

**St Mary's Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Junior School,
Old Basing**

Admissions Policy from September 2024



Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School

Admission Policy 2024-2025

'Following a decision of the Schools Adjudicator (VAR2277 and VAR2283), this admission policy was revised on 9th February 2023, to give effect to that decision. Consequently, the wording for oversubscription criterion 2 has been revised, further information relating to permanent residency has been provided and wording regarding attending worship at a church has also been revised.'

Policy Determined by the Governing Board – November 2023

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This policy will be used during 2024/2025 for allocating places in the main admission round for entry to Year 3 in September 2024. It will also apply to in-year admissions during 2024/25. Outside the normal admissions round, the Fair Access protocol will be applied alongside the policy to secure the admission of vulnerable pupils from specific groups.

The Governing Board is the admission authority for St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School. The admissions arrangements are determined by the Governing Board after statutory consultations.

The published admission number (PAN) for entry to Year 3 at St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School is 90. The school will admit this number if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applications than the published number are received, places will be offered to all those who have applied.

The guiding principle of admission to this school is that a church school should serve its local community, defined in the trust deed dated 1866 as the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit. The trust deed states that the School was established to provide education for children living in the parish of St Mary's, Old Basing. (The Village of Old Basing, Parts of the Lychpit Estate not excluded in this policy, the hamlets of Natley Scures, Up Natley, Mapledurwell and Andwell are referred to as The Catchment Area. A map of this area can be found here:-

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/findaschool/schooldetails?dfesno=3305>

The Governing board will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on Monday 15th January 2024**. Notifications to parents offering a primary or infant school place will be sent by the Local Authority on **Tuesday 16th April 2024**.

Applications made after midnight on **15th January 2024** will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

For the normal admission round, all on time preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria. If more than one school can offer a place, the parent's highest stated available preference will be allocated.

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School will be admitted. Where possible such children will be admitted within PAN.

Admissions criteria

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school, priority for admission will be given to children in the following priority order:

- 1) Looked after children or children who were previously looked after.** (see definition i)

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- 2) **Children or families with an exceptional medical and/or social need** (see definition ii). Each application must include supporting evidence from an independent professional such as a doctor and/or consultant for medical needs or a social worker, health visitor, housing officer, the police or probation officer for social needs. This evidence must confirm the child or family's medical or social need and why that need(s) makes it essential that the child attends St Mary's Church of England (VA) School rather than any other. Applicants will only be considered under this criterion if on the application form (online or paper) they have ticked the appropriate box explicitly indicating that they wish for their application to be considered under medical / social need and supporting evidence is submitted with the application.

- 3) **Children living in the catchment area** (see definition iii) of St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School:
 - a. who at the time of application have a **sibling** (see definition iv) on the roll of the school who will still be on the roll at the time of admission.
 - b. who are currently on roll at Old Basing Infant School (for Main Round Admissions only).
 - c. Other children **living in the catchment area** of St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School.

- 4) **Children living out of the catchment area** of St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School
 - a. who at the time of application have a **sibling** (see definition iv) on the roll of the school who will still be on the roll at the time of admission. (Where a sibling was allocated a place at the school in the normal admission round in a previous year because the child was displaced (see definition v) from the catchment school for their address, the application will be considered under criteria 3 above, subject to the siblings still living in the catchment area for the school from which they were displaced.)
 - b. who are currently on roll at Old Basing Infant School (for Main Round Admissions only).
 - c. A child or a child with a parent who is an active member of a Christian church as defined by the following statement;

“A worshipping fellowship who confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Bible and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; who are members or participant observers of the World Council of Churches or the World Evangelical Alliance.”

And who requests admission on denominational grounds and provides relevant evidence. (See definition vi)

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- 5) Other children living out of catchment area of St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School.

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Tie Breaker

If the school is oversubscribed from within any of the above categories, straight line distance will be used to prioritise applications; applicants living nearer the school have priority. Distances will be measured from the Ordnance Survey home address point to the school address point using the Local Authority's geographic Information Systems (GIS). Distances to multiple dwellings will give priority to the ground floor over the first floor and so on. On individual floors, distances will be measured to the stairs leading to the communal entrance. Where two or more applicants are equidistant, random allocation will be used to allocate the place. An explanation of the random allocation procedure is available on the Local Authority website.

Additional Information

Who can apply?

Only a parent can apply for a place at a school. A parent is any person who has parental responsibility for or is the legal guardian of the child, as set out in the Children Act 1989.

Permanent residence

The child's permanent residence is where they live normally, including weekends and during school holidays as well as during the week and should be used for the application. The permanent residence of children who spend part of their week with one parent and part with the other, at different addresses, will be the address at which they spend most of their time. Where a child's time is evenly divided between the parents, parents must agree which address they would like to be considered for the purposes of the application. In the event of a dispute, in the absence of a relevant court order, the admission authority will make a judgement about which address applies, taking into account the address registered with the child's current school, nursery, pre-school or child-minder, the address registered for child benefit and the address registered with the child's GP.

Multiple Births

Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is admitted to a school under this policy then any further twin or child from the same multiple birth will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above the school's PAN.

Fair Access Placements

Outside the normal admissions round, it may sometimes be necessary for a pupil to be placed by the governing board or the Local Authority, in a particular school even if there is a waiting list for admission. Such placements are made in accordance with the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol. The Protocol is based on legislation and government.

Waiting Lists

Waiting lists will be established for each year group where more applications are received than places available. These will be maintained by the school and will be open to all refused applicants wishing to be placed on them.

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Any places that become available will be offered to a child at the top of the list on the day the place becomes available. The waiting list is ordered according to the criteria of the admission policy with no account being taken of the length of time on the waiting list or any priority order expressed as part of the main admission round. Fair Access arrangements and school closure arrangements will take priority over the waiting list.

The waiting list will be reviewed and revised –

- Each time a child is added to or removed from, the waiting list;
- When a child's changed circumstance affect their priority;
- Periodically, when parents with a child on the waiting list will be contacted and asked if they wish to remain on the list for the following school year;

For entry to Year 3, the waiting list will remain open until 31 August 2025, at which point all names will be removed. For all other year groups, waiting lists will remain open until 31 August of each year. Should parents wish their child to be considered for a place at the school in the following school year, they must submit a new in-year application in the August preceding the new school year. Schools will send a decision letter within the first 10 days of the new term.

Starting school

Pupils born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 (inclusive) are entitled to full time schooling from September 2024. Parents can choose to defer their child's admission until later in the school year (but not beyond the start of the term after the reach compulsory school age). Children can also attend part-time until they reach compulsory school age. Parents must discuss their child's starting arrangements with the school once an offer has been secured.

Children with birthdays between

- 1 September and 31 December 2019 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 December 2024, at the start of the spring term 2025.
- 1 January and 31 March 2020 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 March 2025, at the start of the summer term 2025
- 1 April and 31 August 2020 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 August 2025, at the start of the new school year in September 2025.

Parents of summer born children (those born between) 1 April and 31 August) who are particularly concerned about their child's readiness for school can request to delay their child's entry to Year 3 for an entire school year until September 2025. This is called decelerated admission. In making a request, parents would be expected to state clearly why they felt decelerated admission to Year 3 was in their child's best interest. It is recommended that parents considering such a request contact the school in the autumn term 2023 to ensure that an informed decision is made.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside of their normal age group. To do so, parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission outside the

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normal age group is being requested and which year group they wish their child to be admitted. Decisions will be made based on the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child.

School Closures

In the event of a school closure, pupils from the closing school may be given priority for any school nominated as the receiving school. Specific arrangements will be determined by the school and Local authority in accordance with the School Admission Code and will be published at the time for specific schools affected.

Admission Appeals

If you are unsuccessful in being offered a place for your child at St Mary's Church of England Junior School you will be informed by the Local Authority in writing, will be given reasons for the refusal and informed of your right to an independent appeal against the decision.

Warning

Places are withdrawn every year because parents give false information on application forms, e.g. a false home address. This includes cases where parents take out a short term let or buy a property solely to use its address on the application form without any intention of taking up permanent residence there. In fairness to all parents, all allegations of fraudulent practice brought to the Governing Board's attention will be investigated. The Governing Board reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a place if fraudulent or intentionally misleading information has been used on an application.

How to apply

The Local Authority operates a Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme which processes all main round (ordinary) admissions applications. You must complete a Local Authority Form available from <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>

If you wish to use the "Active member of a Christian church" criteria to support your application, you must also complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF). This form is available from the local authority website:-

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>

or the school website <https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk> or as a paper copy from The School office.

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Definitions

- i) Looked after children are defined as those who are a) in the care of a local authority, or b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority under exercise of their social services functions (see definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). Previously looked after children are those who were looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption order, child arrangement order, or special guardianship order. An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. Child arrangement orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangement orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangement order. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s).

- ii) 'Medical need' does not include common medical conditions supported in mainstream schools, such as asthma or allergies. 'Social need' does not include a parent's wish that a child attends the school because of a child's aptitude or ability or because their friends attend the school or because of routine childminding arrangements. Priority will be given to those children whose evidence establishes that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Equally this priority will apply to children whose evidence establishes that a family member's physical or mental health or social needs mean that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Evidence must confirm the circumstances of the case and must set out why the child should attend a particular school and why no other school could meet the child's needs. Providing evidence does not guarantee that a child will be given priority at a particular school and in each case a decision will be made based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at one school above any other.

- iii) The catchment area for St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School is the Ecclesiastical parish of St Mary's, Old Basing. The village of Old Basing, Lychnpit excluding those streets listed in the policy (see Annex A), the hamlets of Natley Scures, Up Natley, Mapledurwell and Andwell are referred to as The Catchment Area. A map of this forms part of this policy document (see page 8). The child's permanent residence is where they live, normally including weekends and during school holidays as well as during the week, and should be used for the application. The permanent address of children who spend part of their week with one parent and part with the other, at different addresses, will be the address at which they spend most of their time.

Moving home & UK service personnel & crown servants

Places can only be offered on the basis of future moves on the basis of:

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- a letter from the solicitor (or equivalent) confirming exchange of contracts to buy a property relevant to the application;
- a tenancy agreement confirming the renting of a specific property relevant to the application;
- a letter from a housing association confirming that the parent(s) will be living at a specific address relevant to the application; or
- in the case of UK service personnel and Crown servants, an official government letter (MOD, FCO or GCHQ) letter declaring a relocation date and a unit postal address or quartering address.

To be considered all evidence must be submitted at the time of application.

Map of catchment area

Catchment details can be found online at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/findaschool/schooldetails?dfesno=3305>

or search for the catchment school using a postcode:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/findaschool>

- iv) Sibling refers to brother or sister, half-brother or half-sister, adoptive brother or adoptive sister, foster brother or foster sister, step brother or step sister living as one family unit at the same address. It will also be applied to situation where a full, half or adopted brother or sister are living at separate addresses.
- v) Displaced refers to a child who was refused a place at the catchment school in the normal admission round having named it in the application and was not offered a higher named preference school.
- vi) Active member of a Christian Church is defined as attending worship at a church under the definition given in this policy at least twice a month for the previous two years before the deadline for admissions. Parents applying under this criterion are required to complete a **Supplementary Information Form** (SIF – see Annex B) which asks for a declaration and verification of the child's or your active membership. The SIF is available from the school and must be completed and returned to the school by midnight on the **15th January 2024**. As it is a paper form that needs to be signed, the SIF is not available online. In order to ensure that you have the required church attendance you may need to complete two or more forms. This is normally more applicable to those who have moved into the area but attended church at their previous address.

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

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- vii) Staff includes all those on the payroll of the school who have been an employee continuously for two years at the time of application. Children of staff refers to a situation where the staff member is the natural parent, the legal guardian or a resident step parent.

Legislation

This policy takes account of all Equalities legislation, together with all relevant regulation and the School Admissions Code (Published by the DfE in 2014)

Contact Details of the School

If you require further information about applying for a place at St Mary's Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Junior School, please contact The School.

St Mary's C of E (Voluntary Aided) Junior School,
Belle Vue Road, Old Basing, Hampshire RG24 7DE

t: 01256 465 092

e: adminoffice@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk

f: 01256 358 195

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Annex A

Catchment Area - Street Exclusions for Lychpit:

These roads on the Lychpit Estate are designated as being in the Great Binfields Primary School catchment area **NOT** St Mary's CE VA Junior School.

- Armstrong Road
- Bear Court
- Bell Road
- Bilton Road
- Binfields Close
- Bond Close
- Centre Drive
- Chineham Shopping Centre
- Daneshill Drive
- Eagle Court
- Faraday Road
- Gastons Wood
- Heron Park
- Hopton Garth
- Ivar Gardens
- Lion Court
- Lutyens Close
- Onslow Close
- Pyotts Copse
- Pyotts Court
- Pyotts Hill (part of)
- Rankine Road
- Roentgen Road
- Rutherford Road
- Stewart Road
- Stroudley Road
- Swing Swang Lane
- Wade Road
- Whitney Road

Annex B

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

Only for use to support admission applications using the 'Active member of a Christian church' criteria.

The purpose of the Supplementary Information Form is to declare and have verified that one parent is an 'Active member of a Christian church'.

You must complete this form, have it signed by an authorised church official and return it to The School as soon as possible but before the deadline of **midnight on 15th January 2024**.

(The authorised church official is usually the priest of your church or if there is none, a person authorised to do so by your church. Should there be an interregnum the SIF may be verified by a churchwarden or other suitably qualified official on behalf of the parish. Please ask at your church, or the church school you are applying to, who has been authorised to verify your declaration)

I	(Parent Name)
Of	(Address)
Being the Parent of	
(Child's Name)	(Child's Date of Birth)
applying for a place at	St Mary's Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Junior School
I declare that I have attended worship at a Christian church (defined here as one subscribing to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity as set out in the Nicene Creed)-at least twice a month for the previous two years before the deadline for admissions of midnight on 15 January 2024 .	
In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship.	
please tick	
Please give the name of the church you attend in the space below. Thank you.	
Name of Church:	
Parental signature (Please sign below)	Please print your name below.
Date:	

PLEASE GET THIS FORM SIGNED BY THE PERSON VERIFYING YOUR DECLARATION

I verify that the information given above is correct.	
Signature	
Please print your name	
Status within the church (Vicar / Priest in Charge etc)	

Date			
Your contact address / telephone			
The information you give may be processed electronically and stored on computer for administrative purposes in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.			
When completed and signed by the church official please return to St Mary's Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Junior School as soon as possible and not later the closing date of midnight on 15 January 2024.			
<u>For School Use Only</u>			
Accepted by The School as a verified 'Active member of a Christian church' declaration and signed on behalf of the Governing Body by			
Name of person signing on behalf of the Governing Body.	Name	Signature	Date