

St James Church of England
Primary School



Name of Policy	Nursery Admissions
Signed ratification by Governors	
Review Dates	Ver. 1 11 December 2013 Amended by Admissions Committee November 2014 Amendment approved December 2014 This policy was amended to reflect the new funding arrangements. NB 30 hour funding introduced – Sept 2017
Next Review Date	Annually in line with Reception admissions. Reviewed and signed 16.05.25

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The aim of this Church School Nursery is to make a distinctive contribution in the field of education by having a caring and compassionate concern for all the children it admits and by building an early years community based on Christ's teaching.

1.2 In formulating the Admissions Policy, the Governors are aware of their responsibilities to children who are in local authority care, whose parent(s) are active and committed local church members and to children whose parents live locally.

1.3 Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the Governors' over subscription criteria will be used to decide who will be admitted.

2 ADMISSION POLICY

2.1 The nursery serves the area bounded by the River Thames, Jacob's Creek, Jamaica Road, Sweeney Crescent, Neckinger, Spa Road, Alscot Road, Grange Road, Dunton Road, Mandela Way, Chaucer Drive, Oxley Close, Abercorn Way, St.James's Road, Rotherhithe New Road, Galleywall Road, Southwark Park Road, West Lane. This is "the nursery school area" for the purposes of criteria 2.2(c) - 2.2 (f) below. (See note 4) Priority is given to applicants resident in this area, but other applicants are welcome to apply.

2.2 The following criteria are listed in order of priority:

(a) Looked after children or previously looked after children.

Note: 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 definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). A previously looked after child is a child who was adopted, or subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order, immediately following having been looked after.

(b) Children with an exceptional and professionally supported medical, pastoral or social need for a place at this nursery. This must be supported by written evidence **at the time of the application**, e.g. from a specialist health professional, social worker or other care professional. The evidence must set out the reasons why this nursery is the most suitable early years provision and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another nursery.

(c) Children whose parents or guardians are regular worshipping and committed members of St James' Church and St. Anne's Church Bermondsey and who are resident in the nursery school area as defined in 2.1 above.

"Regular" is defined as the child and at least one parent or guardian attending a Sunday service at least twice a month for a minimum of two years prior to the date at which places are allocated at the nursery.

If recently moved into the area then regular means having attended in the same way at a church in the area from which they are moving.

A Supplementary Nursery Information Form is required to support the application of those applying under this category (see para 3.2)

(d) Children whose parents or guardian are regular worshipping and committed members of another Anglican parish church or other Christian church which is a full member of “*Churches Together in England*”, within the nursery area defined in 2.1 above and who are resident in the same area.

“Regular” is defined as the child and at least one parent or guardian attending a Sunday service at least twice a month for a minimum of two years prior to the date at which places are allocated at the school. If recently moved into the area then regular means having attended in the same way at a church in the area from which they are moving.

A Supplementary Nursery Information Form is required to support the application of those applying under this category.

(e) Children who at the date of entry will have a sibling(s) in St. James’ Church of England School or at the St. James’ Nursery School.

(f) Children whose main residence is within the school area described in 2.1 above (see Note 2)

Note 1:

Siblings includes full, half, step, foster and adopted brother or sister living in the same family unit and at the same home address as the child. The home address is where the parent/carer lives and the child permanently resides unless otherwise directed by a Court Order. This will also apply to informal care arrangements. Where a child spends time with both parents/carers in separate homes and both have parental responsibility, the school will need to establish where the majority of school nights (Sunday to Thursday) are spent. This will then be treated as the home address. Siblings attending Year 6 who will be transferring to secondary school will not be regarded as a sibling under this criterion.

Note 2:

In the event that two or more applicants have equal right to a place under any of the above criteria 2.2(c) – 2.2 (f), and there are insufficient places, priority will be given to children living nearest to the school measured by straight line distance from the child’s home postcode to the main entrance of the nearer of the school sites. If applicants live equidistant from the school the Governing Body will draw lots to decide between applicants.

Note 3: A Christian Church is one that is a full member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland or The Evangelical Alliance, also including Monnow Road, City Hope and Rhema, Free Church.

Note 4:

Boundaries run down the centre of roads, the centre of Jacob's Creek and includes boat dwellers moored on the Thames within the area.

3. **PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION**

- 3.1 Parents who wish to have their child considered for admission to the nursery must complete a Nursery Application Form. In addition parents applying under criteria 2.2(c) and 2.2(d) will need to complete a supplementary information form in order that the school can apply its admissions policy fairly.
- 3.2 New children will be admitted in the term after their third birthday if there is a place available. If there is no place available they will be ranked on the waiting list according to the nursery admissions criteria 2(a-f) above.
- 3.3 Parents may request in writing to join the waiting list ranked according to the nursery admissions criteria 2(a-f) above.