

Consultation for Admission Arrangements for 2022/2023:

Background

Saint Cecilia's Church of England School Academy Trust is the admission authority for Saint Cecilia's Church of England School based in Sutherland Grove, Southfields, London SW18 5JR.

Admission arrangements are reviewed and determined (agreed) on an annual basis by the governing body and the Academy Trustees. As with all schools, there are no guarantees that admissions criteria set in previous years will remain the same in future years for parents wishing to apply for their children.

Whenever an admission authority for a state school wishes to make any changes to its published admission arrangements (PAN) it is required to conduct a statutory consultation. Changes must be consulted approximately eighteen months before the admission date of the students affected, so changes for admissions in September 2022 must be consulted on in winter 2020/2021 following the timetable set out in the DfE School Admissions Code (SAC). It stipulates:

- Who must be consulted, such as parents, other admission authorities, other schools.
- When the consultation must happen - for a minimum of 6 weeks ending no later than 31st January 2021.
- When the arrangements must be determined (agreed) following the consultation - by 28th February 2021.
- When the arrangements must be published - by 15th March 2021.
- Objections to the schools' adjudicator - by 15th May 2021.

This consultation period will start on Friday 6th November 2020 and finish on Friday 18th December 2020.

The proposals:

- 1 Following the closure of churches in early 2020 due to the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic, the Governors and Academy Trustees wish to assist ministers in their role of providing references for foundation places. By adding the following paragraph to the admissions policy, Parents/carers who have been unable to attend church due to church closures or those shielding due to being clinically vulnerable can still gain a reference.

In exceptional cases, a parent/carer for whom unavoidable circumstances have consistently prevented them from attending worship such that they have been unable to qualify for the faith-based oversubscription criteria, may be considered to be a faithful and regular worshipper; the relevant Minister will determine whether or not there were unavoidable circumstances.

- 2 In order to meet the ever-increasing needs for places at the school, Saint Cecilia's have now gained planning permission to build an extension to the current school site. Consequently, the Governors and Academy Trustees would like to increase the PAN from 150 to 180 from September 2022.

Saint Cecilia's has been oversubscribed since the school opened in September 2003. The distance of the last child to be offered a place under the 'open places' has decreased considerably over the years, leaving many parents disappointed. The Governors and Academy Trust believes that a school needs to serve its local

community and can best do this by offering additional permanent places.

- 3 The Governors and Academy Trustees consider applications from both Foundation and Open applications, i.e. those with a Church affiliation and those without. The current split between Foundation and Open places is 53% - 47%. The Governors and Academy Trustees wish to change this to 50% for both categories, which mean more places for local children applying under the open category.

If adopted, the PAC will read as follows. Changes are in red.

Foundation places:

90 places will be offered to children who themselves or whose parents/carers are practising members of a Christian church [see Notes a and b)] in the following order of priority:

1. Children in public care (looked-after children) and those who ceased to be looked-after children because they were adopted, or because they became subject to a residence order, child arrangements order or a special guardianship order [see Note c)].
2. 9 children who passed the musical aptitude test.
3. Those who attend Anglican churches
4. Those who attend other Christian churches.

Within each of the above criteria, priority will be given in the following order to:

- a. Children who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application [see Note f)].
- b. Children of staff [see Note h)].
- c. Children living nearest to the school using a straight-line measurement [see Note i)].

Open places:

90 places will be offered to children irrespective of their religious background. Priority will be given in the following order to:

1. Children in public care (looked-after children) and those who ceased to be looked-after children because they were adopted, or because they became subject to a residence order, child arrangements order or a special guardianship order [see Note c)].
2. 9 children who passed the musical aptitude test.
3. Children who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application, providing the sibling accepted an Open Place [see Note f)].
4. Children of staff [see Note h)].
5. Children living nearest to the school using a straight-line measurement [see Note i)].

Within each of the above criteria, priority will be given in the following order to:

- a. Children who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application [see Note f)].
- b. Children of staff [see Note h)].
- c. Children living nearest to the school using a straight-line measurement [see Note i)].

Specialist music places:

9 Foundation and 9 Open places will be offered to children who demonstrate that they have the aptitude to benefit from a specialist course in music. Places will be allocated on the basis of an aptitude test carried out in the autumn term to include performance either as a vocalist

or instrumentalist and a test of aural perception and awareness. Applicants will be placed in rank order according to their total score in the aptitude test. Applicants will need to complete an additional information form if they wish to be considered for a specialist place. Those not offered a specialist place will automatically be considered for a place under the general admission criteria. Where the number of Foundation music place applicants who meet the aptitude criteria for a specialist music place is less than 9, any unfilled specialist music places will be offered to Open place applicants who meet the aptitude criteria (in rank order according to their total score in the aptitude test as above).

Notes:

- a) Attendance at a Christian church which is either a full member of “Churches Together in England”, The Evangelical Alliance, The Federation of Independent Evangelical Churches, The Association of Grace Baptist Churches, or, Affinity at least twice a month for two years is required to be eligible to apply for a Foundation place. Governors do not give priority to families where both parents worship. **In exceptional cases, a parent/carer for whom unavoidable circumstances have consistently prevented them from attending worship such that they have been unable to qualify for the faith-based oversubscription criteria, may be considered to be a faithful and regular worshipper; the relevant Minister will determine whether or not there were unavoidable circumstances.**
- b) All applicants for a Foundation place MUST complete a Supplementary Information Form which is available from the school. This form must be returned to Saint Cecilia’s Admissions’ Department by 31 October, i.e. the same closing date for the Common Application Form. A reference will be sought from the minister or church leader at the place of worship for applicants for Foundation places.
- c) Looked after children are children who are in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions as defined by Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to the school. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after immediately prior to being adopted, or who became subject to a residence order, (now termed child arrangement order under the Children & Families Act 2014), or special guardianship order. The Governors will require written confirmation that the child is looked after, or previously looked after, and will be so at the time of making an application to the school.
- d) Any unfilled Foundation places will become additional Open places.
- e) All unsuccessful applicants for Foundation places will be considered for Open places. Where the applicant does not meet the criteria for eligibility for a Foundation place but has a sibling in the school on the date of application who accepted a Foundation place, the sibling link will be disregarded.
- f) A sibling is defined as a full brother or sister, a step/half/adopted brother or sister living at the same address, a child who is living at the same address as part of the family by reason of a court order, or a child who has been placed with foster carers as a result of being looked after by a Local Authority.
- g) The school is organised under one roof with a lift providing access to the upper floors. All classrooms may be accessed without steps and there is a ramp at the entrance to the playground. The school has seven toilets designed for use by pupils with disabilities, including one with shower facilities. The school will take all reasonable steps to ensure that pupils with disabilities have the same opportunities as other pupils.
- h) The member of staff must have been employed by the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made

- or be a member of staff who was recruited to fill a vacant post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- i) Distance will be measured from home to school using a straight-line measurement. This commences at the location of the property and terminates at the central point of the school site as determined by Wandsworth Council's Geographical Information System. Measurements by alternative systems and/or to other points will not be taken into account in any circumstances. In the event that two or more applicants have equal right to a place under any of the above criteria and there are insufficient places, the Governing Body will use distances in the first instance, to decide between applicants; where applicants have identical distance measurements, priority amongst them will be determined by random allocation.

**Interested parties are invited to make comment to the Clerk to the Governors
(admission@saintcecilias.london;
Saint Cecilia's Church of England School, Sutherland Grove, London, SW18 5JR)
by Friday 18th December 2020.**