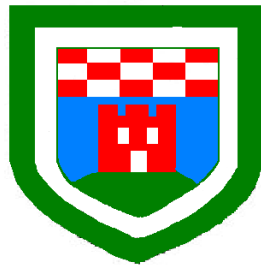




DALTON ST MARY'S
CHURCH of ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL



ADMISSIONS POLICY

2023/2024

Admissions Policy 2023 / 2024

The Governors of Dalton St Mary's CE Aided School are the Admissions Authority. Following consultation with the Diocesan Board of Education and the Local Authority the Governors have set the published admission number for access to the reception class as **30**.

The parental pack contains information and an application form for admission to our school. It is also possible for an application to be made on the Local Authority's website. This is the preferred option but if you wish your application to be considered under the faith criteria you should also complete the supplementary form and hand it in to School.

The application closing date for entry in September 2023 is the 15th January 2023. The parental information pack contains additional information.

Parents are encouraged to name three preferences on the application form. The Governors operate a system whereby they consider all preferences equally. So the order of your preferences will not be used in considering your application (It will only be used if a place is available for your child at more than one school). Places at this school will be allocated according to this Admissions Policy and the Local Authority's Coordinated Admissions Scheme. A letter informing parents of the success or otherwise of their application will be sent out by the Local Authority. Parents of those children not offered a place will be informed of the reason, their right of appeal and offered an alternative school by the Local Authority.

All children will be admitted unless there are more applicants than places in which case the Governors will make allocations using the following criteria. These are listed in order of priority.

1. Children who are in Public Care or have previously been in Public Care which extends to children who have been adopted or have become subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. A child in public care is defined as a child who is looked after by the Local Authority within the meaning of section 22 of the Children's Act 1989.
2. Children who have physical and/or medical needs who would be disadvantaged by travelling to another school. Written evidence from an appropriate professional (e.g. a letter from a doctor or social worker) would be required to enable the Governors to consider admission and make consistent decisions based on the evidence provided in this category.
3. Children living within the catchment area having a brother or sister attending our School at the time of their admission giving priority, if necessary, to those children with the youngest siblings. Brothers and sisters are those living at the same address including step, adopted and foster children.
4. Children living within the catchment area who with a parent attend at least twice a month, a church in membership of Churches Together in Britain or the Evangelical Alliance. Attendance may be at more than one Church but should be for at least two years prior to the application date. *(A letter indicating church membership certifying attendance, signed by the minister, should be attached to the application form to qualify under this criterion)*
5. Children living within the catchment area who with a parent worship in a non-Christian faith which is in membership of the U.K. Interfaith Network. The Governors will seek confirmation that the parent meets the normal religious obligations of the faith.
6. Children living within the catchment area.
7. Children who have attended our Nursery.
8. Children living outside the catchment area having brothers and sisters attending our School at the time of their admission giving priority, if necessary, to those children with the youngest siblings. Brothers and sisters are those living at the same address including step, adopted and foster children.

9. Children living outside the catchment area who with a parent attend at least twice a month, a church in membership of Churches Together in Britain or the Evangelical Alliance. Attendance may be at more than one Church but should be for at least two years prior to the application date. *(A letter indicating church membership certifying attendance, signed by the minister, should be attached to the application form to qualify under this criterion)*
10. Children living outside the catchment area who with a parent worship in a non-Christian faith which is in membership of the U.K. Interfaith Network. The Governors will seek confirmation that the parent meets the normal religious obligations of the faith.
11. Children living outside the catchment area.

The criteria outlined above will be strictly followed there being one exception. If a child has an Educational Health Care Plan naming Dalton St Mary's CE Aided Primary School then irrespective of the criteria the child will be admitted as in these circumstances the Governors have a statutory duty to admit the child concerned.

Tie Break.

In some categories, where there are more applicants than places available age will act as a determining factor if children have siblings on role in school, but unless specified it will be distance. The distance is measured from the child's home front door to the main entrance door of the school. The distance is determined by the shortest walking route by road. If the child lives with more than one parent the distance will be measured from the main residence. In the event of the child's time being divided equally between both parents the distance to school will be measured from the nearest of the two addresses. The closest addresses will have priority. Distance will be measured using the Local Authority GIS system.

Address of Pupil.

The address on the application form must be the current one at the time of application. Where a child can live at more than one address the home address is to be the one where the child sleeps and thus wakes up for all or the majority of the school week. Where there is any doubt, the Governors reserve the right to verify the information provided by the parent(s), for example, through the GP or the child benefit address.

In Year Admissions.

In year admissions are those which occur outside the "normal" admission time. Parents who wish their child to attend Dalton St Mary's CE Aided Primary School should visit our School and admission details will be provided if we have a vacancy in the relevant year. If your child is refused a place, you will be informed of your right to appeal.

Deferred admission.

For children beginning school following their fourth birthday admission is normally in September. However, if you wish entry may be deferred until later in the year or until the term in which your child reaches compulsory school age. For example, if your child's fifth birthday is between September and December then, if you wish, admission may be deferred until the beginning of the Spring term. If it is between January and April admission may be deferred until the beginning of the Summer Term. You can also request part time education until the term in which your child reaches compulsory school age. The Governors recommend that in your child's interests full time education is deferred no later than the start of the Spring Term.

Appeals Procedure.

If the Governors are unable to offer your child a place because of over subscription you as a parent have a right of appeal under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2002. You should notify the Clerk to the Governors at Dalton St Mary's CE Aided Primary School within 20 school days of receiving the letter refusing a place. As a parent you will have an opportunity to submit your case to an independent (of the Governors) appeals panel. You must set out your grounds for the appeal in writing. You will normally receive 10 school days notice of the time and venue for the appeal hearing where you will be able to present your case in person. This right of appeal does not prevent you from making an appeal in respect of any other school. An independent appeal will be organised on behalf of the Governors by the Legal and Democratic Services at Carlisle.

Successful Applications.

Last year Dalton St Mary's CE Aided Primary School was able to offer a place to all who made an application for a Reception place.

Late Applications.

If there are extenuating circumstances for an application being received after the closing date, for example a family moving into the area, then the Governors will consider it provided they have not established their list of pupils for admittance. Otherwise, late applications will be considered after all other applications and if necessary, placed on the waiting list.

Waiting List.

Those children who are not offered a place may, if the parents so wish, be placed on a waiting list. The names will be placed on the list in the order of the admissions criteria. Late applicants will be slotted into the list according to the admissions criteria. It is thus possible for a child recently arrived in the area to have a higher priority than a child who has been on the waiting list for sometime. Irrespective of whether an appeal has been submitted, if a place becomes available it will be offered to the child at the top of the list. The waiting list will remain open for the whole of the first term in the year to which it relates.

Fraudulent applications.

If the Governors of Dalton St Mary's CE Aided Primary School discover that a child has been awarded a place as a result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent, for example, an incorrect address and as a result it effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim then the Governors will withdraw the offer of a place. The Governors will reconsider the application and the right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

If your child was refused a place in a reception or key stage one class because of Government limits on infant class size the grounds on which your appeal could be successful are limited. You would have to show that the decision was one which no reasonable governing body would have made or that your child would have been offered a place if the governors' admissions policy had been properly implemented. This right of appeal does not prevent you from making an appeal in respect of any other school.

Multiple births.

The Governors of Dalton St Mary's CE Aided Primary School will ensure as far as possible that twins, triplets or those children born in the same year are not separated. Such children will be given priority in any particular category. If despite this the Governors are unable to accept all the children because the published admission number will be exceeded then the Governors will allocate a place by leaving the decision to the parents. The Governors will invite the parents to go to appeal for the unsuccessful child(ren).

Nursery.

If you have a child in our Nursery School/Class then you must make a separate application for the Reception Class. A place in our Nursery School/Class does not guarantee a place in our Reception Class.

The admission of your child to our School is not dependent on your ability or willingness to make financial contributions.

Signed (Signed copy in school) *Lynda Woodburn* Headteacher

Signed (Signed copy in school) *Rev. Ruth Crossley* Acting Chair of Governors

Date: 21st September 2021

This policy will be reviewed annually.