Open and Foundation Places have been awarded as described above, vacant places still remain, they will be treated as further Open Places and filled in order of the candidates' homes' nearness to the school *

* Nearness to the school will be calculated using a straight line (as the crow flies) measurement from the child's home 'address point' determined by Ordnance Survey Data to the centre of the school grounds as determined by the Royal Borough using its computerised measuring system. The child living closest to the school will receive the highest priority. Accessibility by car or public transport will be disregarded.

If applicants share the same address point (for example those who live in the same block of flats or shared house) priority will be given to those who live closest to the ground floor and then by ascending flat number order.

** Kensington Deanery. A map showing the area covered by the Church of England Kensington Deanery can be consulted at the school Office.

PLEASE NOTE

For your application to be considered you must complete the Common Application Form and return it to the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. If you want to apply for a Foundation Place then you will also need to complete the Schools Application Form & Clergy Form(s). These forms must be returned to the school office.

OPEN PLACES

Please note that the school strongly discourages prospective parents from applying for Open places if their application would otherwise qualify for consideration under one of the categories with under Foundation Places. Open places are provided to enable entry into the school to those who do not practise a Christian faith.

DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications for places in the Reception Class for September 2012 must be submitted by 15 January 2012. No priority is awarded to early applications.

CHILDREN WITH A 'SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEED'

If your child has a statement of Special Educational Needs, or a statement pending, the procedure for admission is completely separate from the usual admissions criteria. Please contact the special needs officer in your home local authority for advice and guidance. Please note also that the Head Teacher has the right to consider whether the school is able satisfactorily to meet the needs of a pupil with a statement.

CASUAL ADMISSIONS

Whenever, apart from the September Reception admissions, places become vacant in any of the school's classes they are known as 'Casual Admissions'. They are filled strictly in this order : Looked after Children and Special Educational Needs; Siblings; Foundation Places; Open Places – all according to the criteria above.