



The Federation of St Clement's and St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School & Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School Admissions Policy from September 2016

Admissions to Year R and Year 3

This policy will apply to all admissions from 1 September 2016, including in-year admissions. It will be used during 2015-16 for allocating places for September 2016 as part of the normal admission round for Year R and Year 3.

The Governing Body of St Clement's and St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School and 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 St Clement's and St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School (The School) is 90. 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 groups above.

A guiding principle of admissions to St Clement's and St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School is that the school should serve its local community, defined in the trust deed of 10th March 1879 as the ecclesiastical parish of St Clement's Church and St John's Church, Boscombe, defined by the parish map for St Clement's Church and St John's Church, Boscombe. A guiding principle of admissions to Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior 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 1974. St Clement's Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School is linked to Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior 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)** The child or their family 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 to Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior 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** 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** 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 a 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 The Federation of St Clement's and St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School and Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School is the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Clement, Bournemouth and St John's Boscombe, Bournemouth and the Bournemouth Deanery within 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 catchment 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 Christian Churches listed in this policy at least twice a month for the previous two years before the deadline for admissions of **midnight on Friday 15 January 2016**. Parents applying under criterion 5 or 7 are required to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF), which asks for declaration and verification of your child or 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 Friday 15 January 2016**. (As it is a paper form that needs to be signed, the SIF is not available for completion online.)

If a disability or other 'special needs' circumstances prevents regular attendance (as defined above) at a specific place of worship but the person concerned is recognised by the church leaders as a 'regular worshipper' then this can be taken into consideration in your declaration and the verification of your "Active membership of a Christian Church".

F List of Christian Churches Used for admissions to the School

As recognised by The Governors of the Federation of St Clement's and St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School and Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School. A specific list is publicised on the school website and is updated as and when necessary.

The current list includes: Baptist Union of Great Britain, Church of England, Elim Pentecostal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of England, Methodist Church, Religious Society of Friends, Roman Catholic Church, Salvation Army, United Reformed Church.

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. The 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. If distances are equal (for example within a block of flats) a random allocation system (supervised by an independent person) will be used to determine the allocation.

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

The Local Authority operates a Co-ordinated Admissions scheme which processes all main round (ordinary) admission applications. They also publish a Composite Prospectus which details admission arrangements for schools within the Local Authority. Please see www.bournemouth.gov.uk for the prospectus and details of the scheme.

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. Please see the definition on 'Active member of a Christian Church'.

Offering places

The Governing Body will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on Friday 15 January 2016**. Notifications to parents offering a place will be sent by the Local Authority on **Saturday 16 April 2016**.

Applications made after **midnight on Friday 15 January 2016** 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 **education, health and care plan** (previously a 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 available online at www.bournemouth.gov.uk. Any parent with parental responsibility 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 the 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 a waiting list will be operated by the school. Parents must request (in writing) that their child is placed on the waiting list. Waiting lists for any academic year will be maintained for two terms.

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 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 and for as long as they wish.

Starting school and deferred entry to Year R

The School will provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Places in the reception year will be provided from the beginning of the academic year, the September, in which a child will reach the age of five years. The School's recommended practise for entry to Year R in September is for a part time staggered entry with the children attending Year R on a full time basis by the end of attendance term 1.

Pupils born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 (inclusive) are entitled to full-time schooling from September 2016. Parents can request that their child's admission is deferred until later in the school year (usually at the start of a school term), but not beyond the point they reach compulsory school age, at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Children with birthdays between:

- 1 September and 31 December 2011 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 December 2016, and must be in school at the start of the Spring term.
- 1 January and 31 March 2012 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 March 2017, and must be in school at the start of the Summer term;
- 1 April and 31 August 2012 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 August 2017, and must be in school at the start of the new school year in September.

Parents of children with birthdays between 1 April and 31 August 2012 (inclusive), whose child has not started in a Year R class during the 2016-17 school year, may wish to request admission to Year R in September 2017 rather than admission to Year 1. In these circumstances, all relevant factors will be considered in assessing the request; parents would be expected to state clearly why they felt admission to Year R was in their child's best interests.

It is recommended that parents considering such a request contact **The School** in the autumn term 2015 to ensure that an informed decision is made.

Exceptionally, parents of children with birthdays between 1 April and 31 August (inclusive) may wish to defer admission until the following September. In these circumstances, an application under the following year's admissions policy and procedures will be required and the admission will normally be considered for Year 1. See below for the Admission of children outside their normal age group.

Please discuss these arrangements with The School as soon as possible.

Notes on compulsory school age and summer born children

A child is not required to start school until they have reached compulsory school age following their fifth birthday. For summer born children this is almost a full school year after the point at which they could first be admitted. Compulsory school age is set out in section 8 of the Education Act 1996 and The Education (Start of Compulsory School Age) Order 1998. A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his fifth birthday (or on his fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

All children born from the beginning of April to the end of August reach compulsory school age in the September following their fifth birthday. It is likely that most requests for children to be admitted out of their normal year group will come from parents of children born in the later summer months or those born prematurely.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents who have deferred entry into Year R or 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.**

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 false information on application forms e.g. a false 'home address'. 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 St Clement's and St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School, Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School, please contact The School.

St Clement's and St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School

Address: St Clement's Road, BOURNEMOUTH BH1 4DZ

Tel: 01202 393570

Fax: 01202 309287

Email: stclementsstjohns@bournemouth.gov.uk

Bethany Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior 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 the child or 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 2016**.

(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)
	(Child's Name)	
applying for a place at	St Clement's & St John's CE VA Infant School/ Bethany CE VA Junior School	
declare that I/the child have attended worship at a church included in the List of Christian Churches Used for Admission to the School at least twice a month for the previous 12 months before the deadline for admissions of midnight on Friday 15 January 2016.		<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 Friday 15 January 2016.

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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