

ST. ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Admission Policy 2012.

The governing body of St Robert of Newminster Catholic School is the Admissions Authority for this school. The governing body welcomes applications from all children and intends to admit up to 210 pupils to Year 7 in September 2012. This number will apply to Years 7 to 11. Separate arrangements are made for admission to Year 12 and are available from the school.

In determining admissions the Governors seek to preserve the religious character of this Roman Catholic voluntary aided school.

St Robert of Newminster Catholic School serves the parishes of: Our Lady's, Washington, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw, St. Bede's, Washington, St. John Boste, Washington, St. Mary's, Easington Lane and St. Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring. These are referred hereafter as the feeder parishes.

Where a child has a statement naming St Robert of Newminster, a place will be offered.

Catholic children are those children who have been baptised as Catholics or have been formally received into the Catholic Church

OVER SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Where there are insufficient places available to meet all parental preferences, priority will be given to applications in the following order:

- (a) Catholic children in the care of a Local Authority.
- ~~(b)~~ Catholic children resident in one of the feeder parishes, who are attending a maintained feeder Catholic primary.
- (c) Catholic children who attend a maintained Catholic Primary or Junior School.
- (d) Catholic children who are not attending a maintained Catholic Primary or Junior School but are resident in one of the feeder parishes
- (e) Catholic children who are not attending a maintained Catholic Primary or Junior School.
- (f) Non Catholic children who are Looked After Children (such as those looked after by a Local Authority) wherever resident
- (g) Children of other Christian denominations, who have a brother or sister in Years 7 to 11 attending the school at the time of admission.
- (h) Children of other Faith traditions, who have a brother or sister in Years 7 to 11 attending the school at the time of admission.
- (i) Other children, who have a brother or sister in Years 7 to 11 attending the school at the time of admission.
- (j) Children of other Christian denominations, who do not have a brother or sister at the school
- (k) Children of other Faith traditions, who do not have a brother or sister at the school
- (l) Other children, who attend a maintained Catholic Primary or Junior School.
- (m) Other children.

If applicants are seeking admission under any of criteria (a) to (e) above, they should provide evidence that the child is baptised Catholic or has been formally received into the church. Priority will be given to those children with the earliest date of baptism.

If applicants are seeking admission under all other categories, they must provide letter of support from their minister or Faith leader, or suitable equivalent affirming the child's faith membership.

The governing body will consider ALL applications on an 'equal preference' method.

Parents are asked to note that admission to any of Years 7 to 11 is no guarantee of entry into Year 12 (sixth form).

Where there are places available for some, but not all applicants within a particular criterion, distance from home address to the school entrance will be the deciding factor. Distance will be measured [by the shortest walking route] from the front door of the child's home address (including flats) to the main entrance of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

It must be stressed that formal written applications for admission must be made on the form provided by the Local Authority and returned to them by the stated date with all appropriate supporting evidence.. Places will then be allocated by strict application of the above criteria, with no reference to the date of application. Parents will be notified by the Local Authority as to whether or not their child has been allocated a place on 1st March.

Parents who are refused a place have a statutory right of appeal. Further details are available by writing to the Chairman of Governors at the School address.

Chairman of Governors

Date

1. Definition of Catholic

Children who have been baptised as Catholics or have been formally received into the Catholic Church. All applicants seeking admission under criteria 1,2 or 3 will be asked to provide evidence that the child has been baptised as a Catholic or has been received into the Catholic Church. A baptismal certificate or a letter from their priest confirming their baptism or reception into the Catholic Church will suffice.

2. Definition of Children in the care of a Local Authority

A child, who is looked after by a Local Authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children's Act 1989(b) at the time application for admission to the school is made and who the Local Authority can confirm, will still be looked after at time of admission to the school.

3. Definition of Sibling (brother / sister)

Sibling refers to 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.

4. Definition of 'other Christian denominations'

Defined as Christian faiths belonging to 'Churches Together in Britain and Ireland'.
(please see www.churches-together.org.uk for further details on membership)

5. Tie-breaker

Where there are places available for some, but not all applicants within a particular criterion, distance from home address to the school entrance will be the deciding factor, Distance will be measured [by the shortest walking route] from the front door of the child's home address (including flats) to the main entrance of the school, [using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system], [with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority].

6. Right of Appeal

Where a parent has been notified that a place is not available for a child, every effort will be made to help the parent to find a place in a suitable alternative school. Parents who are refused a place have a statutory right of appeal. Further details of the appeals process are available by writing to the Chair of Governors at the school address.