

**ADMISSION POLICY FOR
SECONDARY CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOLS
IN STAFFORDSHIRE**

School	Published Admission Number	Partner Primary Schools	Local Authority
Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Sports College, Burton-upon-Trent	124	St Charles' Catholic Primary School, Measham St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Swadlincote Holy Rosary Catholic Primary School, Winshall St Modwen's Catholic Primary School, Burton-upon-Trent	Staffordshire

This policy will apply to all admissions into year 7 and years 12 and 13 (Sixth Form) for the academic year 2019 - 2020.

The Catholic schools listed above are under the Trusteeship of the Diocese of Nottingham and belong 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.

Our schools are 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 Governing Body is the admission authority and is responsible for determining the admissions policy and for all decisions relating to admissions. The admissions process is administered by Staffordshire Local Authority on behalf of the school governors.

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

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Parents/carers residing in Staffordshire should consult the Local Authority website www.staffordshire.gov.uk which gives full details of the admissions process, including information on the admissions cycle. Similarly, parents/carers residing within Derbyshire should consult the Local Authority website www.derbyshire.gov.uk and parents/carers residing within Leicestershire should consult the Local Authority website www.leics.gov.uk

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 31st 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 31st 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

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

IN YEAR APPLICATIONS

Details of the application process are available from the school. 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 will remain open until the end of the Autumn Term in the admission year and will be maintained by the Local Authority.

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. Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Sports College participates in the Staffordshire Local Authority Fair Access Protocol.

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.

Distance measurement

Within each criterion allocation of places will be decided on a distance basis. This means that places will be allocated first to children whose home address is nearest to the school using the same method of measurement as used locally by the Local Authority.

The Local Authority uses a Geographical Information System (GIS) to calculate home to school distances in miles. The shortest straight line distance is calculated using Ordnance Survey (OS) route data from an applicant's home address to the main front gate of the school. The coordinates of an applicant's home address are determined using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and OS Address Point data.

Tie Breaker

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 in accordance with section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to a school.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under 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 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements 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 (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 of 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.

CRITERIA FOR SIXTH FORM ADMISSION 2019 - 2020

Subject information and application forms are available on the school website www.robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk or by calling the school on 01283 749450.

Each October/November, students in Year 11 and their families are invited to the annual Open Evening for admission into the Sixth Form, and given the opportunity to discuss the courses available. Subsequently, an application form should be submitted. The same entry procedures and

minimum grade requirements apply whether the student is from Blessed Robert Sutton or another school.

A deadline of **Friday 23rd November 2018** will be published, and students asked to apply by this time. Students who apply after this deadline will be interviewed and offered places only if space is available. Students will be interviewed and offered places based on teachers' estimated grades and grades already achieved in subjects completed.

A second published deadline of **Friday 25th January 2019** signifies the point at which prospective students should confirm their place. This will be the point at which the school confirms its staffing structure and decides which courses are viable. Those who try to confirm their place after this deadline, or who decline and later reverse their decision, might find that some courses are full. They will be advised and guided appropriately to choose different courses, and/or placed on a waiting list for available spaces.

Entry into a program, and/or specific courses, will be dependent on students achieving the relevant grades in the summer examinations. Students will be made aware of the minimum grade requirements for both the program and subjects they choose.

The maximum capacity of the Sixth Form allows for 100 students to be admitted into Year 12 each year. The school will attempt to exceed this limit should demand dictate, and it be possible to do so without reducing the quality of students' experiences.

OVER-SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Where the maximum number of students wishing to confirm places has been exceeded, priority for places will be given in the following order:

1. Pupils in the care of a local authority.
2. = Students presently studying at Blessed Robert Sutton.
2. = Baptised Catholic pupils not presently studying at Blessed Robert Sutton.
3. Students belonging to other Christian churches including Eastern Orthodox Churches, (see Note 4) studying elsewhere
4. All other applicants

In the event of a tie, applicants will be ranked according to their estimated and/or actual average points score at KS4 (including GCSE equivalents), those with the highest average point score being preferred.

LATE APPLICATIONS (APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE – **23rd NOVEMBER 2018**)

Applicants will be placed on a waiting list as per the over-subscription criteria. After the final offer date of **29th March 2019** further offers may be made from the waiting list; based on the number of offers accepted and availability. Final numbers cannot be determined before September 2018. The waiting list will be held open until **8th September 2019**.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

A formal appeal procedure is available in accordance with the provision of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. If you wish to appeal against the decision (parents and students are able to appeal jointly or separately) you should inform the school, in writing, within 10 days of receiving your refusal of a place.