

# BISHOP MARTIN C. of E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

## BIRKRIG, SKELMERSDALE, WN8 9BN



This is the **Admissions Policy for 2017-18** as determined by the Governors of Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School.

The **admission number is 45**. The Governing body will not place any restrictions on admissions unless this would result in an infant class exceeding 30. Last year the school was able to admit all pupils requiring a place.

### **ADMISSION POLICY**

The Governors have agreed upon the following criteria for admission to the school, in order of priority, in the event that there are more applicants than places.

#### **1. Children in public care and previously looked after children.**

This includes any “looked after child” previously looked after children” and any child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.

#### **2. Children with special medical or social circumstances affecting the child where these needs can only be met at this school.**

Professional supporting evidence from a professional, e.g. a doctor, psychologist, social worker, is essential if admission is to be made under the criterion for special medical or social circumstances, and such evidence must set out the particular reasons why the school is question is the most suitable school and the difficulties which would be caused if the child had to attend another school.

- 3.** As the school is a Church of England foundation, preference will be given to children whose parents are committed church members and are regularly involved with the life and work of Christ the Servant Church. A letter of support may be required. \*
- 4.** Brothers and sisters already attending Bishop Martin C of E Primary School and who will still be in school at the time of admission. This includes full, half and step brothers and sisters and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address as part of the same family unit. Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility the address given on the application form should be the address where the child sleeps on most nights of the week.
- 5.** Children of parents who are regularly involved with the life and work of another Church of England parish. A letter of support from their church may be required. \*
- 6.** Children of parents not of the Anglican faith who are genuinely seeking Christian education. A letter of support will be required from their church.
- 7.** Distance from home to school.

\* **Note:** Criteria 3 & 5 - Parental involvement is normally taken to mean a minimum of monthly attendance at church and active involvement in church activities.

**Tie break:** Where necessary to decide between applicants of otherwise equal priority, either within or following the application criteria, then the distance from home to school will be used. This means that priority will be given to applicants living closest to the school using the shortest walking distance i.e. from the child’s home to the main school gates in Birkrig by the safest walking route. In the event of a tied distance measurement between address points the Local Authority’s system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s).

**Late Applications:** All applications sent before the closing date will be dealt with at the same time. Late applications will normally be dealt with after those received on time. You should be aware that a late application could reduce your chance of gaining a place at the school. In some cases where an application is received after the closing date but before the allocation date it may be considered alongside those applications which were received on time where there is, in the view of the admissions authority, an acceptable reason for the late application.

A waiting list will be established in the event of over-subscription. Allocation of places will be made using the above criteria order. The waiting list will be maintained for the full autumn term in the academic year of admission

**Shared responsibility:** Where the parents live at different addresses, the address used will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings. If there is any doubt about this, then the address of the Child Benefit recipient will be used. Parents may be asked to show evidence of the claim that is being made for the address used.

**Twins/Triplets etc.:** Where there are twins, etc. wanting admission and there is only a single place left within the admission number, then the governing body will exercise as much flexibility as possible within the requirements of infant class sizes. In exceptional circumstances cases we are now able to offer places for both twins and all triplets, even when this means breaching infant class size limits. This may also apply to siblings who are in the same year group.

**Deferred admission:** If your child is due to start school during the next academic year, it is important that you apply for a place for September. If your child's fifth birthday is between the months of September and December, then, if you wish it, admission may be deferred until January; if it is between January and April, then admission may be deferred until the start of the summer term though it is likely to be in your child's interest to start no later than January. You may also request that your child attend school part time until he/she reaches his/her fifth birthday.

**Non-routine admissions:** It sometimes happens that a child needs to change school other than at the "normal" time; such admissions are known as non-routine or in-year admissions. Parents wishing their child to attend this school should arrange to visit the school. They will be provided with an application form once they have a definite local address. If there is a place in the appropriate class, then the governors will arrange for the admission to take place. If there is no place, then the admissions committee will consider the application and information about how to appeal against the refusal will be provided. Appeals for children moving into the area will not be considered until there is evidence of a permanent address, e.g. exchange of contracts or tenancy agreement with rent book.

Please note that you cannot re-appeal for a place at a school within the same school year unless there has been relevant, significant and material change in the family circumstances.

**Appeals:** Where the governors are unable to offer a place because the school is oversubscribed, parents have the right to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, as amended by the Education Act, 2002. **Parents should notify the clerk to the governors at the school by Thursday 1st May, 2016.** Parents will have the opportunity to submit their case to the panel in writing and also to attend in order to present their case. You will normally receive 14 days' notice of the place and time of the hearing. Appeals which are received after the deadline will be slotted into the schedule where this is possible. There is no guarantee that this will happen and late appeals may be heard after the stipulated date at a second round of hearings. The schedule is subject to change depending upon the availability of appeal panel members, clerks, venues and the number of appeals for each school (which will vary year on year). Please note that this right of appeal against the governors' decision does not prevent you from making an appeal in respect of any other school.

**Fraudulent applications -** Where the governing body discovers that a child has been awarded a place as the result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent (for example a false claim to residence in the catchment area or of involvement in a place of worship) which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, then the governing body is required to withdraw the offer of the place. The application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.