OUR LADY IMMACULATE
CATHOLIC ACADEMIES TRUST

ADMISSIONS POLICIES FOR 2028

Welcome to Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust.

We are a large Catholic Multi Academy Trust situated in the northern half of the Catholic Diocese of Northampton. The Trust currently leads ten Catholic primary schools and two Catholic secondary schools located across the geographical area of Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire. Our schools cover Northampton, Wellingborough, Corby, Kettering and Bedford.

The Directors of the Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust are responsible for determining and administering the policy relating to the admission of pupils to the schools within the Trust. It is guided in that responsibility by the requirements of the law, the advice of the Duns Scotus Trust and the Diocesan trustee, and its duty to the schools and the Catholic community.

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. We welcome applications from those of all faiths and none and hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the schools. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with the admission arrangements.

OLICAT Directors will consider all applications made in accordance with the criteria set out without reference to the aptitude or ability of the child. All applications will be considered on an equal preference basis.

Children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school will be admitted in accordance with Local Authority policy and regulations.

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St Brendan's Catholic Primary School

Beanfield Avenue
Corby
Northants
NN18 0AZ
http://www.stbrendansprimaryschool.co.uk/

Our school Mission Statement 'Always treat others as you would like them to treat you' (Matthew Ch. 7 V 12), is at the centre of all aspects of school life at St Brendan's Catholic Primary School. Our school has a caring, inspirational and friendly environment where every child is provided with bespoke opportunities to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence, enabling them to make a positive contribution towards society, now and in the future as enthusiastic lifelong learners. We aim to create positive and supportive relationships between home, school, parish and the wider community to ensure the needs of all members of the school family are met.

For 2028 St Brendan's Catholic Primary School Published Admission Number is set at 45 into Reception.

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
4. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
5. Children attending the St Brendan's Parish Playgroup nursery who will be of Reception age.
6. Siblings of other children whose siblings will be in attendance at the date of admission.
7. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
9. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use the Local Authority's system to determine the distance between the applicants address point and the school's address point.

Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School

Occupation Road
Corby
Northants
NN17 1
http://www.ourladys.co.uk/

Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School is a learning community based on Gospel values. We aim to develop our pupils by encouraging their growth as spiritual and moral individuals who have the confidence to make the best choices. We encourage them to aspire to achieve and to realise their full potential. We nurture our children as they grow into responsible members of our community and to develop a lifelong love of learning.

For 2028 Our Lady of Walsingham's Published Admission Number is set at 60 into Reception.

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
4. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
5. Children attending the Little Learners Nursery who will be of Reception age.
6. Siblings of other children whose siblings will be in attendance at the date of admission.
7. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
9. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use the Local Authority's system to determine the distance between the applicants address point and the school's address point.

St Edwards Catholic Primary School

Eastleigh Road
Kettering
Northamptonshire
NN15 6PT
http://www.st-edwards.northants.sch.uk/

St Edward's Catholic Primary School is a school where we strive to give all children the best possible education within an environment where everyone is valued and respected as part of God's family. Our Catholic ethos is enriched through prayer, worship and shared Gospel values which all play an important part in our school life. As a school we will do all we can to love and serve each other, and God, through our work and our play.

"Let all you do be done in love" 1 Cor; 14-16

For 2027 St Edwards Published Admission Number is set at 30 into Reception.

In case of over subscription, the Directors will give priority to children in the following order:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
4. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
5. Siblings of other children whose siblings will be in attendance at the date of admission.
6. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
8. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use the Local Authority's system to determine the distance between the applicants address point and the school's address point.

St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Northampton Road,
Kettering,
Northamptonshire,
NN15 7JZ.
https://www.stthomasmorekettering.co.uk/

Our school Mission Statement is at the heart of all we do. Children, teachers, parents and all involved, "Try to be like Jesus in all that we think, do and say." This is why our school is a happy and safe place to be. We pride ourselves on our warm, welcoming Catholic ethos and are proud of the special relationships the school holds with the Parish, community and parents.

Our Core Aims are to, "Learn, Love, Play and Pray". We are developing a rich and broad curriculum that gives every child coming through our doors an education they enjoy. We prepare the children for academic success and happy, fulfilling lives, now and in the future. Worship is an integral part of our lives at St Thomas More and is enriched by visitors and pupil led assemblies. Our children recognise they are not just part of our St Thomas More community, but they make up part of a wider Catholic community.

For 2028 St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Published Admission Number is set at 30 into Reception.

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
4. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
5. Siblings of other children whose siblings will be in attendance at the date of admission.
6. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
8. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use the Local Authority's system to determine the distance between the applicants address point and the school's address point.

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Grange Road
Northampton
NN3 2AX
https://www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk/

We are pleased to be able to introduce you to the range of opportunities which St. Gregory's can offer your child. We would like to share with you the high expectations we have of our children in their work, attitude and behaviour. Most importantly, we would like to share the ways in which we will be working with you, their parents, carers and guardians, as together we begin to lay the foundations of each child's spiritual life, based on the teachings of Jesus and the Gospel Values which lie at the heart of everything we do.

For 2028 St Gregory's Published Admission Number is set at 60 into Reception.

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
4. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
5. Children attending the St Gregory's nursery who will be of Reception age.
6. Siblings of other children whose siblings will be in attendance at the date of admission.
7. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
9. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use the Local Authority's system to determine the distance between the applicants address point and the school's address point.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Woodside Way
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN5 7HX
https://www.stmaryscatholicprimary.northants.sch.uk/

Welcome to St Mary's Catholic Primary School. I warmly invite you to use our website as a window through which to view our distinctive primary school, where the Catholic ethos is evident and open to be experienced by all who enter.

"With Christ as our guide, we let our light shine."

We strive for excellence in teaching and an enjoyment of learning; in a setting underpinned by Gospel values and practices. Our highly skilled staff set consistently high expectations in all that they do and ensure St Mary's is a place where we help to make long-lasting memories.

For 2028 St Mary's Catholic Primary School Published Admission Number is set at 30 into Reception.

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
4. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
5. Siblings of other children whose siblings will be in attendance at the date of admission.
6. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
8. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use the Local Authority's system to determine the distance between the applicants address point and the school's address point.

The Good Shepherd

Kingsland Gardens
Northampton
NN2 7BH
https://www.thegoodshepherdcatholicprimaryschool.org.uk/

At The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School, we aim to provide a welcoming and caring environment in which every child is able to be happy, confident and supported in discovering their individual talents and strengths.

We believe that all teaching in our school must reflect our Catholic faith, where the Catholic faith is not only taught but nurtured and reflected in the daily life of the school.

We believe that the school in partnership with parents, priests and parish community should provide children with:

- *A secure grounding in the Catholic tradition, and*
- *A fulfilment of their academic potential*

At The Good Shepherd we provide an ethos in which individuals are brought to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith within a climate that ensures an education of the highest standard.

Our Vision

"Following Jesus, The Good Shepherd, in all we say and do."

For 2028 The Good Shepherd's Published Admission Number is set at 30 into Reception.

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
4. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
5. Children attending The Good Shepherd nursery who will be of Reception age.
6. Siblings of other children whose siblings will be in attendance at the date of admission.
7. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
9. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use the Local Authority's system to determine the distance between the applicants address point and the school's address point.

St Thomas Becket Catholic Secondary School

Becket Way
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN3 6HT
https://www.thomasbecket.org.uk/

At Thomas Becket Catholic School Christ's Love is Our Foundation. We believe that it is our mission to love the children and make sure that they know it. We pride ourselves on being a Catholic, listening and learning school where the students are at the heart of everything we do. Every decision we take is made with love at its centre.

At our school every child is a unique, important member of our family. Our focus is to help foster a lifelong happiness for our students throughout their lives and we believe that this cannot be achieved without the foundations of being a well-rounded person of good character and we believe happiness is enhanced by the options academic success can provide. We seek to instil positive values by educating and challenging them through a focus on our core values of Faith, Justice, Compassion, Truth and Respect.

We ensure that the challenge of loving the children is at the forefront of all that we do, whether it is striving for caring relationships with the students, through planning exciting lessons that enthuse the students, providing feedback to help them learn or by striving for the highest possible standards to allow students to fully realise their gifts and talents.

For 2028 Thomas Becket Catholic School's Published Admission Number is set at 180 into Year 7.

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
4. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
5. Children who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
6. Children who attend an OLIICAT Primary School designated as a feeder school.
7. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
9. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use the Local Authority's system to determine the distance between the applicants address point and the school's address point.

St Thomas Becket Catholic Secondary School Sixth Form

Becket Way
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN3 6HT
https://www.thomasbecket.org.uk/

The school operates a sixth form for a total of 200 pupils. For 2027 our published admission number for external applicants is 10.

Both internal and external pupils wishing to enter the sixth form will be expected to have met the same minimum academic entry requirements for the sixth form. These are:

- For pathway 1 – Level 3 BTECS – pupils will have achieved an average GCSE point score of 3.8 – 4.8.
- For pathway 2 – Level 3 BTECS and A-Levels – pupils will have achieved an average GCSE point score of 4.9 – 5.4.
- For pathway 3 – A-Levels – pupils will have achieved an average GCSE point score of 5.5 – 6.4.
- For pathway 4 – A-Level (minimum two facilitating subjects) – pupils will have achieved an average GCSE point score of 6.5+

In addition to the sixth form's minimum academic entry requirements pupils will need to satisfy minimum entrance requirements to the courses for which they are applying. If either internal or external applicants fail to meet the minimum course requirements, they will be given the option of pursuing any alternative courses for which they do meet the minimum academic requirements. Course requirements are published annually in course information sheets available on its website. Courses have a minimum number required to run and may not always be available.

When year 12 is undersubscribed, all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted or permitted to progress.

When there are more external applicants that satisfy any academic entry requirements, priority will be given in accordance with the oversubscription criteria below.

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
4. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
5. Children who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
6. Children who attend an OLIICAT Primary School designated as a feeder school.
7. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
9. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use the Local Authority's system to determine the distance between the applicants address point and the school's address point.

Our Lady Catholic Primary School

Henshaw Road,
Wellingborough,
Northants NN8 2BE
https://www.ourladyscatholic.northants.sch.uk/

We feel that 'Our Lady's' is a very special name for our school. Its significance is in the love and response of Mary, chosen by God to be a very special parent, the mother of Jesus. Our mission as parents and teachers is to bring up our children in a Christian community which will inspire their formation as future adults of society. We encourage consideration for others, and this is demonstrated by our success in charity work.

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you."

As new parents we extend to you a very warm welcome: for you this is the first introduction to our school, and we hope that you quickly become a valued partner in the education of your child.
Each year we look at the names of our new children. It is always a delight to recognise and welcome younger children of present families, as well as younger children of parents whose older children have moved on some years ago. This provides a continuation or renewal of established relationship and friendship, with our parents. Increasingly it is a pleasure to welcome the children of past pupils.

We have an enthusiastic and dedicated staff who are committed to the aims of Our Lady's and enhance that community relationship. Their aim is to help all children achieve their best work, along with good behaviour and appearance, and to show care and concern for others.

For 2028 Our Lady Catholic Primary School Published Admission Number is set at 30 into Reception.

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
4. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
5. Children attending The Our Lady's Pre-school who will be of Reception age.
6. Siblings of other children whose siblings will be in attendance at the date of admission.
7. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
9. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use the Local Authority's system to determine the distance between the applicants address point and the school's address point.

St John Rigby Catholic Primary School

Polhill Avenue
Bedford MK41
9DQ
https://www.stjohnrigby.org/

We are a family-orientated thriving community with extremely talented and dedicated members of staff, supportive parents and carers, and inspirational children who strive to live out our Gospel Values of Faith, Love, Hope, Trust and Forgiveness in every aspect of their school life.

As a Catholic community, we share a desire to see each individual, precious child, grow and develop in a loving, safe and inspiring environment. All of the children are encouraged to grow in the love of God and one another, to develop their unique and God-given talents, to form lasting friendships and to strive for excellence in everything they do.

St John Rigby Catholic Primary School is located in the Putnoe area of Bedford and is situated in beautiful, spacious grounds which provide the children with excellent open-air facilities for exercise as well as a natural resource for the environmental work in the school.

The school primarily serves the parishes of Holy Cross and SS Philip and James, St Frances Cabrini and other parishes in the Bedford Deanery.

For 2028 St John Rigby's Published Admission Number is set at 30 into Reception.

In case of over subscription, the Directors will give priority to children in the following order:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
1. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
4. Children attending the St John Rigby Nursery who will be of Reception age.
5. Siblings of other children whose siblings will be in attendance at the date of admission.
6. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
8. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use Bedford Borough Council's GIS computer system to determine the distance between the applicants address and the main school entrance. Distance measurements are carried out using a straight-line basis.

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School and Preschool
Biddenham Turn, Biddenham, Bedford, MK40 4AT
Email: office@sfoa.beds.olicatschools.org
Tel: 01234 352062

When children join us on their first day, we have a clear plan and goal for each of them. That is very simply that every one of them feel loved, feel included and experience an education that enables them to achieve their God-given potential. Our children are kind, compassionate, loving and empathetic. They understand what it means to be part of a community that is rich and diverse. We wish for every child to feel successful from the moment they step through our doors and will do everything we can to support them to achieve their aspirations, including aiding a smooth transition and readying them for the next part of their education journey.

For 2028 St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School Published Admission Number is set at 30 into Reception.

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
2. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
4. Children attending the St Francis of Assisi Nursery who will be of Reception age.
5. Siblings of other children whose siblings will be in attendance at the date of admission.
6. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
8. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use Bedford Borough Council's GIS computer system to determine the distance between the applicants address and the main school entrance. Distance measurements are carried out using a straight-line basis.

St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School

St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School
Tyne Crescent
Bedford MK41
7UL
https://www.st-thomasmore.org.uk/

St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School is built on Christian values that are lived out daily and inspire the warmth, kindness and happiness that are such an obvious characteristic of the school. Students at St Thomas More achieve very highly in their academic studies and this is an important focus on our work. We also cherish our responsibility to provide an education that is fully rounded and enables each child to develop their God given talents.
Our school is a vibrant, well-ordered and friendly environment. Our students are happy and confident; our staff are experts in their field. Together we work hard to make St Thomas More a truly excellent school.

For 2028 St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School's Published Admission Number is set at 150 into year 7.

3. Looked after and previously looked after children.
4. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
5. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
6. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
7. Children who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
8. Children who attend an OLIICAT Primary School designated as a feeder school.
9. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
10. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
11. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use Bedford Borough Council's GIS computer system to determine the distance between the applicants address and the main school entrance. Distance measurements are carried out using a straight-line basis.

St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School Sixth Form

St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School
Tyne Crescent
Bedford MK41
7UL
https://www.st-thomasmore.org.uk/

The school operates a sixth form for a total of 300 pupils. For 2025 our published admission number for external applicants is 10.

Both internal and external pupils wishing to enter the sixth form will be expected to have met the same minimum academic entry requirements for the sixth form. These are that pupils have achieved an average mean grade of 3.2 over all GCSE's taken for our vocational pathway, an average grade 5 for our blended pathway and grade 5.5 for the A Level pathway.

In addition to the sixth form's minimum academic entry requirements pupils will need to satisfy minimum entrance requirements to the courses for which they are applying. If either internal or external applicants fail to meet the minimum course requirements, they will be given the option of pursuing any alternative courses for which they do meet the minimum academic requirements. Course requirements are published annually in the school's prospectus and on its website. Courses have a minimum number required to run and may not always be available.

When year 12 is undersubscribed, all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted or permitted to progress.

When there are more external applicants that satisfy any academic entry requirements, priority will be given in accordance with the oversubscription criteria below.

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children with a baptism certificate who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Catholic children with a baptism certificate
4. Other Catholic children (those in communion with the Catholic Church, for example Eastern Orthodox)
5. Children who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
6. Children who attend an OLIICAT Primary School designated as a feeder school.
7. Children from other Christian denominations whose parents wish them to receive a Christian education whose application is supported by a Christian minister.
8. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader.
9. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

- Child(ren) of a member of staff who has been employed at the school for two or more consecutive years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and child(ren) of a member of staff who is employed at the school and was recruited to fill a

vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made.

In the event that any category is over-subscribed priority will be given to applicants in order of geographical proximity to the school (priority being given to the children who live closer to the school). The Governing Body will use Bedford Borough Council's GIS computer system to determine the distance between the applicants address and the main school entrance. Distance measurements are carried out using a straight-line basis.

Additional Information

Application Procedures and Timetable

To apply for a place at any of these schools in the normal admission round, you must complete a Common Application Form available from the local authority in which you live. Applications can also be made online at

- https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions for children living in NNC.
- https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions for children living in WNC.
- www.bedford.gov.uk for children living in Bedfordshire.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application, by the local authority on our behalf in accordance with the timetable published on their website. If you are unsuccessful (unless your child gained a place at a school you ranked higher) you will be informed of the reasons, related to the oversubscription criteria listed above, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

If you do not provide the information required and return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, (such as the Baptism Certficate) your child will not be placed in criteria to which this refers and this is likely to affect your child's chance of being offered a place.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions (please see the websites listed above).

Late Applications

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

Appeals

Parents/carers who may wish to appeal against non-admission will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. The decision of the Appeals Panel will be binding. Details of admissions and appeals arrangements will be published each year on the Local Authority website.

Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful children will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and ***not*** in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will be held by the Local Authority and operate throughout the school year.

Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

Feeder Schools

For the purposes of this admissions document the OLICAT Primary Schools designated as a feeder schools are:

For NNC and WNC:

School	URN

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	142733
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	142738
The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School	142742
Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School	141633
St Edward's Catholic Primary School	141634
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	141635
St Brenden's Catholic Primary School	142064
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	148339

For Bedford:

School	**URN**
St John Rigby Catholic Primary School	139515
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School	139547

SEND

Pupils who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are required to be admitted to the school which is named, even if the school is full.

Fair Access Protocol

We are committed to taking our fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the directors are empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol, even where admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number (subject to the infant class size exceptions).

Tie Break

In any situation where the application of the above criteria results in more children with an equal right to admission to the school than the number of available places, the tie-break will be made by random allocation. The places will be allocated, in order, up to the number of places available. Random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the Trust.

Transport

Generally, as a parent or carer you are responsible for your child's journey to and from school. Your County Council may provide free transport in certain circumstances. Please check their websites on the local authority's statutory duties and eligibility criteria.

In Year Admissions

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places. Application should be made to the Local Authority in which the school is situated. Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out above, will be applied.

If there are no places available, the child will be added to the waiting list (see above).

You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel if a place is refused.

In year admissions for sixth form places should be made directly to the school.

Admission of Children Below Compulsory School Age and Deferred Entry (Primary)

A child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday. A child's parents may defer the date at which their child, below compulsory school age, is admitted to the school, until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which an offer was made. A child may take up a part-time place until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age. Upon receipt of the offer of a place a parent should notify the school, as soon as possible, that they wish to either defer their child's entry to the school or take up a part-time place.

Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child, i.e., a child born between 1st April and 31st August, may request that the child be admitted out of their normal age group, to reception rather than year 1.

Any such request should be made in writing to the headteacher(s) of the school(s) to which you are applying at the same time as the admission application is made. The governing body will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in 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, as appropriate.

Definitions

1. An Education, Health and Care Plan 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' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children 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.
3. A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
4. '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 the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic. For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of baptism or reception into the 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.
5. For the purposes of this admission policy, attendance at a feeder primary school includes those who were prevented from attending a feeder school due to oversubscription of Catholics and whose application to attend was unsuccessful, normally evidenced by a letter of rejection from the feeder primary school.
6. "children of other Christian denominations" means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge 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 credal 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 CYTÛN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

7. "children of other faiths" means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian denominations' at 7 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:
   a. A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
   b. 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.
8. 'brother or sister' includes:
   all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and the child of a parent's partner where that child for whom the school place is sought lives for at least part of

the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.

9. 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.
10. A child's "home address" refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form ("CAF"). Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.