

## ADMISSION POLICY FOR SECONDARY CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMIES IN NOTTINGHAM CITY

*The Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust is the admission authority for all the schools within the Trust and is responsible for determining the admissions policy. On behalf of the Trust, the admissions are coordinated by the relevant Local Authority. All decisions relating to admission applications will be taken by the school's Local Governing Body.*

School	Published Admission Number (PAN)	PAN for External entry to 6 <sup>th</sup> Form	Partner Primary Schools	Catholic Academy Trust	Local Authority
The Trinity Catholic School, a Voluntary Academy, Nottingham	165	40	St Teresa's, Aspley, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell, St Mary's, Hyson Green St Augustine's, Mapperley	The St Barnabas Catholic Academy Trust	Nottingham City

This policy will apply to all admissions into year 7 and admission into years 12 and 13 (sixth form) for the academic year 2020-21.

The Catholic Voluntary Academy listed above is under the Trusteeship of the Diocese of Nottingham and belongs to the Nottingham Diocesan family of schools. They are founded by and are part of the Catholic Church and seek at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. Religious education and worship are in accordance with the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church. This does not affect the right of parents or carers who are not of the faith of these schools to apply for and to be considered for places. We ask all parents or carers applying for a place to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community.

The Trinity School is principally provided to serve the Catholic communities within the Diocese of Nottingham. The Governors also welcome applications from all parents and carers, regardless of faith or background, who would like their children to be educated in a Christian environment.

The St Barnabas Catholic Academy Trust is the admission authority for the academy as set out above and is responsible for determining the admissions policies for the Academy. The admissions process is coordinated by Local Authority on behalf of the Trust.

All decisions relating to admission applications will be taken by the Governing Body of the Academy.

The Academy gives priority within the oversubscription criteria to Catholic children attending its partner primary schools (as listed above).

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Parents/Carers should consult the Local Authority Booklet 'Going to School in Nottingham – Secondary Education' for full details of the admissions process. Also visit [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk) for full details of the admissions process and online application.

### Application Procedure and Timetable

Applications must be made on the Common Application Form provided by your **home** Local Authority. Applications must be made to your **home** Local Authority by the national closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> October.

In addition **all applicants wishing to apply for a place under a faith criterion (oversubscription criteria 1-6)** should complete the Supplementary Information Form. This form can be downloaded from the Local Authority website within which the school is located and is also

available from the school. The completed form, together with any required evidence, (see notes 3-8), should be returned to the Catholic school for which a preference has been made also by the national closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**If you do not provide the additional required evidence and return it by the closing date your child will be ranked in a lower admissions category and this may affect your child's chances of being offered a place.**

### **ALL APPLICATIONS – HOW PLACES ARE ALLOCATED**

The Local Authority forward details of all applicants to the relevant Governing Body. Using the information on both the Common Application Form and the Supplementary Form, each Governing Body draws up a ranked list using the oversubscription criteria listed below. The Local Authority then allocates places on behalf of the relevant Governing Body up to the admissions number. When a place can be offered at more than one of the schools listed on your application, the Local Authority will offer a place at the highest preferred school where a place is available.

### **ADMISSION OF PUPILS OUTSIDE NORMAL AGE GROUP**

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of the normal age group for example if the child is exceptionally gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. The school anticipates that children will be educated out of their normal age group in only a small number of very exceptional circumstances.

Should you wish to seek a place for your child outside of their normal age group you should still make an application for a school place for your child's normal age group **and** you should also submit a request for admission out of the normal age group at the same time, following the procedure set out by your home local authority.

A decision will then be made on which age group the child should be admitted taking into account the circumstances of each case and the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the head teacher, including the head teacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the governing body will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals.

Once that decision has been made the oversubscription criteria will be applied to determine if a place can be offered at the school.

Your statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which you have applied is unaffected. However the right to appeal does not apply if you are offered a place at the school but it is not in your preferred age group.

The school is not required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission out of the normal age group.

### **LATE APPLICATIONS**

Nottingham City Council and the Governing Body may be willing to accept applications which are received after the closing date but before the date set by the Local Authority for exceptional late applications, for example:

- a family returning from abroad
- a lone parent who has been ill for some time
- a family moving into Nottingham from another area
- other exceptional circumstances

Each case will be treated on its merits. Any preferences received by Nottingham City Council up to the date set by the Local Authority, with good reason for being late, and where appropriate, with the agreement of the Governing Body will be included in the first cycle of allocations and will be notified on the national offer day.

All other late applications for secondary school places received by Nottingham City Council after the closing date will be dealt with after the offer day.

## **IN YEAR APPLICATIONS**

Details of the application process are available from the school and from the Local Authority. Once an application has been made, it will be passed to the Admissions Committee of the Governing Body for consideration. A Supplementary Form should also be completed.

If the published admission number for the year group hasn't been reached the child will be offered a place unless circumstances have changed since that year group was the normal year of admission.

If the respective year group total is full, the child will be only offered a place if there are very exceptional circumstances and if the committee decides that the education of pupils in that year group will not be detrimentally affected by the admission of an extra pupil. If there is oversubscription the school will maintain a Waiting List for in year applications until the end of the academic year. Inclusion in a school's Waiting List does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

If your application is refused, parents have a statutory right to appeal (see 'Appeals' below). The appeal should be lodged within 20 school days after the date of your refusal letter.

## **WAITING LISTS**

Parents whose children have not been offered their preferred school in the normal admissions round will be added to their preferred school's Waiting List.

Waiting Lists for admission for year 7 to year 11 will be maintained until the end of the academic year applied for and the child's name will remain on the Waiting List until that time or until the parents request the school to remove the child's name from the list.

Waiting Lists for admission for year 12 and year 13 will remain open until the end of the autumn term of the year applied for.

Parents must make a further application for a school place in respect of a later academic year and if a place is not available, the child's name can be added to the Waiting List.

Waiting Lists are ranked in the same order as the oversubscription criteria listed below. Your child's position on the Waiting List may change. This means that a child's Waiting List position during the year could go up or down. Any late applications will be added to the Waiting List in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Inclusion on a school's Waiting List does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

## **APPEALS**

If a child is not offered a place, parents/carers have a statutory right to appeal. This should be done by writing to the school setting out your grounds for appeal no later than twenty school days after the decision letter has been received. The appeal will be arranged on behalf of the governors by the Catholic Schools Appeals Service and will be heard by an independent panel. The decision of the panel will be binding on the school.

## **FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOLS**

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full. The academy listed in this policy participates in the Nottingham City Council Fair Access Protocols.

## **APPLICATIONS FOR TWINS AND MULTIPLE BIRTH PUPILS**

In cases where there is one remaining place available and the next child on the Waiting List is one of a twin or of other multiple birth groups, then both twins (or all the siblings in case of multiple births) will be admitted even if this means that the Published Admission Number will be exceeded as long as the Governing Body decides that the education of pupils in that year group will not be detrimentally affected.

## **FRAUDULENT INFORMATION**

If the allocation of a place has been made on the basis of fraudulent or intentionally misleading information, the governors reserve the right to withdraw the place.

## **OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA**

Where schools have more applications than places available, Governors will draw up a ranked list based on the criteria listed below and will allocate places accordingly.

Pupils with an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (see Note 1) which names the school will be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available.

- 1. Catholic children who are 'looked after' or who were 'previously looked after' (see Notes 2 and 3).*
- 2. Catholic children (see Note 3).*
- 3. Other children who are 'looked after' or who were 'previously looked after' (see Note 2)*
- 4. Catechumens, Candidates and members of Eastern Christian Churches (see Notes 4, 5 and 6)*
- 5. Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion (see Note 7).*
- 6. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader (see Note 8).*
- 7. Any other children*

**First priority** within the criteria will be given to applications from children who attend one of the partner primary schools.

**Second priority** within the criteria will be given to applications from children who will have siblings (see Note 9) attending the school at the proposed time of admission.

***In the event of oversubscription within any criterion allocation of places will be decided on distance measurements supplied by the Local Authority. (See below)***

### **Distance measurement**

Distance will be measured in a straight line (by a computerised geographical information system) from the centre of the academy campus to a point at the pupil's home address identified by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer.

In a very few cases, it may not be possible to decide between the applications of those pupils who are the final qualifiers for a place (e.g. children who live at the same address or have the same distance measurement). In this exceptional situation the governors will admit the additional child above the Planned Admission Number.

### **Notes (these form part of the oversubscription criteria)**

**1.** An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), is a plan made by the Local Authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.

**2.** A "looked after child" is a child who is:

- (a) in the care of a Local Authority, or
- (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in s.22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

A "previously looked after child" is a child who:

- (a) ceased to be looked after because they were adopted (this includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 [see s.12 adoption orders] and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 [see s.46 adoption orders] , or

(b) became subject to a child arrangements order (under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014 - an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live), or  
(c) became subject to a special guardianship order (see S.14A of the Children Act 1989 - an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian [or special guardians]).

3. 'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into full communion with the Catholic Church signed by a Catholic Priest and stamped with the parish stamp. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child who is part of a Catholic family where a letter from a priest demonstrates that the child would have been baptised or received if it were not for their status as a looked after child (i.e. a looked after child in the process of adoption by a Catholic family).

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest.

4. 'Catechumen' means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the order of catechumens or a letter of verification signed by the parish priest and stamped with the parish stamp.

5. 'Candidate' means a candidate for reception into the Catholic Church. This will normally be evidenced by a letter of verification signed by the parish priest and stamped with the parish stamp.

6. 'Eastern Christian Church' includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.

7. 'Children of other Christian denominations' means children who are members of a Church or religious community that practises Trinitarian baptism recognised by the Catholic Church, and is normally evidenced by a Baptism Certificate, a Certificate of Dedication or a letter of verification signed by the minister of religion for that church.

8. 'Children of other faiths' means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definitions 3-7 above. This is normally evidenced by a Baptism Certificate, a Certificate of Dedication or a letter of verification signed by the religious leader of the community.

9. 'Siblings' means a child who lives as a brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters with either one or both parents in common, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, or the child of a parent's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. It also includes natural brothers or sisters where the child for whom the school place is sought is not living in the same family unit as the same address as that sibling.

10. A 'parent' means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.

11. Home Address: The governors use the same definition as used by the Local Authority within which the school is located.

## **ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR SIXTH FORM**

The overall capacity for the Sixth Form will be 140 places, with an admission number for external pupils of 40.

The principles outlining the nature of the school in the introduction apply for admissions to the Sixth Form. Requests for admission will be considered according to the following order of priorities:

### **Oversubscription criteria for admission to the Sixth Form:**

- a) Catholic pupils who are Looked After or who were previously Looked After immediately after being Looked After became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order, with priority being given to students currently on roll at Trinity School.
- b) Young people who are baptised Catholics, currently students at Trinity School;
- c) Other Looked After children or children who were previously Looked After but immediately after being Looked After became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.
- d) Other young people who are currently students at Trinity School.
- e) Baptised Catholic young people resident in the Diocese;
- f) Young people from other Christian traditions who are seeking a spiritual dimension for their education, subject in each case to the governors being satisfied as to the reason for requesting a Catholic education;
- g) Other young Christian people;
- h) Other young people.

All enquiries should be addressed to the Head of Sixth Form at the school. A separate Sixth Form prospectus is available.