



A Koinonia student will go out into the world happy, courageous, resilient, motivated with a lifelong love of learning, fully equipped to make a positive contribution to society.

ST. MARY MAGDALENE C of E SCHOOL

ADMISSION POLICY 2024-25

FOR THE SECONDARY PHASE

St. Mary Magdalene Church of England School is an all-through school for pupils aged 3-19. It has a distinctive Christian ethos which is at the heart of the school. It provides an inclusive, caring and supportive environment where children learn and flourish in a setting shaped by Christian values. **We welcome applications from all members of the community** and we ask all parents to respect the Christian ethos of our school and its importance to our community.

The Governing Body is responsible for the admission of pupils to the school and admits a total of 180 pupils to Year 7 each year, this number includes those who wish to transfer from St. Mary Magdalene C of E School primary phase (up to a maximum of 90 pupils from 2024). The minimum number of places offered to external applicants will therefore be 90. The admission number has been agreed between the Governing Body and the Local Authority and applies to the year 2024.

Pupils transferring from Year 6 at St. Mary Magdalene C of E School primary phase have automatic entry into Year 7 of the secondary phase. Neither a Common Application Form nor a Supplementary Information Form need to be completed. If there are fewer than 90 of St. Mary Magdalene C of E Year 6 pupils transferring into Year 7, the remaining places will become additional places for external applicants and will be allocated to foundation/ community places on a 50/50 basis.

Children with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan (EHCP) naming the school will be admitted within the 180 place total and may therefore reduce the number of places offered to external applicants.

A-OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

FOUNDATION PLACES

The Governing Body has designated **45 places** each year as foundation places, with additional places becoming available as described above should fewer than 90 of the school's own Year 6 pupils transfer into Year 7. **Foundation places will only be offered to children whose parents are regular and faithful worshippers (see note 5) in an Anglican or other Christian Church, which is a full**

member of Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance. Written evidence of applicants' commitment to their place of worship will be required at the time of application on the School's Supplementary Information Form (SIF), which must be returned to the School; this evidence must be endorsed by a priest or minister.

If there are more qualifying applicants than foundation places then places will be allocated according to the following criteria. These are stated in order of priority:

- i) Looked after children or previously looked after children (see note 1);
- ii) Children with (or in a family with) a chronic and professionally supported medical or social need for a place at this school (see note 2);
- iii) Children attending Christ Church C of E Primary School (SE10), which is in the Koinonia Federation, whose parent/carer is a regular and faithful worshipper at an Anglican Church or a Christian church (see note 6);
- iv) Children with a sibling attending the secondary phase of school at the time of the child's admission (see note 3);
- v) Children attending the named schools below who with their parent(s)/ carer(s) or alone are regular and faithful worshippers at an Anglican Church or a Christian church (see note 6) and resides in the Deaneries of Charlton, Plumstead or Eltham & Mottingham (see note 4):
 - Bishop John Robinson C of E (SE28);
 - Christ Church C of E (SE18);
 - St Alfege with St. Peter's C of E (SE10);
 - St. Margaret's C of E (SE18);
 - Eltham C of E (SE9).
- vi) Children, who with their parent(s)/ carer(s) or alone are regular and faithful worshippers at an Anglican Church and resides in the Deaneries of Charlton, Plumstead or Eltham & Mottingham (see notes 4 and 5);
- vii) Children, who with their parent(s)/ carer(s) or alone are regular and faithful worshippers at a Christian church (see note 6) and resides in the Deaneries of Charlton, Plumstead or Eltham & Mottingham;
- viii) Children, who with their parent(s)/ carer(s) or alone are regular and faithful worshippers at an Anglican or Christian church (see note 6) and resides outside the Deaneries of Charlton, Plumstead or Eltham & Mottingham.

If there are fewer applicants than the number of foundation places, any unfilled places will become additional community places. Unsuccessful qualified applicants for foundation places will be considered for any community places remaining unfilled at the end of the allocation procedure.

B-COMMUNITY PLACES

The Governing Body has designated **45 places** each year as community places, **to be offered to pupils who do not qualify for a foundation place (and have not completed a Supplementary Information Form when applying for a place at the secondary school)**, but whose parent(s)/ carer(s) have chosen the school for the type of education it provides. Parent(s)/ carer(s) applying for a

community place do so knowing that the school aims to provide an education based on Christian values.

If there are more applicants than community places, places will be allocated according to the following criteria. These are stated in order of priority:

- i) Looked after children or previously looked after children (see note 1);
- ii) Children with (or in a family with) a chronic and professionally supported medical or social need for a place at this school (see note 2);
- iii) Children attending Christ Church C of E Primary School (SE10), which is in the Koinonia Federation ie. pupils who are not eligible for a foundation place and whose parents wish to apply for a community place;
- iv) Children with a sibling attending the secondary phase of the school at the time of the child's admission (see note 3);
- v) Children in order of nearness of the home to the school (see note 7).

If there are fewer applicants than the number of community places, any unfilled places will become additional foundation places. Unsuccessful qualified applicants for foundation places will be considered for any community places remaining unfilled at the end of the allocation procedure.

D-TIE BREAKER

In the event of oversubscription in any of the above foundation and community criteria, priority will be determined in order of nearness from the home to the centre of the school site based on the Peninsula Campus, with those living nearest the school being given the highest priority. In the event that two or more applicants live the same distance from the school and there are insufficient places to admit all applicants, places will be allocated by the drawing of lots.

Notes:

- 1) A looked after child is a child who is (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) at the time of making the application to the school. A previously looked after child is a child who immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangement to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live with under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14 A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be the child's special guardian (or special guardians). The Governors will require written confirmation that the child is looked after, or previously looked after, and will be so at the time of making an application to the school.

- 2) This must be supported by written evidence, e.g. from a specialist health professional, doctor, social worker, or other care professional which sets out the reasons why this school is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. Where the need relates to another family member, that family member must live at the same address as the child. The admission decision will be considered by the school's governing body. Advice will be sought from medical and teaching professionals where appropriate.
- 3) Qualifying siblings are a full/half/step brothers or sisters living at the same address and attending the secondary phase of the school at the time of the child's admission. The sibling criterion does not apply to children attending the nursery, primary or Post 16 provision.
- 4) The Deanery maps and boundaries are available from the school.
- 5) Supplementary Information Forms for the foundation places must confirm that a parent/carer (or the child if they worship alone) is a regular and faithful worshipper (member) who has attended church on at least two occasions within each month for 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the closing date for applications. Those who have recently moved to the area and who worshipped previously in a different church will be asked to supply a reference from that church.

In exceptional circumstances, a parent/carer for whom unavoidable circumstances have consistently prevented them from attending worship such that they have been unable to qualify for the faith-based oversubscription criteria, may be considered to be a faithful and regular worshipper; the relevant Minister will be asked to give their opinion as to why there were unavoidable circumstances.

- 6) An Anglican or other Christian church is one which is a full member of Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance. Pastors/ministers of non-Anglican Christian churches will be required to confirm their church's membership on the Supplementary Information Form.
- 7) Distance is measured in a straight line using the local authority's computerised mapping system. This measurement will be from the centre of the child's home to the centre of the school based on the Peninsula Site. Should two applicants live an equal distance from the school, including instances where more than one applicant lives in a multi-occupancy building, the offer of a place will be decided by random allocation. If your child resides equally between both parents, we consider the principal home address as being the address at which your child is registered whilst attending primary provision, with a GP and, if applicable, the address of the parent who is in receipt of Child Benefit or Child Tax Credits for your child.

E- Co-ordinated admission arrangements for external applicants

The School is part of the locally agreed co-ordinated admission arrangements and the timescales for applications to be received and processed are those agreed with the local authority. Parents must complete their home local authority's Common Application Form and return the form to their Authority; if applying for a place at this School, parents must name this School as one of the preferences on the Common Application Form. On-line applications may be made via 'www.eadmissions.org.uk'. More information is available in your local authority's admission booklet or on the local authority's website. The Governing Body is responsible for in-year admissions. Parents/carers wishing to apply in-year must complete an application form and return this to the School.

Parents who wish to apply for a foundation place must also complete the school's supplementary form and return this to the School. Failure to return the supplementary information form will mean that the school cannot consider the application under the church criteria, in this case the application will be considered under the next most appropriate criteria based on the information on the Common Application Form. The Supplementary Information Form is available from the Local Authority website as well as the School and Local Authority offices. The deadline for the Supplementary Form is the same as the Common Application Form.

F-Late applications

The Governors will consider late applications in accordance with the procedure in the local authority's co-ordinated scheme as published in the LA school admissions booklet.

G-Waiting list

The School operates a waiting list, which is ordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list is held until the end of each academic year in which the child starts. Parents may request in writing to join the waiting list. If an application is received and a child is added to the waiting list, the list will be re-ranked in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Parents will need to re-apply each academic year if they wish their child's name to remain on the school's waiting list with a new updated supplementary information form (SIF).

H-Fair Access

The School is committed to taking its fair share of pupils who are hard to place in accordance with the locally agreed fair access protocol. Pupils admitted under the protocol will take priority over any children on the waiting list and those awaiting an appeal. Admitting a child via the protocol, may mean, on occasion, admitting above the planned admission number.

I-Special educational needs

Parents of pupils who have a statement of special educational needs, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan are required to apply for school places separately through the local authority from whom advice is available. The Governors will admit all those pupils whose statement or EHC Plan names the School.

J-Education out of normal (chronological) age group

Children are normally educated in school with others of their age group; however, in exceptional circumstances parents/carers may seek a place outside of their child's normal age group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case. Parents/carers must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interests and must provide recent professional evidence to support this. Further details of how to make such a request are available from the school and parents should make such a request by 31st October 2024.

K-Appeals

Appeals are in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and parents who are not offered a place for their child have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. Parents wishing to appeal should obtain an appeal form from the school. The form should be sent to reach the Clerk to the Appeal panel, c/o the School, within 20 school days of the date of the letter confirming the governors' decision not to offer a place. Should an appeal be unsuccessful,

the Governing Body will not consider a further application from those parents within the same academic year unless there have been significant and material changes in their circumstances.

Applications for the secondary, primary and nursery places need to be made on the Common Application Form specific to the phase of the school for which you are applying. Year 7 applications for the next academic year starting in September 2024 must be submitted by 31st October 2023.

Our SIF (Supplementary Information Form) can be found on our website:

www.koinoniafederation.com

We welcome visits to our school from prospective families, please contact the school office for more details.