

Aston St Mary's



Church of England (VA)
Primary School

**ASTON ST MARY'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
(VOLUNTARY AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

School Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire SG2 7HA

Headteacher:

Mrs Julie Winwood

Telephone and Fax: (01438) 880212

Email: admin@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk



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Every child is a treasure, small in size, growing in God's love.



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Policy for Admission

Effective from:	March 2022
Review Date:	July 2024
Author:	Governing Board/Headteacher



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Admissions Policy 2023/24

As Aston St Mary's is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School, the Admissions Policy is agreed and administered by the Governing Board of the school. The Published Admission Number is for 18 children. The Governing Board works closely with Hertfordshire County Council who will coordinate the admissions process on behalf of the Governing Board to ensure that there is equality of opportunity for all parents. Children who have an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP), where an agreement that this school is named, will be offered a place.

Admissions Criteria:

Places are offered using the following criteria applied in order.

Category 1: Children in England looked after and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order. Children outside of England looked after by the State (including from abroad) and children who were previously looked after by the State but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order.

Children previously looked after abroad and subsequently adopted will be prioritised under Rule 1 if the child's previously looked status and adoption is confirmed by Hertfordshire's "Virtual School".

The child's previously looked status will be decided in accordance with the definition outlined in The Children & Social Work Act 2017:

- i. to have been in state care in a place outside England and Wales because he or she would not otherwise have been cared for adequately, and
- ii. to have ceased to be in that state care as a result of being adopted.

A child is in "state care" if he or she is in the care of, or accommodated by –

- (a) a public authority,
- (b) a religious organisation, or
- (c) any other organisation the sole or main purpose of which is to benefit society.

Category 2: Children of parents or carers who reside at any address that is within the Civil Parish of Aston (a copy of the map showing the civil parish of Aston is attached) with a sibling at the school at the time of admission.

Category 3: Children of parents or carers who reside at any address that is in the Civil Parish of Aston. (A copy of the map showing the civil parish of Aston is attached.)

Category 4: Children of parents or carers outside the Civil Parish of Aston who have siblings attending the school at the time of admission (see note a).

Category 5: Children with parents or carers, at least one of whom is a practicing member of St Mary's Church, Aston and children from the Aston congregation (see note b).

Category 6: Children with parents or carers, at least one of whom is a practicing member of any Christian denomination that are members of the "Churches Together in England" or "Churches Together in Stevenage" (see note b).

Category 7: Any other children.

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Over subscription

If there is over subscription in any category, the Governing Board will determine the allocation of places in that category by geographical proximity using a straight line measurement to the school. A 'straight line' distance measurement is used in all home-to-school distance measurements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Hertfordshire. Distances are measured using a computerised mapping system to two decimal places. The measurement is taken from the Address Base Premium address point of your child/children's house to the address point of the school. Address Base Premium data is a nationally recognised method of identifying the location of schools and individual residences.

Note a)

The Governing Board has the same understanding of the term *sibling* as that found in the Hertfordshire admissions literature and website and who will still be at the school at the time the new child/children join. This means the sibling will normally be in Reception to Year 5 at the time of allocation of places. *Sibling includes: brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, child of the parent / carer or partner, children looked after or previously looked after. This doesn't include children temporarily living in the same house, for example, a looked after child in a short-term foster or bridging placement. In every case, the sibling must be living permanently in the same family home (at least Monday to Friday).*

Note b)

- Practising member of a Church is defined as someone who attends a service in that Church at least once a month.
- This attendance has been at this frequency for a minimum of one year prior to receipt of the application by the school.
- In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship.
- All such applications must be accompanied by a letter of confirmation by the minister or priest of the church concerned.
- If applicants are new to the area, previous church connections can be used.

Admission Arrangements

- Parents are welcome to visit the school when considering seeking a place for their child/children.
- Further details about the school can be found on our website, www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk.
- We will admit over the school's published admission number when a single twin/multiple birth child is allocated the last place at the school.

Summer Born Children

If parents believe their child/children born between 1 April 2019 and 31 August 2019, will not be ready to start Reception in the 2023/24 academic year, they may instead defer their application to start Reception the following year (2024/25). Parents who want to defer their child/children should contact the school directly to discuss further. Deferring stays with the child throughout their schooling.

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Part Time Places

Parents can request that their child/children attend part time until they reach compulsory school age.

Children Out of Year Group

If parents/carers believe their child/children should be educated in a different year group, at the time of application, supporting evidence must be submitted from relevant professionals working with the child/children and family stating why they must be placed outside their normal age appropriate cohort. The Governing Board which is the admissions authority, through a panel process, will decide whether the application will be accepted. There is no guarantee that an application will be accepted and parents have no right of appeal against the Governing Board's refusal to admit a child outside his/her normal age group.

How to Apply

To apply for a place, please go to www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. The closing date is the 15th January 2023 and allocations are sent out on the 17th April 2023.

Parents/carers are also required to complete a School Information Form (SIF) available from the school or on our school website: www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/about-aston-st-marys/admissions and return it to the school. If a SIF is not completed, the Governing Board will apply the school's Admission Arrangements using only the information supplied on the Hertfordshire County Council application form, which may result in the application being given a lower priority. This SIF should be returned to the school before 9.30am the 15th January 2023. Please include any appropriate accompanying documentation for categories 5 and 6.

It is the parents'/carers' responsibility to provide all the information required. The school is not obliged to chase missing information.

The school reserves the right to amend the category applied under if the forms are not completed fully or the information cannot be verified.

The Local Authority will notify all parents of the place offered or refused at the same time as it does for Community Schools. Details of this can be found at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

Cross Border Co-ordination

Please apply for primary places on your home LA's application form.

Appeals

Parents wishing to appeal who applied through Hertfordshire's online system should log in to their online application and click on the link "register an appeal". Out of county residents and paper applicants should call the Customer Service Centre on 0300 123 4043 to request their registration details and log into www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals and click on the link "log into the appeals system".

Continuing Interest List

After places have been offered, the Governors of the school will maintain a continuing interest (waiting) list. A child's position on a CI list will be determined by the admission criteria outlined above and a child's place on the list can change as other children join or leave it. The School will contact parents/carers if a vacancy becomes

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available and it can be offered to a child. The Continuing Interest Lists will be maintained for reception year group until the 31st December 2023. To retain a CI application after this time, parents must make an in-year application.

In-year Admissions

All in year admissions are co-ordinated by the school governing body and will depend on vacancies in the relevant year group at the time of application. Parents seeking an in-year school place should contact the school directly for further information or complete the application and SIF forms on the Admissions Page of the school website. In the event of there being more applicants than places available the admission criteria will be applied. The school aims to inform parents and carers of the outcome of their in-year application in writing within 10 days and within 15 school days. The school will inform unsuccessful applicants of the right to appeal. Prospective parents/carers are always welcome to visit the school. To do so, please make an appointment with the school office.