



# St. Sebastian's Church of England Nursery

## Policy for Nursery Admissions

2023 - 24



Saint Sebastian's Church of England Primary and Nursery School values highly its Christian ethos, its close links with local churches and the Diocese of Oxford. We provide a distinctively Christian, environment where everyone is welcome, and every child is motivated to acquire skills for life and a love of learning. We ask all parents applying for a place at our school to respect this ethos and its importance to the whole school community.

THERE ARE SEPARATE ADMISSIONS POLICIES FOR THE NURSERY AND FOR THE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Please note:

- Separate applications are required for St. Sebastian's Nursery and for St. Sebastian's C.E. Primary School
- A successful application for St. Sebastian's Nursery does NOT guarantee a successful application to St. Sebastian's C.E. Primary School
- Offers of a place in the Nursery will be sent in writing

### **APPLICATION**

Applications must be made by completing the appropriate form obtained from the School Secretary or downloaded from the school's website.

### **ADMISSION INFORMATION**

1. Children will normally be admitted to the Nursery at the beginning of the term after they turn three years old.

If the child is born between:	They are eligible for a Nursery place in the term following their 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday:
1 September – 31 December	Spring Term
1 January – 31 March	Summer Term
1 April – 31 August	Autumn Term

2. The Nursery offers 32 places - 16 places in the morning and 16 places in the afternoon. However, this is conditional on filling 8 places in the morning and 8 in the afternoon.

Children will be entitled to attend for a maximum free entitlement of 15 hours per week or 30 hours per week, depending on the parents' circumstances. For 15 to 30 hours free childcare per week, proof of entitlement will be required before attendance at Nursery can begin and at the start of each subsequent term if attendance is to continue. Children attending for 15 hours per week will normally attend five morning sessions or five afternoon sessions. However, other requests will be considered at the time of application. The school hold the right to adjust these so they are in line with the school day, if required for operational reasons.

Session times are:

Morning: 8.30 am – 11.30 am

Afternoon: 12.15 pm – 3.15 pm

The Nursery sessions and times may be adjusted and a minimum of one term's notice in writing will normally be given.

3. Parents will be offered the opportunity to buy into a lunchtime club for the time between the morning and afternoon sessions.
4. Children will be expected to attend regularly. The Governors reserve the right to withdraw 1 or more sessions if a child is frequently absent or is absent for an extended period without a good reason. Places may be held open in exceptional circumstances such as a long period of hospitalisation.

### **ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

1. Completed Nursery application forms must be returned to the School office by:  
31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 for admission in September 2023

26th May 2022 for admission in January 2024

31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 for admission in April 2023

Parents will be notified on the outcome of their application within 28 days of the closing date.

2. The Governors' Admissions Panel will consider the information on each application form before allocating the available places, according to the Admissions Criteria. Applications for 15 hours per week, those for 30 hours per week and those for fewer hours per week will be treated equally and in line with our admissions criteria. Distances will be measured using a computerized mapping system. The distance is measured as a straight line between the respective home address and the School entrance at the time of the application. In the event of identical or equidistant addresses, random allocation will be used to decide which child will be allocated the remaining place(s). This will be by supervised drawing of lots, carried out in the presence of a person independent of the Nursery.
3. All offers of places will be made in writing.
4. All offers of places must be accepted within 14 days of the offer being made.
5. A Parent who refuses a place must re-apply if their child is to be considered for a place in future.
6. Applications at other times of the year, late applications or transfers from other nurseries will be considered by the Governors and a place offered if a vacancy exists.

7. A Waiting List will be kept by the Nursery for unsuccessful applicants. If a vacancy occurs, places will be offered from the Waiting List in category and distance order (see 'Admissions Criteria').
8. A Parent whose application is unsuccessful has no statutory right of appeal but may ask the Governors' Admissions Committee formally to reconsider the application.
9. If there are spaces in the Nursery and no applications on the waiting list parents may be offered the opportunity to buy additional hours of attendance at the then current rate.

St. Sebastian's Nursery is an Equal Opportunities establishment and all applications will be given equal consideration within the Governors' Admissions Policy.

Following the allocation of a place parents will be asked to provide the child's birth certificate or another acceptable form of identity such as a passport.

The right is also reserved to verify any of the information, including home address, given on the application form.

#### **ADMISSIONS CRITERIA**

Children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming St. Sebastian's Nursery in the Plan or Statement will always be admitted.

When completing the Nursery Application Form, parents should decide under which of the following four categories (other than for children with a statement or EHCP naming the Nursery) they wish to apply.

In the event of there being a greater demand for admission than there are places available, the following over subscription criteria will be applied in the order set out below.

Category One: Looked-after children and children who were previously looked after, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside England, but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted.

Category Two: Children who are already on – roll at our Nursery.

Category Three: Children living in the ecclesiastical parish of St. Sebastian's (see map).

Category Four: Children who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application or whose parent has accepted an offer of a place at the school and who is expected still to be in attendance at the time of entry to the school.

Category Five: Any other children whose parent wishes them to attend St. Sebastian's Nursery.

Terms used are as defined below:

#### Looked After Children

Note: “By a “looked-after child” we mean one in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of its social services function. Previously looked after children are children who have been adopted, subject to child arrangement orders or special guardianship orders. Adopted children are those for whom an adoption order is made under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Section 46). A “child arrangements order” is one settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live (Children Act 1989, Section 8, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014, Section 14). A “special guardianship order” is one appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian/s (Children Act 1989, Section 14A). Applications under this criterion must be accompanied by evidence to show that the child is looked after or was previously looked after (e.g. a copy of the adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order). Evidence that a child from outside England was previously in state care will be required to come within this criterion. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.”

Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer’s partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

#### Map of St Sebastian’s Parish

