

Bishop Stopford School

faith | justice | responsibility | truth | compassion

Policy on Admissions from Sept 2007 to Aug 2008

Bishop Stopford Voluntary Aided School is a school which exists primarily to meet the needs of parents who wish their children to be educated by a system which encourages pupils to continue their understanding of life based on the Christian Faith as taught by the Church of England.

The Governors admit children without any reference to ability, aptitude or ethnic background. The Governing Body will allocate places according to the admissions Policy. Governors will admit up to the stated admission number (204) using this Policy.

1. Children in Care and Children with a Statement of Special Educational Need

1.1 Looked after Children

The Governors will consider applications for 'Looked after Children', as defined in the Code of Practice guidelines, as a priority. Professionals will have clearly identified that the school is best placed to meet the needs of these particular children.

1.2 Children with Statements of Special Educational Need

The Governors will also consider children who have a Statement of Special Educational Need which names the school as appropriate provision and where the school agrees it can meet the Special Need.

2. Governors' Discretion

The Governors reserve the right to use their discretion for admitting children (up to 12 places) under the following conditions: -

1. Governors may consider compassionate reasons for admitting children. Parents should submit with their application a supporting letter of evidence from the priest/minister and written evidence from appropriate professionals e.g. a medical practitioner, social worker or Head teacher.

2. Governors may use their discretion when considering an application for a child with a sibling currently at the school, where evidence is available that the family pattern of worship remains unchanged since the date of the admission of the sibling.

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If there are more applications than places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places.

3. Religious Criteria

Parents will be required to complete an application form which asks about religious affiliation and community involvement. The priest/minister will also be asked to complete a similar form to corroborate information. Governors must receive both forms (the parent's form and the priest's/minister's form) in order to assess the application.

The total point score will be used to establish a rank order of applicants.

3.1 Religious Affiliation – please see Parents' Guidance notes

The religious tradition followed by the family and in which the child has been nurtured.

Church of England (6 points)

A Christian Church affiliated to Churches together in England (4 points)

Any other religious affiliation (3 points)

3.2 Information relating to the family

- (i) The frequency of attendance of the parents/legal guardians at public acts of worship in the religious tradition declared in 3.1 above:
- Monthly attendance (2 points)
 - Fortnightly attendance (3 points)
 - More frequently (4 points)
- (ii) The length of the period of such attendance:
- One year (1 point)
 - Two years (2 points)
 - Three years and over (3 points)
- (iii) Occasional worship (irrespective of length of time): (1 point)
- (iv&v) The voluntary service given by the parents/legal guardians and/or the child, applying to their Church or place of worship and the period of time of such service (up to 4 points)
- (vi&vii) The voluntary service given by the parents/legal guardians to the community in which they live and the period of time of such service (up to 3 points)
- (viii) The presence of a brother or sister attending the School at the time of application (up to 2 points)

3.3 Information relating to the child.

- (i) The frequency of attendance of the child at public acts of worship in the religious tradition declared in 3.1 above:
- Occasional Worship (1 point)
 - Monthly attendance (2 points)
 - Fortnightly attendance (3 points)
 - More frequently (4 points)
- (ii) The voluntary service given by the child to the community in which he/she lives and the period of time of such service (up to 3 points)

Tiebreaker

Should there be a number of applicants with equal point scores (after the application of the religious criteria), places will be awarded to those students who live nearest to the school. A GIS (computer) system will be used to determine the distance of the applicant's permanent home from the school (Headlands entrance). Where this produces a tie, a measurement will be made – using a map – of the shortest distance in a straight line between the student's permanent home and the main entrance of the school (Headlands).

Right of Appeal

Should an applicant be refused a place, parents have the right to appeal against the governor's decision to an Appeals Panel set up by the Diocesan Board of Education. Parents wishing to appeal should write to:

The Clerk to the Appeals Panel
Diocesan Board of Education
Bouverie Court
6 The Lakes
Bedford Road
Northampton
NN4 7YD

July 2007

R Whittaker
Chairman of Governors

The following denominations are affiliated to Churches Together in England

Baptist Union of Great Britain
Cherubim & Seraphim Council of Churches
Church of England
Church of Scotland
Congregational Federation
Council of African & Afro-Caribbean Churches
Council of Oriental Orthodox Christian Churches
Independent Methodist Churches
Ichthus Christian Fellowship
International Ministerial Council of Great Britain
Joint Council for Anglo-Caribbean Churches
Lutheran Council of Great Britain
Methodist Church
Moravian Church
New Testament Assembly
Oecumenical Patriarchate
Religious Society of Friends
Roman Catholic Church
Russian Orthodox Church
Salvation Army
United Reformed Church
Wesleyan Holiness Church