



BONUS PASTOR CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Admissions Policy and Criteria

Bonus Pastor Catholic College was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. The college is administered by its Governing Body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and Instrument of Government, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ.

In applying for a place at Bonus Pastor Catholic College it is understood that parents/carers accept the aims and ethos of the Catholic College, and will support its distinctive nature. This does not affect the right of parents/carers who are not of the Catholic faith to apply and be considered for a place here.

The Governing Body has responsibility for admissions to the College and intends to admit 180 students to Year 7 in 2020, and maintain 180 students in year groups 8, 9 & 10.

Oversubscription Criteria

- 1) First priority of admission will be given to looked after Catholic children or looked after children in the care of Catholic families and previously looked after Catholic children who have been adopted or who have become the subject of a residence or guardianship order.
- 2) Second priority of admission will be given to baptised Catholic children who will have a brother or a sister in Years 7 – 10 at the time of application.
- 3) Third priority of admission will be given to committed and practising baptised Catholic children from families where at least one parent/carer is a practising Catholic.

In interpreting commitment and practice the Governors take into account frequency of regular attendance at Sunday Mass, as indicated on the Supplementary Information Form. A higher priority will be given where there is a higher regular frequency of attendance at Sunday Mass, as verified by the nominated priest.

When the College is oversubscribed with applicants whose commitment and practice has been verified by the Parish Priest the Governors will refer to the preceding paragraph in prioritising places and will then take the following factors into account, in the order of priority shown:-

- a) Serious medical grounds supported by a consultant's letter at the time of application, considered at the discretion of the Governing Body. This supporting evidence should set out the particular reasons why this college is the most suitable and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school.
- b) Children of staff who have been employed at the College for at least 3 years.
- c) Proximity to the College



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Any places unfilled under (1), (2) and (3) will be offered in accordance with the following practice in the order of priority shown:-

- 4) Baptised Catholic children whose frequency of attendance at Sunday Mass is irregular or occasional.
- 5) Baptised Catholic children who may not be attending Sunday Mass at the time of application.

Sub categories (a) and (b) apply in prioritising applications in the above two groups.

- 6) Other looked after children and other previously looked after children who have been adopted or who have become the subject of a residence or guardianship order.
- 7) Siblings of children in Years 7-10 who are not included in No.2 above.
- 8) Non baptised children who have regular attendance at Sunday Mass, as verified by their nominated priest.
- 9) Baptised/Dedicated children of other Christian denominations whose practice can be supported by a priest, minister or pastor of the denomination.
- 10) Baptised/Dedicated children of other Christian denominations who are not practising.
- 11) Children of other faiths.
- 12) Any other applicant.

Sub categories (a) and (b) apply in prioritising applications in the above four groups.



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- **Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan**

The admissions of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or with an EHC Plan are dealt with by a completely separate procedure. The procedure is integral to the making and maintaining of statements and EHC plans by the pupil's home local authority. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the SEND code of practice.

The criteria above do not apply to pupils with a statement or EHC plan naming the school.

Notes (These form part of the Policy and Criteria)

- In addition to the Common Application Form, a Bonus Pastor Supplementary Information Form should be completed by parents/carers on behalf of all prospective pupils. Completion of a Supplementary Information Form is not mandatory but if one is not received the Governors will be unable to apply their admission criteria and the application will be considered under Criterion 12 above 'Any other applicant'.
- 'Looked After Children' – 'A looked after child' or a child who has previously been looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. A looked after child is a child who is a) in the care of the local authority, or b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).
- Catholics include members of the Ordinariate and the Latin and Oriental Rite Churches that are in union with the Bishop of Rome.
- 'Baptised' means sacramental baptism in accordance with the rights of the Catholic Church. Catholic children baptised in other Christian denominations should have a certificate of reception into the Catholic Church.
- 'Sibling' – means children who live as brother or sister, including biological brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers or sisters. It would not include other relatives, e.g. cousins. The older sibling must be on the roll of the College at the time of admission, i.e. 1st September 2020.
- 'Proximity' means priority will be given in this sub category to those having the shortest distance from the College measured in a straight line from their front door to the main gate at Winlton site, as provided by the Local Authority. Please note proximity to the College is a sub category and regular attendance at Sunday Mass is a higher priority, e.g. a student with regular attendance at Sunday Mass will have higher priority than a student with irregular attendance but living nearer. Where the last remaining place is to be allocated and two or more children are deemed to live at the same distance from the school the place will be decided by the drawing of lots.



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- Waiting List – in addition to the right of appeal, unsuccessful applicants will be offered the opportunity to be placed on our waiting list which will be maintained in order of the criteria set out in this policy and not in the order in which applications are received. The waiting list is renewed in September each year by writing to all those on the list as at 31st August and asking whether they wish to remain on the list for the coming academic year.
- The College does not have specific facilities for students with disabilities. As far as possible the college will ensure that students with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as other students.
- The College is committed to taking its fair share of vulnerable children who are hard to place, in accordance with locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal round of admissions, the Governing Body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol which carries the agreement of both the Governing Body and the diocese for the current admission year. The Governing Body has this power even when admitting such a child would exceed the normal admission number.

Procedure for Admission at Secondary Transfer Stage

- A Common Application Form must be completed and sent to your Local Authority by the published date.
- The additional Bonus Pastor Supplementary Information Form will be made available at the Open Evening and Open Morning sessions as published, from the College's website and will also be available from Lewisham Local Authority.
- A completed Bonus Pastor Supplementary Information Form should be returned to the College by the published date, together with a copy of the Baptism /Christening/Dedication Certificate. However, completion of a Supplementary Information Form is not mandatory but if one is not received the Governors will be unable to apply the admission criteria and the application will be considered under Criterion 12 above 'Any other applicant'.

Procedure for Admission during the Academic Year

- Application must be made to your Local Authority who will advise the College of your interest in applying for a place and a Bonus Pastor Supplementary Information Form will be sent to you.
- A Bonus Pastor Supplementary Information Form should be completed and returned to the College, together with a copy of your child's Baptism/Christening or Dedication Certificate, so that the Governors can consider the application against the current published admissions criteria.