

THE ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2024 - 2025

The Annunciation Catholic Infant School within the Diocese of Westminster was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families.

The school is conducted by its Governing Board as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. In this policy, *applicant* refers to the person making an application on behalf of a child; *candidate* refers to the child on whose behalf the application is being made.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education is fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with the admission arrangements.

The Governing Board is the admission authority and has responsibility for admissions to the school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round. The Governing Board has set its Published Admissions Number (PAN) at 60 children for the school year which begins in September 2024. Applications for Reception are welcome from families whose child reaches his/her 4th birthday between 1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024.

PUPILS WITH AN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with this school named in their EHC Plan must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

FAIR ACCESS

The School is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admissions round the Governing Board is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol that has been agreed by both the local authority and the Governing Board for the current school year. The Governing Board has this power even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

Please read carefully application procedure outlined below.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority:

1. Catholic looked after children' and children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been 'looked after' as well as those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (see notes 2 and 3).
2. Catholic children who have a brother or sister at the school or The Annunciation Catholic Junior School at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children who are resident in the parish of Our Lady of The Annunciation, Burnt Oak for whom The Annunciation Catholic Infant School is the nearest Catholic School (see note 3).
4. Catholic children from other parishes (see note 3).
5. Other 'looked after children' and children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been 'looked after' as well as those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (see notes 2).
6. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church (see notes 4-5).
7. Christians of other denominations whose membership is evidenced either by a religious leader. (see note 7).
8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a Religious Leader (see note 7)
9. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the provisions below will be applied in the following order:

- i. Where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can most appropriately be met at this school, the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made. (see note 10)
- ii. The attendance of a brother/sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category, so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made, after children in (i) above (see note 8).

MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

The Governing Board will, where logistically possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within the school's Published Admission's Number ("PAN").

TIE BREAK

Priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. Distances are calculated by Barnet Council on the basis of a straight-line measurement between the front door of the child's home address, including the community entrance to flats and the main entrance of the school, using the local authority's computerised measuring system. In the event of distances being the same for two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the school. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE 2024-2025

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round, you **must** complete a **Common Application Form** available on line from the local authority in which you live. Website details <http://www.eadmissions.org.uk>. You are also requested to complete the School's **Supplementary Information Form (SIF)** available on the school's website, www.annunciationinf.org.uk if you wish to apply under oversubscription criteria. Please return the SIF (in person or by post) to Mr. Stephen Frayne at the school address, together with all other relevant paperwork required for your application. If you do not **complete both of the forms** described above **and return them by 15 January 2024**, the Governing Board will be unable to consider your application against the oversubscription criteria and your child will be ranked under the lowest criterion. It is unlikely that your child will be offered a place if a SIF is not supplied.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 15 January 2024.

OFFERS

You will be advised of the outcome of your application, on **16 April 2024** or the next working day, by the local authority on our behalf. This information will also be available on line for those who have submitted an online application. Parents should accept or decline the place as soon as possible.

If you are unsuccessful (unless your child gained a place at a school you ranked higher) you will be informed of the reasons, related to the oversubscription criteria listed above, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Late applications will be administered in accordance with your home Local Authority Primary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

WAITING LIST

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful children will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year. The waiting list will be held open until 31 July 2025. Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

IN-YEAR APPLICATIONS

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the normal admissions round and a child will be admitted where there are available places. Applications should be made directly to the school by contacting Mr. S Frayne clerk to the governing Board at the school address. Where there are places available but more applications than places. The published over subscription criteria, as set out above, will be applied. If there are no places available, the child will be added to the waiting list (see above). You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

RECEPTION YEAR DEFERRED ENTRY

A child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday. A child's parents may defer the date at which their child, below compulsory school age, is admitted to the school, until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which an offer was made. A child may take up a part-time place until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age. Upon receipt of the offer of a place a parent should notify the school, as soon as possible, that they wish to either defer their child's entry to the school or take up a part-time place.

PART-TIME ATTENDANCE

Applicants may also request that their child attend part-time until compulsory school age is reached. Upon receipt of the offer of a place a parent should notify the school as soon as possible if they wish to take up a part-time place.

ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside his/her normal age group e.g. if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill-health. In addition, the parents of a Summer born child i.e. a child born between 1 April - 31 August, may request that the child be admitted out of his/her normal age group, starting Reception at 5 years of age. Any such request should be made in writing to Mr. S. Frayne, at the school address at the same time as the admission application is made. The Governing Board will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the Headteacher, including the Headteacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organization, management and control of the school, the Governing Board will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals, as appropriate.

NURSERY CHILDREN

For children currently attending the school's Nursery, application to the Reception Classes of the school must be made in the normal way to the home local authority. Attendance at the Nursery **does not** guarantee a place in Reception Classes. Parents of children attending The Annunciation Nursery **must** make a fresh application for Reception.

Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section.37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the educational provision required for a child.

2. A child looked after is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. An adopted child is defined by Section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976 and Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. A special guardianship order is defined by Section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

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 the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy it includes a looked after child living with a family, where at least one of the parents is Catholic. . 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 who, after consulting with the diocese will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the church.

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.

5. ‘Eastern Christian Church’ includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism or Reception from the authorities of that Church.

6. Children of other Christian denominations

Children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledging God’s revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God’s will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his Board; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England and of CYTÛN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

7. ‘Children of other faiths’ means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of ‘other Christian denominations’ and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:

- A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
- A religion which does not involve belief in a God

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.

8. Brother or Sister includes:

- (i) All natural brothers and sisters, half-brother and sisters, adopted brothers and sisters, foster brothers and sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address and
- (ii) The child of a parent’s partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.

9. 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.

10. To demonstrate an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can be most appropriately met at this school, the Governing Board will require compelling written evidence from an appropriate professional, such as a social worker, doctor or priest.

11. ‘Parish Boundary’ for the purposes of this policy, the parish boundary is shown on the attached map and will be applied to the admission arrangements for 2023 to 2024 Map attached.

12. A child’s “home address” refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer, and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form (“CAF”). Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.

Parish Boundaries for The Annunciation Catholic Parish, Burnt Oak

