

St. Dominic's Catholic Primary School

St. Mary's Hill, Inchbrook, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 5HP

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Admission Policy 2020-2021

At St Dominic's we welcome children of all faiths and of no faith. We are a Catholic school where children come to be happy and successful. At St Dominic's we aim to develop confident, self-assured, positive young people who love to learn, to be the best they can be in all they do where each child is given the opportunity to achieve goals at their own pace and ability.

We offer pupils a dedicated team of staff who ensure lessons are meaningful and children are challenged, supported and highly motivated. Learning is child centered and enjoyable with a strong foundation in academic development of reading, writing and mathematics. In addition to gaining these skills we pay particular attention in encouraging children to be creative, using their imagination to bring learning to life.

We ensure that our children learn about, and have confidence in, themselves as learners. Setting goals and holding high aspirations for their future.

The children are surrounded by learning in St Dominic's School through innovative displays and stories of their year told through their workbooks. In Early Years our children have an excellent grounding in their first year of school. Throughout their time in primary school we have a continued focus on the individual child and put in strategies for emphasis on support for learning when needed.

There is close liaison between the year 6 teacher and the senior school Heads of Department to ensure that all pupils receive the support they need both academically and pastorally as they progress and transfer to our feeder high schools.

The parish and community in which we are set is very important to us and we encourage a strong community spirit, where we show consideration and respect for each other; understand differences, and uphold kind, well-mannered behaviour.

1. St Dominic's is a Catholic primary school (academy) which was established by the Church to serve the parish of the Church of the Annunciation, Woodchester. The Governing Body, acting in accordance with the School Admissions Code and the School's trust deed and in conjunction with the Gloucestershire Local Authority, is responsible for the admission of pupils.

2. **The Published Admission Number for the Reception Year Group is 15.** This is also the number of places available in all other year groups.

Children offered a place are entitled to a full-time place from the September following their fourth birthday. Children offered a place may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, which is 1st January, 1st April or 1st September following their fifth birthday.

Where a place is offered, it may be deferred until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made. If parents/carers offered a place wish a deferment they should indicate so when accepting any offer of a place.

3. Parents/carers of a **summer born child** (born between 1 April and 31 August) may wish for their child to be admitted out of their normal age group. Please refer to the School Admissions Guidance Booklet at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions, and the Summer Born Children factsheet, found at the same address, or available on request from the Access to Education Team, Shire Hall, Gloucester, GL1 2TP.

Applicants will need to contact the school if they are considering deferring their child's admission to school, and to complete and return to school the Gloucestershire County Council's Form to Request Deferred Entry. You may request paper copies from school. When making their decision, governors will take into consideration the individual circumstances of each case, and the best interests of the child concerned. Where it is agreed in principle by governors for a child to be admitted to the Reception year, a year behind their chronological age group, the parent/carer will need to complete a local authority common application form for that year and the oversubscription criteria will be applied, if necessary.

4. For those living in Gloucestershire, this policy may be read in conjunction with the Gloucestershire School Admissions Guidance Booklet. This can be found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions or available on request from the

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Access to Education Team Shire Hall Gloucester GL1 2TP. You will be encouraged by the Admissions and Transfers Team to apply online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions but will be sent a paper version on request.

5. For Reception Intake, application must be made to the Local Authority (LA) where the child lives – their home LA. To be considered in the first round of allocations, application must be submitted to the home LA by closing date 15th January 2020. For those living in Gloucestershire they apply online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions/ Paper application forms are available on request from the Admissions and Transport Team, Shire Hall, Gloucester, GL1 2TP. If more applications are received than places available, the Governing Body will prioritise applicants in line with the oversubscription criteria, by the end of the Spring Term 2020 and all on-time applicants will be informed of the outcome in writing by the home LA acting on the Governing Body's behalf on the national offer date of **16th April-2020**.

6. For Reception Intake, a list of Reception candidates seeking a place will be kept in school until 31st December 2020. If places become available before then, offers will be made in accordance with the oversubscription criteria below. Each added child to the list will require the list to be ranked again in line with the published oversubscription criteria.

7. In the event of **over-subscription** applications will be ranked in accordance with the following criteria, given in order of priority. **Note: These categories will only come into play should there be more applications than available places.**

1. *Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children, who are baptised Catholic.*
2. *Baptised Catholic children who live in the parish of the Church of the Annunciation, Woodchester. A map of the parish is available from the school website and office and at the end of this policy.*
3. *Children who will have a sibling at the school at the time of their admission.*
4. *Baptised Catholic children who live outside the parish of the Church of the Annunciation, Woodchester.*
5. *Other Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children.*
6. *Children of a baptised Catholic parent who live within the parish of the Church of the Annunciation, Woodchester. A map of the parish is available from the school website and office and at the end of this policy.*
7. *Children with a parent who has been a member of St Dominic's School staff for two or more years (at the time of admission application), and/or who has been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.*
8. *Other children, not in the above categories.*

Tiebreakers

Priority within each category will be given in order as follows:

- a. *children who will have a sibling at the school at the time of their admission*
- b. *random allocation i.e. drawing lots will be undertaken by governor and supervised by someone independent of the school.*

8. Please note that the school is required to admit a child with a **Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Educational Health Care (EHC) Plan** where the school is named in the Statement or Plan, even if the school is full. Such children will be allocated a place before the above oversubscription criteria is applied to other applicants, if necessary.

9. The school has signed up to the **In-Year Fair Access Protocols** held by the Local Authority. Should a vulnerable child within these Protocols require a place, they will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

10. In Year Admissions

Any applications for a school place made outside the normal year of entry process, should be made directly to the school. The governors will require a completed school application form obtainable from the school and the Gloucestershire LA.

11. For September 2016 the Governors received 34 applications. The applicants that were offered and accepted places were in the following categories:

Cat 8.2 2 Cat 8.3 1 Cat 8.7 5 Cat 8.9 1 Cat 8.10 2 Cat 8.11 4

12. Appeals Procedure

Parents have the right to appeal against the refusal by the Governing Body to admit their child. They should put their appeal in writing to the Clerk to the Governors at the school. Appeals will be arranged by the Governors in accordance with the School Admissions Appeals Code.

Definitions

Baptised Catholic child or parent

For any of the oversubscription categories for Baptised Catholics, a copy of a baptismal certificate or equivalent validation should be sent to the school. Where a certificate is not available, a statement from a member of the clergy, confirming that the person has (or in their opinion has) been baptised or received into the Catholic Church must be provided. The governors may also request sight of the original certificate.

Looked After Children/Previously Looked After Children

A 'looked after child' (1) or a child who was previously looked after but

Sibling

immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption (2), child arrangements order (3) or special guardianship order (4).

(1) 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. In Gloucestershire, such children are referred to as Children in Care.

(2) This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).

(3) Under the provisions of section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amend section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Child arrangements orders replaced residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order

(4) See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner. In every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address, for at least 50% of the time, at the time of application.

Summer born child

A child born between 1st April and 31st August.

Parent

This includes all of those people, including carers, who have parental responsibility for a child as set out in the Children Act 1989. All references within this policy to parent(s), therefore include carers accordingly.