



St Adrian's Catholic Primary School

'To learn, to love, to live as a community of God with
Christ as our teacher'



St Adrian's Catholic Primary School

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St Adrian's Catholic Primary School, St Albans

Admissions to Nursery Policy and Criteria – 2025/26

St Adrian's Catholic Primary School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. The school is conducted by its Governing Body 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 applicants in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. In this policy, 'applicant' refers to you, the parent applying for a place, and 'candidate' refers to the child for whom an application is 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. Applicants are expected to support the aims and ethos of the school.

The Governing Body has responsibility for admissions to this school and has a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 26 pupils to the Nursery class in the school year which begins in September 2025. Pupils may attend our nursery for up to 30 hours per week in any combination of morning and afternoon sessions. Applications are invited from families whose child will attain four years of age between 1st September 2025 and 31st August 2026. There will be a single in-take in September 2025.

Application Policy & Procedures

Applicants must complete an Early Years Application form for St Adrian's Catholic School and Nursery available from the school office and school website. The information provided is used by Governors to apply admission criteria in the event of oversubscription.

The Early Years Application Form should be completed in full and returned to the school by post or by hand by the published closing date. For a Catholic child, a baptismal certificate is required – without this the child will be considered to be non-Catholic.

Continuing Interest

The school maintains a 'continuing interest' list for unsuccessful applicants who wish to be considered for a place should one become available in the future. Those on the list will be contacted termly to confirm if they wish to remain on the list. When a place becomes available it will be offered in accordance with the criteria set out in the admission policy in force at the time the admission is considered.

Parents of prospective pupils may visit the school by appointment before making their application.

If there are more than 26 applicants, the Governors will administer the policy using the criteria detailed below. The Governors will apply their admissions policy criteria to all applications equally in accordance with the ranking system.

Oversubscription Criteria

The following priorities for admission to St Adrian's School will be observed:

1. Nursery children deferring/delaying for Reception class in St Adrian's who are currently in Nursery in St Adrian's.
2. Baptised Catholic looked after and previously looked after Children (see definition notes)
3. Baptised Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice who will have a sibling at St Adrian's on the date of admission.
4. Baptised Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice who reside in the geographical parish of St Bartholomew's.
5. Baptised Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice who are resident in other parishes and for whom St Adrian's is their nearest Catholic school.
6. Baptised Catholic children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice who live in other parishes.
7. Baptised Catholic without a Certificate of Catholic Practice on the date of application who will have a sibling at St Adrian's on the date of admission.
8. Other Baptised Catholic children, who do not fit any of criteria 1 – 7.
9. Other looked after and previously looked after children (see definition notes)
10. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church as evidenced by a minister of religion.
11. Non-Catholic children who will have a sibling at St. Adrian's on the date of admission.
12. Children of other Christian denominations whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion.
13. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader.

14. Any other applicant.

Where there are more eligible applicants than remaining places within a category, after taking into account the above criteria, places will be allocated to those children living nearest to the school. A 'straight line' distance measurement is used in all home to school distance measurements in Hertfordshire. Distances are measured using a computerised mapping system to two decimal places. The measurement is taken from the Address Base Premium address point of your child's house to the address point of the school. Address Base Premium data is a nationally recognised method of identifying the location of schools and individual residences.

Multiple births and in-year siblings

If in applying the oversubscription criteria one of two or more siblings born in the same academic year is allocated a place, the other sibling(s) will be allocated a place up to the PAN.

Certificate of Catholic Practice

Applicants applying under criteria 3-6 must submit a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) by the closing date. This certificate should be obtained from the priest at the parish where the family normally worship.

It is the parent's duty to ensure that the CCP is submitted to the school together with the application form. The priest will only sign this form if he knows you and agrees that you are a practising Catholic family.

For the purposes of this policy, the definition of a Catholic includes a looked after child who is part of a Catholic family where a Priest has certified that the child would have been baptised or received if it were not for their status as a looked after child (e.g. a looked after child in the process of adoption by a Catholic family).

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

Late Applications

Applications arriving after the closing date will be dealt with after all initial on-time applications have been processed.

In –Year Admissions

Applications for In-Year admission are also made directly to the school on the school's Early Years Application Form. If a place is available and there is no waiting list then the governing body will admit the child. If more applications are received than there are places available then applications will be ranked by the Governing Body in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Parents will be offered the opportunity of being placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained by the in the order of the oversubscription criteria and not in the order in which the applications are received. Names are reviewed at the end of each term. When a place becomes available, the Governing Body will re-rank the list and make an offer.

Fair Access Protocols

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 Body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol that has been agreed by both the Diocese and the Governing Body for the current school year. The governing body has this power even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

Appeals

There is no right of appeal for Nursery admissions.

Definition Notes:

Catholic means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will be evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism in a Catholic Church or a Certificate of Reception into full communion with the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, this includes a Looked After Child in the process of adoption and living in a Catholic family where a letter from a Priest demonstrates that the child would have been baptised were it not for his/her status as a Looked After Child. For a child to be treated as a Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception in the Catholic 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 laws of the Church.

Certificate of Catholic Practice: means a certificate issued by the family's parish priest (or the priest in charge of the church where the family practises) in the form laid down by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It will be issued if the priest is satisfied that at least one Catholic parent or carer has (except when it is impossible to do so) attended Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation for at least five years. It will also be issued when the practice has been continuous since being received into the Church if that occurred less than five years ago. It is expected that most Certificates will be issued on the basis of attendance. A certificate may also be issued by the priest when attendance is interrupted by exceptional circumstances which excuse from the obligation to attend on that occasion or occasions. Further details of these circumstances can be found in the guidance to priests.

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.

Eastern Christian Church includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a certificate of Baptism or Reception from the authorities of that church.

"Children of other Christian Denominations": means 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 body; 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 creedal 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 CYTUN are deemed to be included in the above definition as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.
<http://rcdow.org.uk/education/governors/admissions/>

“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.

‘Family’ includes the Catholic or Catholics who have legal responsibility for the child.

Looked After Child (CLA): A “looked after child” has the same meaning as in Section 22(1) of the Children’s Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local Authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making application to the school)

A ‘previously looked after child’ is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the governing body) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Special Guardianship Order: A special guardianship order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s 14A which defines it as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian(s).

Child Arrangements Order: A Child Arrangement order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8 setting the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live. Children ‘looked after’ immediately before the order is made qualify in this category.

Parent means the adult or adults with legal responsibility for the child.

Siblings: A sibling is defined as: the sister, brother, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, child of the parent/carer or partner or a child looked after or previously looked after* and in every case living permanently** in a placement within the home as part of the family household from Monday to Friday at the time of this application. For a sibling relationship to exist, the older child must be on the roll of the school at the time the younger child starts.

*Children previously looked after are those children adopted or with special guardianship order or child arrangements order. This definition was amended following a determination by the OSA in August 2014.

**A sibling link will not be recognised for children living temporarily in the same house, for example a child who usually lives with one parent but has temporarily moved or a looked after child in a respite placement or very short term or bridging foster placement.

Tiebreak: Where two applicants meet the criteria at exactly the same point after distance has

been considered, the following tie break will be applied: random ballot drawn in the presence of an independent witness.

Home address: The address provided must be the child's current permanent address at the time of application. 'At the time of application' means the closing date for applications. "Permanent" means that the child has lived at that address for at least a year and/or the family own the property or have a tenancy agreement for a minimum of 12 months. Families who may be in process of moving house must refer to the additional information provided on the local authority website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

The application can only be processed using one address. If a child lives at more than one address (for example due to a separation) the address used will be the one which the child lives at for the majority of the time. If a child lives at two addresses equally, the address of the parent/carer that claims Child Benefit/Child Tax Credit will be considered as the child's main residence. If a family is not in receipt of Child Benefit/Tax Credit, alternative documentation will be requested.

If a child's residence is in dispute, parents/carers should provide court documentation to evidence the address that should be used for admission allocation purposes.

Where distances need to be calculated, the Hertfordshire County Council measurement tool will be used where possible. In other cases, the Google Mapping function will be used to determine the straight line distances.

Parish Boundaries

For the purpose of this policy, the geographical parish boundary for St Bartholomew's Parish (St Albans South) is shown on the attached map.

For all other parishes, the relevant parish priest should be consulted, to confirm for the applicant(s) within which parish, their address is situated.

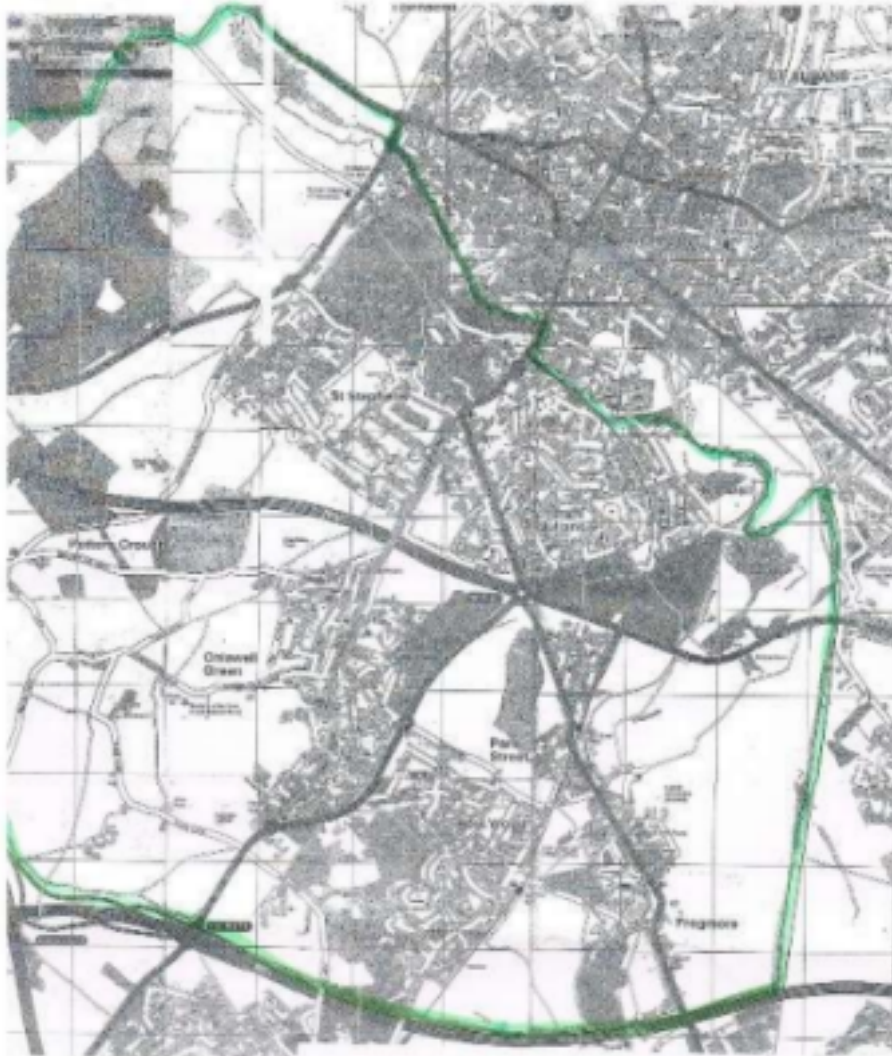


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St Bartholomew's Parish boundary map



Please note the western boundary line runs along the path of the M1

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