

**DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON  
CRAWLEY DEANERY  
ST ROBERT SOUTHWELL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Lamb's Farm Road, Roffey, Horsham West Sussex RH12 4LP  
Headteacher: Mr James Field**

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**Pupils on roll 140 Age range 4-11**

**Contact name to whom all enquiries should be addressed:Mr James Field. Headteacher**

**ADMISSION POLICY**

**THIS POLICY APPLIES TO ADMISSIONS IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018**

St Robert Southwell is a voluntary aided Catholic primary school operating under the Trustees of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. The school was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The school is conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with the canon law and teachings of the Catholic Church and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. It seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ.

The Governors aim to offer a Catholic education. They expect that parents applying for places for their children will accept and uphold the Catholic character and ethos of the school. The school was set up primarily to serve the Catholic community in the parishes of: St John the Evangelist in Horsham, Our Lady of Consolation and St Francis in West Grinsted and St Gabriel in Billingshurst. The relevant parish map(s) can be viewed by arrangement. Although Catholic children have priority of admission, the Governing Body also welcomes applications from those of other denominations and faiths who support the religious ethos of the school.

Having consulted with the Diocese, Local Authority, other admission authorities and other relevant groups, the Governors intend to admit into the reception class, in September 2016, up to 24 pupils without reference to ability or aptitude.

**Oversubscription Criteria:**

Where the number of applications for admission exceeds 24, and after the admission of pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs where the school is named on the Statement, the Governors will offer places using the following criteria in the order stated:-

1. Baptised Catholic looked after children or previously looked after children (see note a).
2. Baptised Catholic children living in the Parish of St John's Horsham, West Grinsted and Billingshurst parishes, with the written support of a priest. Evidence of Baptism will be required.
3. Baptised Catholic children living outside the area defined above, with the written support of the Priest.
4. Baptised Catholic children living in the area defined above, without the written support of the Priest.
5. Baptised Catholic children living outside the area defined above, without the written support of the Priest.
6. Other looked after children or previously looked after children (see note a).
7. Children who are members of Eastern Orthodox Churches. Evidence of Baptism will be required.
8. Children who are members of other Christian denominations that are part of Churches Together in England. Evidence of Baptism (or dedication) provided by a priest or minister of a designated place of worship will be required.
9. Children who are members of other faiths. Evidence of membership of the faith provided by a priest, minister or religious leader of a designated place of worship will be required.
10. Any other children

### **Priority within the Oversubscription Criteria: Tiebreakers**

The governors will apply the following order of priorities within any of the above criteria when applications exceed the number of places available and it is necessary to decide between applications through a priority ranking:

- i. Exceptional social or medical need which make the school particularly suitable for the child in question. Strong and relevant evidence must be provided by an appropriate professional authority (e.g. qualified medical practitioner, education welfare officer, social worker or priest) (see note c)).
- ii. For Oversubscription Criteria 2 or 3 above - The strength of evidence of practice of the faith as demonstrated by the level of the child's Mass attendance on Sundays (see notes f) and g)). This evidence must be provided by the parent/carer and be endorsed by a priest at the church(es) where the family normally worships. Applications will be ranked in the order shown on the Supplementary Information Form i.e. firstly those attending Mass weekly or at least 3 times a month, then once or twice a month, then less than once a month, then those who do not attend.
- iii. For Oversubscription Criteria 7, 8 or 9 above - The strength of evidence of practice of the faith as demonstrated by the level of the child's attendance at services. This evidence must be provided by the parent/carer and be endorsed by the minister/faith leader at the child's designated place of worship. Applications will be ranked in the order shown on the Supplementary Information Form i.e. firstly those who attend services weekly or at least three times a month, then once or twice a month, then less than once a month, then those who do not attend.
- iv. A sibling on the school roll at the time of admission. Evidence of the relationship may be required (see note d).
- v. Distance from home (the address at which the child resides) to the school (closest proximity receives highest priority) (see note e)). Evidence of residence may be required.

### **ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

The governing body of St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School is responsible for determining the admission arrangements of the school, including the priority of admissions to the school when the school is oversubscribed. When the application deadline has closed, the Local Authority (LA) provides to the school a list of all applicants who have applied to the school. The school will then rank the applications in strict accordance with its published admission arrangements and provide the LA with the ranked list. The LA is responsible for coordinating the allocation of places in its area, offering individual places to parents on behalf of the school governors on the common offer date of April 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.

### **To apply for a place at this school, you should complete and return the following two forms:**

1. The **Common Application Form (CAF)**  
All applications for places **must** be made on the Local Authority's Common Application Form (CAF) Please note that this is the Local Authority in which you are resident. For most parents this will be West Sussex. The CAF for West Sussex is available on the Council's website. The website address for applications (correct at the time of determination of the school's admission arrangements) is:  
<https://eadmissions.westsussex.gov.uk/>

For a valid application, the CAF must be completed by the closing date of **January 15<sup>th</sup> 2016**

2. The school's **Supplementary Information Form (SIF)**.  
Parents should also complete the St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School Supplementary Information Form (SIF) if they wish their faith to be taken into consideration. This is available from the school and the school website and allows the governors to put all applicants in order of priority for admission in line with the published admission policy. Please note that while completion of the SIF is not mandatory, **if a completed SIF is not received, the governing body will only be able to consider the application based on information provided to the Local Authority through the CAP.** To put this in practical terms, if a completed SIF is not received, it is likely that governors will only be able to rank the application within the last i.e. 'Any other children' criterion. The completed SIF must be returned to the school office by **January 15<sup>th</sup> 2016**.

You are advised to keep copies of the forms for your records, whether completed online or on paper.

## LATE APPLICATIONS

All pieces of paperwork are required on or before the published closing date January 16<sup>th</sup> 2016. Late applications (those where it is reasonable that a parent could have submitted an application by the closing date) will only be processed when those applications have been dealt with.

Any late applications will be considered by the Governors' Admissions Committee. If all places have been filled, parents will be offered the opportunity of placing their child's name on the waiting list. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place.

## WAITING LIST

If the school is oversubscribed, parents of children who have not been offered a place at the school may ask for their child's name to be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list will be operated using the same admissions criteria listed above. Placing a child's name on the waiting list does not guarantee that a place will become available. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place. The waiting list will be maintained for one academic year. The waiting list will be ranked in line with the oversubscription criteria each time a child is added to the list.

## APPEALS

Parents whose applications for places are unsuccessful may appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel set up in accordance with sections 88 and 94 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Parents have 20 school days in which to submit their appeal. Appeals must be made in writing and must set out the reasons on which the appeal is made. Appeals should be made to the Admissions Appeal Clerk at the school address. Parents/Carers have the right to make oral representations to the Appeal Panel.

## VISITING SCHOOL

We encourage parents to visit our school in order to find out more about how we work and the education we offer. Parents are welcome to arrange a visit by contacting the school office. However, such visits do not form part of the process of deciding which children will be offered a place at the school.

## IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

The oversubscription criteria in this admission policy will also apply to applications made outside the normal age of entry to primary education (Reception Year) i.e. in succeeding years or during the academic year.

Please ensure that you contact the school, who will inform the Local Authority, when making an In-Year application.

## Giving us the wrong information

If a parent/carer is found to have supplied false or incorrect information to gain a place at this school, the governing body reserves the right to withdraw any offer of a place even if the child has already started school. An example of false or incorrect information would be the use of an address that is not the child's normal residence.

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### Notes (these form part of the admission arrangements):

- a) **'Looked after children'** are children who are in the care of the local authority (LA) as defined by section 22(1) of the Children's Act 1989. **'Previously looked after children'** means such children who were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after.
- b) **'Baptised Catholic'** describes a member whose Church of Baptism is 'in communion with the See of Rome'. The Catholic Church comprises the Latin Rite (Roman Catholics) and the Eastern or Oriental Rite (composed of Catholic (Uniate) Churches—see below). This will be evidenced by a certificate of Baptism in a Catholic Church or certificate of reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.

<b>Eastern or Oriental Rite Catholic Churches in Full Communion with Rome</b>	
ALEXANDRIAN	Coptic, Ethiopian (Gheez)
ANTIOCHIAN	Malankrese, Maronite, Syrian
ARMENIAN	Armenian
CHALDEAN (EAST SYRIAN)	Chaldean, Syro-Malabar

<p><b>CONSTANTINOPOLITAN (BYZANTINE)</b></p>	<p><i>Albanian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Georgian, Greek (Hellenic), Greek-Melkite, Hungarian, Italo-Albanian, Krizevci, Macedonian, Romanian, Russian, Ruthenian, Slovak (Greek), Ukrainian (Greek)</i></p>
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*Notes: 1. Eastern Orthodox Churches, including the Coptic Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Russian Orthodox Churches, are **NOT** in full communion with the See of Rome. 2. 'Anglican Ordinariates' are members of the Latin Rite but those describing themselves as 'Anglo Catholics' are members of the Anglican Communion and therefore not in communion with the Holy See. Please refer any queries to the Catholic Schools Service.*

- c) **Exceptional medical need:** *If the child has a serious medical condition/disability such that the parent feels the child must go to the first-ranked school, this must be specified on the Supplementary Information Form. Governors can only consider applications under this category if supporting evidence is attached, e.g. a letter from a registered health professional, setting out the particular reasons why this school is the most suitable and the difficulties that would be caused if the child attended another school. Governors will make their decision based on the medical evidence provided by the child's medical consultants. Governors will consult the LA's medical advisers and only agree to a priority placement if the medical advisers consider it necessary for the child to attend this school. Governors will also take into account any information on exceptional medical need that is provided by the Local Authority from the Common Application Form.*

**Exceptional social need:** *If parents feel there are sensitive, individual and serious family circumstances, perhaps involving the support services (e.g. social care) these may be considered at the time of the application for a school place. This will need to be specified on the Supplementary Information Form and evidence provided, e.g. a report from social services or from a priest detailing why this school is the most appropriate placement for the child given the circumstances of the case.*

*Governors will also take into account any information on exceptional social need that is provided by the local Authority from the Common Application Form.*

- d) **Siblings:** *For admission to this school, a sibling is defined as a brother or sister (i.e. another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), or a half-brother/ half-sister or a step-brother/ step-sister or an adoptive or foster brother/ sister, living at the same address. A child will be given sibling priority if they have a sibling at the school at the time of the child's admission. Governors will also take into account any information on siblings that is provided by the Local Authority from the Common Application Form.*
- e) **Distance:** *Distance will be measured by a straight line from the child's home address to the school from a central point in each building using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system.*

*A child's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only/main residence and not an address that is sometimes used due to certain domestic/special arrangements. The address must be the pupil's home address that applies at the closing date for applications and which is either owned by the child's parent, parents, or guardian OR leased or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement. If parents live separately but share responsibility for the child, and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, the 'home address' will be regarded as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of weekday nights.*

*If two addresses are provided, the Local Authority will decide which address should be used as the main residence for the purpose of processing the application as they only accept one current address. Parents/Carers must notify the school about any address changes during the application deadlines to ensure all applications are treated in the same way.*

*A block of flats has a single address point reference, so applicants living in the same block will be regarded as living the same distance away from the school. In the unlikely event that two or more children live in the same block and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child receives the place.*

- f) **Parents/carers/family members:** *The terms 'parent' or 'carer' are used for all persons who legally have responsibility for the child. Where the admission arrangements refer to parents or the family's attendance at Mass, it is sufficient for just one parent to attend.*
- g) **Practice:** *The definition of Catholic practice for the purpose of admission to this school is membership of the Catholic Church (see note b) above) and attendance at Sunday Mass (this includes the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening as well as other Masses on Sunday), evidenced by a priest.*
- h) **Starting School at Age 4+:** *Although children are of compulsory school age from the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday, schools must provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can choose for their child to start school on a part-time or fulltime basis in the September following their fourth birthday. It is recommended that any decision about whether a child attends part-time or full-time is reached in discussion with the headteacher (and, if appropriate, staff at the child's pre-school setting).*

*Parents may also request that their child's entry be deferred until later in the same school year. The place allocated is then held and is not available to be offered to another child. If parents do not want their child to start school in the September following their fourth birthday, they should talk to the headteacher (and, if appropriate, the head of the pre-school playgroup/nursery setting) about when the place is taken up. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the school year for which the original application was accepted. Therefore, if your child is four years old between 1 April and 31 August 2016 the latest date the offer of a place may be deferred would be the start of the summer term 2016.*

- i) **Infant Class sizes:** *Current infant class legislation spells out that infant classes (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single school teacher. Additional children may only be admitted under very limited exceptional circumstances. One of these exceptions is where it is a child whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is allocated the final place in an infant class. This school will allow this exception wherever logistically possible.*
- j) **Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) naming the school on the Statement:**  
*These children are admitted under a separate procedure.*

**Reminder :**

**Have you remembered to complete:**

- 1) the Local Authority's online Common Application Form (CAF) and**
- 2) the School's Supplementary Information Form (SIF)?**