Admissions Policy 2019/2020

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<th>This Policy was reviewed by:</th>
<th>Autumn 2017</th>
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<td>Determined by Governors:</td>
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<td>To be Reviewed:</td>
<td>Annual (2020/21)</td>
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‘St Mary’s is a Christian School where we aim to Value – Inspire – Learn and Celebrate Together’

1. Introduction:

St Mary’s is a Church of England Academy and as such the Governing Body is responsible for determining the admission arrangements. This policy is revised every year in consultation with the Diocesan Board of Education and Suffolk County Council, and conforms to the requirements of the Education Act 2002 and School Admissions Code.

1.1 In order that the Governing Body have sufficient information to correctly process an application for a faith place parents are encouraged to complete the Supplementary Information Form (SIF). The completion of the SIF alone does not constitute a valid application.

2. Aims and objectives

2.1 We are an inclusive school with a strong Christian ethos. We are able to welcome children from a wide range of backgrounds and abilities. All applications will be treated on an individual basis and in a sensitive manner in accordance with the priorities laid down in this policy.

2.2 The only restriction we place on entry is that of number. If the number of children applying for entry exceeds the places available, we enforce the procedure set out below in order to determine whether a child is accepted or not. It is our wish to allow parents the right to have a place at the school of their choice. However, this is not always possible, due to the excess demand on the school places available.

3. How parents can apply for their child to be admitted to our school.

3.1 The Governing Body of our Church of England Academy determines the admission arrangements. The Governing Body are therefore the ‘Admissions Authority’ for our school. Applications may be received from the September of the year before the pupil is admitted. Applications should be made using the Local Education Authorities Common Application Form (CAF1) together with Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for aided schools. The SIF only needs to be filled in for those applying under religious criteria. These can be obtained from the St Mary’s Church of England Academy Office or: The Admissions Team, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX.
Applications can also be made online at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

3.2 The Local Authority publishes a composite admissions prospectus each year, which gives information about how parents can apply for a place of their choice. Parents have a right to express a preference for three schools of their choice and they should do so on the application form. Expressing a preference does not, in itself, guarantee a place at any school. Application forms can be obtained from the school office. The National closing date is Tuesday 15 January 2019. Applicants will be sent the offer of a place at a Primary School directly from the Local Authority Admissions Team on Tuesday 16 April 2019.

3.3 For admission to the 2019/2020 school year, and subsequent years, all children will be eligible for admission to St Mary’s Church of England Academy full time in the September following their fourth birthday.

3.4 The Governing Body of St. Mary’s Church of England Academy are able to welcome 60 pupils into the Early Years Unit each year. They apply the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend this school. This policy conforms to the requirements of the Education Act 2002 and School Admissions Code 2014.

The Published Admission Number is the number of children the school can accommodate within a year group. The Published Admission Number for our school is 60. Children are not admitted above the published number unless exceptional circumstances apply. This number is kept under review and the governors will apply to change the number if circumstances allow. All applications for a place at the Academy starting in Reception in September should be made on the Common Application Form (CAF1).

3.5 Where parents are offered a place for their child in the Reception Year of St Mary’s Church of England Academy they may decide either to take up the offer full time in September, or take up the offer part-time or defer entry. If a parent wishes to defer entry to later in the year the place at this school will be held open until the child starts school. However, parents must take up the full-time place no later than the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, and must in any case take up the place before the end of the school year for which the original application was accepted. It would normally be expected that parents will take up the offer of a primary school place (be that full or part-time) at the beginning of a school term, unless there is agreement with the school that a place could be taken up at another time in the year.

3.6 It is expected that children will normally be educated within their chronological year group. However, when requested to do so by the parent, admission authorities will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned in line with the School Admissions Code (December 2014). We are expecting further guidance or a change to the School Admissions Code regarding this and would comply with new legislation. This may apply when a parent wishes to delay their summer born (April to August) child entry to full-time education in the reception year group until the following school year when they become of statutory school age.
Parents or carers should make a request to the school in writing. This will need to include, where relevant, any supporting evidence. The governing body will make a decision on the request, taking into account the views of the Principal. The Academy will write to the parent or carer with the outcome including the reasons for the decision. If the request is refused, details of how to complain will be given. A CAF1 application form must be sent to the LA along with the decision letter(s) from the Academy and other relevant evidence by the national closing dates. Even if the request is agreed there is no guarantee there will be a place available.

4. Oversubscription Criteria

4.1 The Governing Body have a statutory duty to admit children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC plan) which names the school.

Thereafter, places will be offered in the following priority order:

- **Category A**: Children and Children previously in care, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order, immediately following having been looked after). A 'child in care' or 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 (iaw sect 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

  Children previously in care (previously looked after children) includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Childrens Act 2002 (section 46 adoption orders). 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.

- **Category B**: Where the child has a sibling in the school or a sibling has already been offered a place at the school, and where the sibling will still be attending the school at the time of admission. The term 'sibling' includes: natural, half, step, and adopted brothers and sisters; a child of the partner of the parent/carer; and children who are fostered into the family. In all these cases, the child and their sibling will both be living at the same address (that is where the child is ordinarily resident) in a single family unit. This means that children from different family units, where those separate families are living together at the same address, are not considered siblings under this criterion.

- **Category C**: Children eligible for one of the ten places available on faith grounds as outlined in appendix A.

- **Category D**: Children who are ordinarily resident¹ in the catchment area. Details of the catchment area can be obtained from the school or from Local Authority’s offices in Ipswich (website: www.suffolk.gov.uk/catchmentmaps) or see appendix B - Catchment Area Map. Living within a school’s catchment area is no longer an absolute guarantee that a place is available at your catchment school.

- **Category E**: Other children.
NOTES:

- By ‘ordinarily resident’ we mean the place where your child usually lives. We consider this to be where they sleep overnight. We may need proof of this address. If you use another address to give the impression that your child lives at a different address to where they are ordinarily resident, such as a second home or a grandparent’s address, so that you have a higher priority for a place at that school; we consider this to be a fraudulent application. Where a child lives at two or more addresses, each for part of the week, the address at which the child is ordinarily resident will be considered to be the address that the child lives at for most of the week (excluding weekends and school holidays). Separate evidence in writing from each parent must be provided to confirm the child’s living arrangements at the time of application. In cases where the child spends an equal proportion of the school week at two or more different addresses, evidence of which is to be considered the main contact address will be required to support the application. Agreement in writing by the parents will be required to state which address is to be used as the ordinarily resident address. This address will then be used when processing all school preferences expressed. It is not acceptable to use one address for one school preference and another address for another school preference. If we are aware of a parental dispute affecting the application, we may not be able to deal with the application and you may need to seek independent legal advice to resolve the matter.

- If your child is moving to Suffolk we can offer him or her a school place before you have moved to the county, but you must give us written evidence that you are legally committed to the move. This could be a solicitor’s letter confirming exchange of contracts, a signed letting/tenancy agreement or in the case of service families a letter from your commanding officer confirming your new address or, for returning UK Service/Crown Servant families, proof of the posting.

Children from Overseas:
Applications can be made for a Suffolk school when the child is not yet resident in the UK, provided the child is either:

(a) A British Citizen.
(b) A Citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA), which comprises the Member States of the European Union together with Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Iceland.
(c) Accompanying a member of the United States Air Force.
(d) Accompanying a teacher on the exchange scheme. The local authority has a duty to find a school place once they are notified that the child is resident in the area.

A copy of the child’s current passport is required as evidence of citizenship, or a copy of the documentation confirming the placement. The LA may also require evidence of the new address in Suffolk.
If the child does not fall into any of the above categories, then an application for a school place should not be made until the child has arrived in the UK.

- Travellers, Gypsy and Roma - Travellers, Gypsy and Roma children who move into the catchment of the school will be regarded as ordinarily resident in that area when they apply for a school place.
• Twins, Triplets and other Multiple births - if the final place available at a school is offered to a twin, triplet or other multiple birth, and the remaining sibling/s would ordinarily be refused, the Governors will offer places to the remaining sibling/s at the same school. The law requires that this will apply even where this would mean that more than 30 pupils would be admitted to an infant class.

5. **Charging:**
   Please note there is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to school.

6. **Oversubscription Criteria / Tie Break**
   Places may be given to children whose parents apply for a place in the school when a year group is below 60. If the admissions limit is reached when considering any of the above categories, the determining factor will be the distance from home to school. We will give priority to the applicants who live nearest to the school as measured by a straight line (‘as the crow flies’). All straight lines distances are calculated electronically by the LA using data provided jointly by the Post Office and Ordnance Survey. The data plots the co-ordinates of each property and provides the address-point between which straight line distance is measured and reported to three decimal places. Where there is more than one home within a single building (for example apartments) we will measure to a single point within that building irrespective of where those homes are located.
   In the unlikely event of two or more applicants living the same distance and competing for a single place, lots will be drawn by a member of staff not involved in admissions to determine the successful applicant.

7. **Waiting Lists**
   A waiting list will be maintained by the school of those unsuccessful in their initial application. Names are placed on the waiting list in the priority order set out in our admissions oversubscription / tiebreak criteria. This list will be maintained until 31 December. The order of children on a waiting list does not remain static - as circumstances change a child’s place on the waiting list can go up or down, for example due to withdrawals or additional applications. If you change your address while your child is on a waiting list you must let us know. Please be aware that this may change your child’s position on the waiting list, particularly if you move into or out of the school’s catchment area. Having your child’s name on a waiting list will not affect your right to appeal for a school place in any of the schools you have applied for.
   If a place becomes available, we will offer it to children on the waiting list for that school in priority order. We do not offer places on the basis of the date on which names were placed on the list. Where a school is over-subscribed, late applications will be placed on the waiting list in over-subscription priority. The order will be determined in accordance with the admissions over-subscription criteria, not the date on which the application is received.
   Waiting List (in-Year): We do not hold waiting lists for school places for in-year applications.

8. **Admission appeals:**
Applicants will be sent notice of the result of their application directly from the Local Authority on the National Offer day, 16 April.

If the Governing Body’s decision is not to grant a place for your child, you have the right to appeal against their decision. You will be sent information on how to appeal. There is no deadline for the submission of appeals which are independently administered by the: Education Appeals Office, PO Box 579, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

Further details of the admission process can be found in the Admissions to Schools in Suffolk booklet (also see www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions).

**Making another application for a place at the same school**

A parent/carer can apply for a place for their child at any time to any school outside of the normal admissions round. However, if your application for a school place is refused, we will not determine a further application for a place in the same school in the same school year, unless there has been a significant change in the circumstances of the parent/carer, child or school. Such circumstances might be a house move or a place becoming available at the school.

If there is no significant change in circumstances, you can make another application for the following school year. However, this will not normally be considered more than one term ahead of the date when you want your child to start at the school.

9. **Infant class size**

9.1 We teach infant children (aged five to seven) in classes that have a maximum number of 30 children unless permitted exceptions take the number above 30.

10. **Application for admission to other classes or an In-Year application.**

10.1. Applications are not normally considered more than one term ahead of the date the place is required.

10.2. Parents wishing to transfer their children from one Suffolk school to another where there is no change of address should, in the first instance, discuss the matter with the Head Teacher of their current school before applying for another school. (see also paragraph 10.8 below).

10.3. Parents who wish to make an in-year application for a place at this school should Contact the Office for an application form – ADM1. This form should be returned to the Office.

10.4. We will, on receipt of an in-year application, notify the Local Authority (LA) of both the application and its outcome, to allow the LA to keep up-to-date figures on the availability of places in the area.

10.5. When a place becomes available in a year group that has been full at this school, any applicant refused a place for that school year in the last 15 school days and any applicant for whom an appeal has been lodged and is still to be heard, will be considered alongside any new applications. The place will be offered to the pupil ranked highest in accordance with the over subscription criteria.
10.6. All applications will be processed by the school within 5 school days and the decision communicated in writing. An emailed decision will always be confirmed by letter. Acceptance of offers can be made by email or letter but, in all cases, must be made within two weeks of the offer date.

10.7. If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the Governors will use their published oversubscription criteria to determine the offer of places. Any unsuccessful applicant has the right to appeal the decision to an independent panel and details of how to do this will be included in the decision letter.

10.8. When an offer of a place is made and the child already has a place in a local mainstream school, the Governors will offer the place from the start of the following half term. The child will remain on roll at the previous school until they take up the place at this school.

10.9 **Children out of Year group.** It is expected that children will normally be educated within their chronological year group. However, admission authorities will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned in line with the School Admissions Code (2014). You can make a request for your child to be educated out of year group, in writing, including where relevant, any supporting evidence. St Mary’s Academy Trust will make a decision on the request, taking into account the views of the Principal. The Academy will write to you with the outcome including the reasons for the decision. If the request is refused you will be given details of how to complain. A CAF1 application form must be sent to Suffolk County Council along with the decision letter(s) from St Mary’s Academy and other relevant evidence by the national closing dates (see ‘Important dates: what happens when’ section of the Admission to Schools in Suffolk booklet). Even if the request is agreed there is no guarantee there will be a place available.

11 **Policy Review and Consultation**

11.1 This Policy is reviewed annually. Consultation takes place locally with our parents and, more formally, with the Diocesan authorities and the Local Authority in line with the School Admissions Code.

Signed: ………………………………………………… Date: …………………………………

Derek Kuziw
Chair of Governors
Appendix A

Applications for Category C places are allocated using the following criteria given in priority order:

1. Children who live in the area covered by the Church of England Mildenhall Ministry Team, whose parent/guardian or carer is active in the worshipping life of one of the churches in the Mildenhall Ministry Team and have worshipped at least monthly over the past twelve months. (see note i)

2. Children who live in the area covered by the Mildenhall Team Ministry, whose parent/guardian or carer is active in the worshipping life of another Christian Church and have worshipped at least monthly over the past twelve months (see note ii)

3. Children who have transferred into the area covered by the Mildenhall Team ministry, and can clearly demonstrate a religious commitment similar to that outlined in the above categories.

4. Children who belong to another religious faith, whose parents/guardians/carers would like them to attend St Mary’s Church of England Academy because of its religious traditions.

For all applications to a faith place Church of England Schools in Suffolk parents are advised to complete fully a Supplementary Information Form (SIF), completion will enable governors to have as full a set of information as possible. The SIF is used in conjunction with the Suffolk Common Application Form (CAF) it is optional and is, in itself, NOT a valid application. These forms together with a copy of this Admissions Policy and The Schools in Suffolk booklet will be available on-line to all parents at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions and www.smypsac.org.

Notes:

i) The Parishes of the Mildenhall Team Ministry are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>St Mary’s Mildenhall</th>
<th>St Mary’s Barton Mills</th>
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<tr>
<td>St John’s Beck Row</td>
<td>St Laurence &amp; St Peter Eriswell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Saints Worlington</td>
<td>St James’ Icklingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Andrew’s Freckenham</td>
<td>Red Lodge Community Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Peter’s West Row</td>
<td>St Ethelbert Herringswell.</td>
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ii) For the purposes of the Admissions Policy a Christian Church is a Church which is a participating member of ‘Churches together in Britain and Northern Ireland’.
APPENDIX B - Supplementary Information Form
for applications to St Mary’s Church of England Academy

- This is not an application form. Applications for a school place must be made by using the Suffolk County Council online facility or by completing a paper application form.

- This form may be completed if ANY of your preferences are for St Mary’s Church of England Academy – it is not compulsory to complete this form in order to make a valid application, but the information it contains may assist the Governors (as the Admissions Authority) in applying their oversubscription criteria.

- Please refer to the details of the schools admissions criteria before you apply.

N.B. Forms which are altered or which contain incorrect information (eg address, date of birth, etc) will be considered invalid and this may prejudice your application.

Full name of child: ........................................................................................................................................

Date of Birth: ........................................................................................................................................

Current permanent address: ........................................................................................................................
                                                                                             ........................................................................................................................................

Contact Telephone Number: ...................................................................................................................

If you wish your application to be considered under Category C of the oversubscription criteria please complete this form as fully as possible.

What is the denomination/faith of the Church you attend?

Church of England:   ❑

Church with membership of Churches Together in Britain and Northern Ireland:  ❑

Other Faith (please specify): ....................................................................................................................

In which Church of England parish do you live?..............................................................................

Which Church do you attend?................................................................................................................

Have you worshiped at least monthly over the past 12 months? ...................................................

If you have changed churches during the past year, please provide details of your previous Parish
Priest/Vicar/Minister: ..........................................................................................................................

To be completed by your Parish Priest/Vicar/Minister: (If there is currently no minister in post a senior church officer may sign)

I can confirm, to the best of my knowledge, that the above information is accurate.

Signed..................................................  Dated.................................................................

Name..................................................  Position............................................................

Address..................................................................................................................................................

The information collected on this form may be passed to schools or to other Local Authorities as part of the admissions procedure. The information will be passed to the school to which the child concerned is finally allocated, where it will form part of the pupil database maintained by that school. Any personal information you provide will be dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM to:
St Mary's Church of England Academy, Trinity Avenue, Mildenhall. Suffolk IP28 7 LR