



Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School

Admissions Policy from September 2015

Admissions to Year 3

This policy will apply to all admissions from 1 September 2015, including in-year admissions. It will be used during 2014-15 for allocating places for September 2015 as part of the normal admission round for Year 3

The Governing Body of Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School is the admission authority for The School. The admission arrangements are determined by the Governing Body, after statutory consultation.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School (The School) is 96. The PAN is the number of places for children available in the year group above.

A guiding principle of admissions to this school is that the school was established to provide education for children in the Diocese of Winchester, defined in the trust deed of 2nd December 1947. Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School is linked to St Clement's & St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School. The policy aims to be clear, fair and objective and to comply with all relevant legislation.

Outside the normal admissions round, the Local Authority's Fair Access protocol will be applied alongside the policy to secure the admission of vulnerable pupils from specific groups.

The governors will admit any pupil whose final statement of special educational needs names the school. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

If the school is oversubscribed, places will be offered in the following priority order. Places for applications received after the deadline will be allocated using the same criteria:

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- 1 **Looked after children or children who were previously looked after** (see Definition A)
- 2 **(For applicants in the normal admissions round only)** Children or families who have a **serious medical, physical or psychological condition** which makes it essential that the child attends the preferred school rather than any other. (Appropriate medical or psychological evidence must be provided in support at the time of the initial application) (see Definition B)
- 3 Children transferring from St Clement's & St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School at the normal age of transfer.
- 4 Children who at the time of application have a **sibling** on the roll of St Clement's and St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School or Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School. (see Definition C)
- 5 Children **living in the catchment area** of the school with a parent who is an **active member of a Christian church** included in 'Churches Together in England', the 'Evangelical Alliance' or 'Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches' (FIEC), and who request admission on denominational grounds and provides relevant evidence. (see Definition D & Definition E)
- 6 Children **living in the catchment area** of the school. (see Definition D)
- 7 Children **living out of the catchment area** of the school with a parent who is an **active member of a Christian church** included in 'Churches Together in England', the 'Evangelical Alliance' or 'Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches' (FIEC), and who request admission on denominational grounds and provides relevant evidence. (see Definition D & Definition E)
- 8 Other children **living out of the catchment area** of the school. (see Definition D)

Definitions

A **Looked after children or children who were previously looked after**

This criterion provides a priority for children who are (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 the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). It can also be used for children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is as an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

B **Serious medical, physical or psychological condition**

Where a place is requested for a child or family who have a serious social or medical, condition, you must supply supporting independent evidence at the time of application confirming the reason(s) why attendance at The School is essential rather than any other school. You must also describe the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. The evidence should be provided by a suitably qualified medical professional. The evidence will be considered carefully in confidence by the admissions committee of The Governing Body, who will endeavour to reach a fair and equitable decision.

C **Siblings**

'Sibling' refers to brother or sister, half brother or half sister, adoptive brother or adoptive sister, step brother or step sister, and includes children living as siblings in the same family unit. Category 3 includes children who at the time of application have a sibling for whom the offer of a place at the preferred school has been accepted, even if the sibling is not yet attending.

D **The Catchment Area**

The catchment area for Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School is the Diocese of Winchester. The child's permanent residence is where they live, normally including weekends and during school holidays as well as during the week, and should be used for the application. The permanent address of children who spend part of their week with one parent and part with the other, at different addresses, will be the address at which they spend most of their time.

Moving home & UK service personnel & crown servants

Places can only be offered on the basis of future moves on the basis of:

- a letter from the solicitor (or equivalent) confirming exchange of contracts to buy a property relevant to the application;
- a tenancy agreement confirming the renting of a specific property relevant to the application;
- a letter from a housing association confirming that the parent(s) will be living at a specific address relevant to the application; or
- in the case of UK service personnel and Crown servants, an official government letter (MOD, FCO or GCHQ) letter declaring a relocation date to the relevant parish or priority area of The School (or to establish distance from The School).

E **Active member of a Christian Church**

'Active member of a Christian church' is defined as attending worship at a church in the list of Churches Together in England, the 'Evangelical Alliance' or 'Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches' (FIEC) at least twice a month for the previous one year before the deadline for admissions of **midnight on Thursday 15 January 2015**. Parents applying under criterion 5 or 7 are required to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF), which asks for declaration and verification of your active membership. The SIF, which is available from the School office or the school website www.stclementsbethanyfederation.co.uk must be completed and returned to the school by **midnight on Thursday 15 January 2015**. (As it is a paper form that needs to be signed, the SIF is not available for completion online.)

Additional Information

Tie-breaker

If the school is oversubscribed from within any of the above criteria, straight line distance will be used to prioritise applications; applicants living nearer the school have priority. Local Authority's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will be used to determine distances from the home address to the school office. The process will be electronically administered through the Local Authority's IT provider in use at the time. Distances to multiple dwellings will give priority to the ground floor over the first floor and so on. On individual floors, distances will be measured to the stairs leading to the communal entrance. This method of prioritising admissions will also apply to any 'school specific' criterion.

Who can apply

Only a parent can apply for a place at a school. A parent is any person who has parental responsibility for or is the legal guardian of the child, as set out in the Children Act 1989.

How to apply

You must complete a Local Authority Application Form available from the Children's Information Service and Admission team at The Town Hall or apply online at <https://enrol.bournemouth.gov.uk>. If you wish to use the 'Active member of a Christian church' criteria to support your application you must also complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF). This form is available from the school website www.stclementsbethanyfederation.co.uk or as a paper copy from The School office.

Offering places

The Governing Body will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on Thursday 15 January 2015**. Notifications to parents offering a junior school place will be sent by the Local Authority on **Thursday 16 April 2015**.

Applications made after **midnight on Thursday 15 January 2015** will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

For the normal admission round, all on time preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria. If more than one school can offer a place, the parent's highest stated available preference will be allocated.

Pupils with a statement of special educational needs

The governors will admit any pupil whose final statement of special educational needs names the school. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

Multiple births

Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is admitted to a school under this policy then any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above the school's PAN.

In-year applications (ordinary)

The allocation of any places which may become available during the year will be made on the basis of the current Admissions Criteria. There are no deadline dates for in year applications. Applications must be made using the Local Authority Admission Form. Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time to any school. The Governing Body will decide whether a place can be offered at this school.

In-Year Fair Access placements by the local authority

The local authority must ensure that all pupils are placed in schools as quickly as possible. It may therefore sometimes be necessary for a pupil to be placed by the local authority, or a local placement panel acting on behalf of the authority, in a particular school even if there is a waiting list for admission. Such placements will be made in accordance with the provisions of the local authority's In-Year Fair Access Protocol. The Protocol is based on legislation and government guidance.

Waiting lists

When all available places have been allocated, waiting lists will be operated by schools on behalf of the local authority. Any places that become available will be allocated according to the criteria of the admission policy with no account being taken of the length of time on the waiting list or any priority order expressed as part of the main admission round. Fair Access admissions and school closure arrangements will take priority over the waiting list.

The waiting list will be reviewed and revised –

- each time a child is added to, or removed from, the waiting list;
- when a child's changed circumstances affect their priority;
- periodically, when parents with a child on the waiting list will be contacted and asked if they wish to remain on the list for the following school year.
- At the end of each school year, when parents with a child on the waiting list will be contacted and asked if they wish to remain on the list for the following year.

At the time of receiving an offer of a school place parents will be advised of the process for adding their child's name to a school's waiting list. Parents may keep their child's name on the waiting list of as many schools as they wish.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents of a gifted and talented child or a child who has experienced problems or missed part of a year, for example due to ill health, can request a place outside the normal age group. The Governing Body will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case. **Parents do not have a right to appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like.**

Churches Together in England

Antiochian Orthodox Church, Baptist Union of Great Britain, Cherubim and Seraphim Council of Churches, Church of England, Church of God of Prophecy, Church of Scotland (Presbytery of England), Churches in Communities International, Congregational Federation, Coptic Orthodox Church, Council of African and Caribbean Churches UK, Council of Oriental Orthodox Christian Churches, Elim Pentecostal Church, Evangelische Synode Deutscher Sprache in Großbritannien, Exarchate of Orthodox Parishes of the Russian Tradition (Ecumenical Patriarchate), Free Church of England, Ichthus Christian Fellowship, Independent Methodist Churches, International Ministerial Council of Great Britain, Joint Council for Anglo-Caribbean Churches, Lutheran Council of Great Britain, Mar Thoma Church, Methodist Church, Moravian Church, New Testament Assembly, New Testament Church of God, Oecumenical Patriarchate, Redeemed Christian Church of God, Religious Society of Friends, Roman Catholic Church, Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate), Salvation Army, Transatlantic Pacific Alliance of Churches, United Reformed Church, Wesleyan Holiness Church.

List correct at 04-10-11 please check for up to date list at www.cte.org.uk

Admission Appeals

If you are unsuccessful in gaining a place for your child at The School you will be informed by The Local Authority in writing, be given reasons for the refusal and informed of your right to an independent appeal against the decision.

Warning

Places are withdrawn every year because parents give a false 'home address' on application forms. This includes cases where parents take out a short-term let or buy a property solely to use its address on the application form without any intention of taking up permanent residence there. In fairness to all parents, all allegations of fraudulent practice brought to The Governing Body attention will be investigated. The Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place if fraudulent or intentionally misleading information has been used on an application.

Legislation

This policy takes account of all relevant legislation including the legislation on sex discrimination, race relations, and disability, together with all relevant regulations and the School Admissions Code (published by the DfE in 2012).

Further Information

If you require further information about applying for a place at Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School, please contact The School.

Address: Knole Road, BOURNEMOUTH BH1 4DJ

Tel: 01202 393570

Fax: 01202 391947

Email: bethanyce@bournemouth.gov.uk



SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

Only for use to support admission applications using the 'Active member of a Christian church' criteria.

The purpose of the Supplementary Information Form is to declare and have verified that one parent is an 'Active member of a Christian church'

You must complete this form, have it signed by an authorised church official, return it to The School as soon as possible but before the deadline of **midnight on 15 January 2015**.

(The authorised church official is usually the priest of your church or if there is none, a person authorised to do so by your church. Should there be an interregnum the SIF may be verified by a churchwarden or other suitably qualified official on behalf of the parish. Please ask at your church, or the church school you are applying to, who has been authorised to verify your declaration)

I		(Parent Name)
Of	----- ----- -----	(Address)
Being the Parent of	----- -----	(Child's Date of Birth)
applying for a place at	St Clement's & St John's CE VA Infant School/ Bethany CE VA Junior School	
declare that I have attended worship at a church included in the list of Churches Together in England, The Evangelical Alliance or the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches(FIEC) at least twice a month for the previous 12 months before the deadline for admissions of midnight on Thursday 15 January 2015 .		<small>please tick</small>
Please give the name of the church you attend in the space below. Thank you.		
Name of Church:		
Parental signature (Please sign below)	Please print your name below.	
Date:		

PLEASE GET THIS FORM SIGNED BY THE PERSON VERIFYING YOUR DECLARATION

I verify that the information given above is correct.	
Signature	
Please print your name	
Status within the church (Vicar / Priest in Charge etc)	
Date	
Your contact address / telephone	

The information you give may be processed electronically and stored on computer for administrative purposes in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

When completed and signed by the church official please return to St Clement's & St John's Infant School School/Bethany Junior School as soon as possible and not later than the closing date of midnight on Thursday 15 January 2015.

For School Use Only

Accepted by The School as a verified Christian commitment declaration and signed on behalf of the Governing Body by

Name of person signing on behalf of the Governing Body.	Name	Signature	Date
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