



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ashvale, Tredegar, NP22 3RU



'With Christ at the centre, we are a happy, safe & caring school. As a family, together we follow the example of Jesus, to love one another as he loved us.'

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Admissions Policy 2024-25

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. It is a Voluntary Aided school in the Archdiocese of Cardiff and is maintained by Blaenau-Gwent Local Authority. It serves the Roman Catholic Parish of Tredegar & Rhymney. The Governing Body of St Joseph's School is the admissions authority for this school.

Our aim is to provide a high-quality Christian Education based on the teachings of Christ in the Gospels, where each individual is a valued member of our community, and is able to develop his or her talent to the full. We aim to promote in all members of our community, faith and religious commitment, in accordance with the rites, practices and teachings of the Catholic Church.

Admission Number

The Admission Number of new entries as of September 2024 is 12 as per Welsh Government / Local Authority directives.

How to apply for a place at St Joseph's School

As a voluntary-aided school, we are our own admissions authority. If you wish to apply for a place for your child, please contact school directly via phone: 01495 722899, email: clerk.stjosephs.primary@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk or collect a form from school.

Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs / Additional Learning Needs

Children with a statement of SEN / ALN naming the school will be admitted before other applicants.

Oversubscription Criteria and Order of Priority

When the number of applications is equal to or less than the admission number, all pupils will be admitted. When the number of applications exceeds the admission number, the following criteria will be applied, in priority order. In every criterion 'looked after children / previously looked after children' will take priority.

1. Baptised children of practising Catholic parents living in the Tredegar & Rhymney Parish of Blaenau-Gwent & North Caerphilly.
2. Baptised Catholic children of non-practising parents of the above area.
3. Baptised Catholic children living outside of Tredegar & Rhymney Parish.
4. Children who are siblings of pupils already in the school.
(Siblings are: brothers and sisters, whether half, full, step or adopted or foster will be considered relevant where living in the same household and where an older child will still be registered at the school when the younger one would be eligible to attend.)
5. Children of other Christian faiths whose parents desire a specifically Catholic education for their children. These applications should be accompanied by a christening certificate or a letter of support from their faith leader.

6. Children of other faith traditions whose parents desire a specifically Catholic education for their children. These applications should be accompanied by a letter of support from their faith leader.
7. Children whose parents seek a Faith-based education.

Tie Breaker

Where places are available to some but not all the applicants in any of the categories listed above then preference shall be given to those living nearest to the school. The distance is measured as the shortest safest walking route between the home address and the main gate of the school. This will be measured using Blaenau-Gwent's Digital Geographical Information Mapping System.

Notes:

- a. All applications from baptised Catholics must be accompanied by their baptism certificate.
- b. Baptised children also refers to children who have expressed a desire to be baptised into the Catholic Church and are currently preparing for the sacrament. This must be confirmed by the parish priest in writing.
- c. In the event of multiple birth children meeting the same over subscription criteria, if governors are able to admit one of the siblings then their multiple birth siblings will also be admitted.
- d. In all of the above categories the Governing Body will give consideration to those children who have particular medical or social needs which determine the school being particularly suitable for an individual child. In such a case, strong and relevant evidence must be provided by an appropriate authority, e.g. qualified medical practitioner, education welfare officer, social worker or priest).

Appeals Procedure

If your application is not successful, you have the right to appeal the decision. Parents wishing to express the right of appeal should contact school to request an appeal form and guidance notes on the appeals procedure. The appeal form should be returned within 14 days (10 working days) of receiving notification that your application has been unsuccessful – the appeal form should be returned to the Clerk to the Governing Body, care of St Joseph's School. An independent Appeals Panel will be convened as soon as is practicable to determine the appeal. For timetabled admissions, appeals will be heard within 30 days of the specified closing date for receipt of appeals. Appeals outside the normal timetabled admissions process will be heard within 30 days of the appeal being received in writing.

Waiting List

Children who have not been offered a place at the school will be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list will be operated using the oversubscription 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. Names will remain on the waiting list until 30 September in the school year in which they have applied.

Late Applications

Any late applications will be considered by the Governors' Admissions Committee using the above criteria. 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.

Applications Received Outside the Normal Admission Round

A school application form must be completed – this will be considered by the Governors' Admissions Committee and parents will be notified of the decision to offer or refuse a place within 15 school days or 28 calendar days (whichever is the sooner).

Signed by Headteacher & Chair of Governors: