

## **ST MARY'S CONVENT SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY**

### **School Focus**

St Mary's Convent School offers a stimulating and intellectually challenging education of the highest standard which aims to maximise the potential of each child. The Christian ethos of the school acknowledges the child's individuality. The learner and her/his work is always respected and accorded dignity. We see education as an on-going process shared in partnership with the child's parents.

### **Aims**

- To accept into the school those children who will benefit and thrive from the educational experience on offer.
- To educate the whole child intellectually, spiritually, aesthetically, culturally, physically, emotionally and socially.
- To be aware of equal opportunities and bias existent in standardised tests.

### **Admissions to the Early Years Department**

Children from birth are eligible for registration and acceptance of a place in the Cottage Nursery (Birth-18 months), the Kindergarten Nursery (18 months – 3 years), Pre-School (3 years – 4 years), Reception (4 years – 5 years). The registration fee must be paid before a formal offer of a place can be made.

### **Admission to Key Stage 1**

Children wishing to gain entry to Year 1 (5 years – 6 years) and Year 2 (6 Years – 7 years) would be offered a place following their attendance at a Taster Day to ensure that they would be happy at St Mary's and that the school could adequately meet their learning needs. The offer of a place would be subject to a satisfactory report from the child's previous school. The registration fee must be paid before a formal offer of a place can be made.

### **Admissions to Key Stage 2 (Y3,4,5&6) and Key Stage 3 (Y7,8 & 9)**

A place is only offered in the Junior and Senior Departments upon the pupil's satisfactory performance in the school's formal (NFER VR, Mathematics and English Papers) and informal assessment procedures and upon receipt of a satisfactory report from the pupil's previous school. However, care is taken to look beyond the test results to the potential of a pupil. The registration fee must be paid before a formal offer of a place can be made.

## **Admission to Key Stage 4 (Y10 and 11)**

The offer of a place at Key Stage 4 would be dependent upon the pupil's KS3 SATS results or their predicted GCSE grades as appropriate together with a satisfactory report from their current school. The registration fee must be paid before a formal offer of a place can be made.

## **Admission to the Sixth Form**

Applications will normally be required to have gained 5 GCSE passes A\* to C with a minimum of grade B in the subjects to be studied at A level. In addition, a report from the applicant's previous school should indicate that the applicant is academically suited to A level study. The registration fee must be paid before a formal offer of a place can be made.

## **Exceptions**

If a prospective pupil has outstanding ability and is socially mature enough to cope, she/he may be considered for admission or transfer to the next year group. This would only happen in the most exceptional of circumstances. The school much prefers to keep pupils within their correct year group and provide the necessary challenge through differentiation.

## **Priorities**

We do not actively seek to discriminate against those seeking entry to this school year. However, should places be in short supply priority would have to be given to:

- Roman Catholic children
- Children with siblings in the school
- Children who wish to remain in the school
- Full-time children (Nursery / Kindergarten)

Reviewed by	Susan Cookson – January 2009
Adopted by Trustees Meeting	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2009