**Admissions Policy for Nursery**

**2023/2024**

SS John Fisher and Thomas More is a Roman Catholic Primary School under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Shrewsbury. As a Catholic Voluntary Academy the Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust is the Admissions Authority.

All decisions relating to admissions applications will be taken by the Governing Body of this school.

Admission to the **3-4 year old Nursery class at SS John Fisher and Thomas More** **Catholic Primary School** will be on a full time basis \* and made by the Governing Body in accordance with the stated parental preference subject to the following set of Admission Criteria forming a priority order where there are more applications for admission than the Nursery has places available.

For the school year commencing September 2023 the Governing Body has set its admissions number for 3-4 year olds at 52.

1. Baptised Catholic Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
2. Nursery 1 children already attending our ‘Caterpillars’ provision (see note e).
3. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in the Primary school at the time of admission.
4. Baptised Catholic children resident in the parish of **SS John Fisher and Thomas More as defined in its historical boundaries up to 2010.**
5. Baptised Catholic children from other parishes as defined in **their historical boundaries up to 2010.**
6. Other Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
7. Other children who have a sibling in the Primary school at the time of admission.
8. Other children.

Notes:

* 1. 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 under section 22 (1) of the Children's Act 1989. A previously looked after child is one who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.
  2. All Catholic applicants will be required to produce baptismal certificates.
  3. **Admission to the Nursery classes does not necessarily secure admission to the Primary school.**
  4. If in any other category there are more applications than places available, priority will be given on the basis of distance from home to school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the front door of the child’s home address (including the community entrance to flats) to the main entrance of the school using the Local Authority’s computerised measuring system with those living nearer to the school having priority. In the event of distances being the same for 2 or more applicants where this distance would be last place/s to be allocated, a random lottery will be carried out in a public place.
  5. Nursery 1 is defined as children who are 2 years old on 1st September 2023.
  6. Nursery 2 is defined as children who are 3 years old on 1st September 2023.
  7. Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the child’s “permanent place of residence” will be determined as the address of the parent who normally has responsibility for the majority of school days in a week.
  8. Sibling is defined as a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer’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.
  9. The Governing Body reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a school place where false evidence is received in relation to baptism, sibling connections or place of residence.

**\*Full time places will be dependent on Local Authority funding for 2023/2024.**

**Admission dates**

Parents seeking a Nursery place for a September start should submit their application no later than 31st March 2023. ***Any applications received between 1st April 2023 and 31st August 2023 will be considered as ‘a late application’ and places will only be allocated if there are vacancies.***

In October 2023, the school will review places and if there are vacancies, a further intake of Nursery pupils will be considered for January 2024. The same process will be considered for April 2024.

**Provision for 2 Year Olds**

The Nursery offers 16 part time places for children aged 2-3 years old (Nursery 1). There are 8 places available in the mornings and 8 places available in the afternoons.

If eligible for ‘two year’ funding, children will be allocated a morning or afternoon place (3hrs per day) Monday-Friday. Places are usually offered for five mornings or five afternoons but, if necessary, exceptions may be made to accommodate children for their full 15-hour entitlement using a mixture of morning and afternoon sessions. For example, if there are only 4 morning sessions available, parents may be offered an afternoon session on the 5th day. **Children are not currently able to attend for more than 3 hrs per day.** Please contact the office if you are unsure if you meet the criteria for a funded place.

Parents who are not entitled to ‘two year’ funding are able to pay for a Nursery place through Parent Pay. A 3-hour daily session is charged at £15.00 and parents can choose how many sessions their child will attend to suit their budget. Please refer to the Nursery’s charging policy for more information.

When a child turns 3 years old, if a place is available in our Butterflies provision and staff feel the child is ready to transition, they may move up to our full time Nursery class the following term. The school operates a waiting list for in-year admissions, and priority is given to children who are already Nursery 2 (see note f). If no places are available the child will remain in the Caterpillar provision and any charges (if applicable) for their place will cease the following term.

If our Caterpillar provision is oversubscribed the above criteria (1-8) will be applied to allocate places.