

St Osmund's Middle School

Admission Policy 2020/2021

“St Osmund’s is a school built upon Christian values. We aim to inspire and empower all to be active, life-long learners who achieve their potential and contribute positively to the world.”

Inspire – Empower – Achieve

Faith-Hope-Love

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians ch13:13

ST OSMUND'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
(A Church of England Academy)
(9 – 13)
Barnes Way, Dorchester, DT1 2DZ
01305 - 262897

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS
for the school year 2020/2021

In accordance with their legal obligations the Governors of St. Osmund's CE Middle School publishes their admission arrangements.

St. Osmund's is a thriving community of children and adults, differing widely in ages, interests and talents. It exists to help every member make the most of his/her abilities in a stimulating and sympathetic environment and to prepare every individual to become a responsible member of society. The school aims have been written and agreed by all members of our community:

'St Osmund's is a school built upon Christian values. We aim to inspire and empower all to be active life-long learners who achieve their potential and contribute positively to the world'

Faith – Hope - Love

St. Osmund's welcomes applications for admission, in accordance with the criteria set out below, for all children, irrespective of their racial inheritance, religious persuasion, disability (provided it can make appropriate provision) or social circumstances.

The Governors, who are responsible for admissions to this Church of England Voluntary Aided Middle School, have agreed with the Local Authority to admit 180 pupils into Year 5. These arrangements and the admission criteria (below) are reviewed annually.

Admission to Year 5

The Governors follow the Dorset Coordinated Admissions Scheme, which prescribes the detailed arrangements and dates for admissions to Year 5. Parents should contact the Local Authority, Dorset County Council, Children's Services Directorate, Admissions Team at County Hall, Dorchester (01305 – 221000) for details of this scheme and, in particular, the agreed dates by which admission applications should be made. In particular, parents should note that the Local Authority will provide an application form which should be used to express a preference for St. Osmund's. Parents will be informed of the outcome of their application at the same time as all other parents are informed.

Admission other than Year 5 – In Year Admission

Parents considering making an application for admission to St. Osmund's other than at the start of Year 5 should make a formal application via Dorset County Council.

Admission Allocation Criteria

Where there are more applications than there are places available the Governors will admit pupils according to the following order of priority:-

1. Education Health Care Plan

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health Care Plan which specifies attendance at St. Osmund's irrespective of whether the child is in-area or out-of-area.

2. Looked After Children

Children who are 'Looked After Children', i.e. children in public care, for whom St. Osmund's is the nominated school and children who have been adopted and for whom an Adoption Certificate can be produced irrespective of whether the child is in-area or out-of-area.

3. Children who have confirmed refugee status,

as evidenced by documentation from the appropriate Government agency, irrespective of whether the child is in-area or out-of-area.

4. Children living in the area normally served by the school (Catchment Area)

(see below for details) and who have a brother or sister who will be a registered pupil at the school at the time of admission. This also covers step brothers and sisters and foster siblings.

5. Children living in the area normally served by the school (Out of Catchment Area)

(see below for details) and who are living in that area at the start of the September term in which they expect to commence at St. Osmund's.

6. Remaining Spaces

Where vacancies remain, children living outside the area normally served by the school will be offered places in the following order (see footnotes):

- a. Children who have a brother or sister including a step brother or sister or foster sibling who has been admitted in previous years and who will be attending the school at the time of admission.
- b. Children who worship regularly at an Anglican church or whose parent or parents worship regularly at an Anglican church, which is confirmed in writing by the Parish Priest. (Regularly is defined as monthly or more frequently.)
- c. Children who worship regularly at a church or chapel of another Christian denomination or whose parent or parents do so, which is confirmed in writing by the officiating minister. (Regularly is defined as monthly or more frequently, for at least a period of one year. Christian denomination is defined as one that subscribes to Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.)
- d. Children who have particular medical reasons for attending the school and whose application is supported by the Clinical

- Medical Officer whose report demonstrates the reasons why the child must attend the school rather than any other.
- e. Any other children.

There will be a waiting list for Year 5 applications until 31st December 2021.

The Governors will review this Admissions Policy annually and will consult, through the Local Authority, all relevant people and organisations when any changes to it are proposed.

Appendix 1

The catchment area for St. Osmund's CE VA Middle School comprises:

- The eastern side of the town of Dorchester (the dividing line being Weymouth Road, Weymouth Avenue, South Street, North Square and Orchard Terrace) AND
- The parishes of Bradford Peverell, Charminster, Frampton and Stratton.

See the attached map for further clarification.

If, from the categories listed above, the number of children seeking admission exceeds the number of places available in the year group, the decision as to which children will be allocated a place will be made in the following order of priority:

Children living in the Catchment Area

Places will be allocated by applying the priority order used for considering requests from outside the school's normal area, as decided in paragraphs 6 a to e, above. In the event of there being more children than places available in any of these categories, the child's proximity to the school will be the determining (i.e. tie-break) factor.

Children not living in the Catchment Area

Places will be allocated by applying the priority order as decided in paragraphs 6 a to e, above and in the event of there being more children than places available in any of the categories, the child's proximity to the school will be the determining (i.e. tie-break) factor.

- 1 In the event that the child's proximity to the school becomes the deciding factor, proximity will be defined by straight line measurement using the Map Info Professional computer mapping system.
2. In the event that the Governors are unable to distinguish between applications despite applying the priority categories above, lots will be drawn by a person independent of the Governing Body and of the school to determine the final place or places.
3. The address of the child is determined to be the address of the person who has parental responsibility or care of a child or young person.
4. In the event of multiple births the Published Admission Number or admission limit will be exceeded, or increased, at the point of allocation in order to ensure that multiple birth siblings can be allocated places at the same school provided it is practicable.

5. Parents should note that places will not be allocated on the basis of interviews or tests.

7. For a fuller explanation of the law, regulations and processes for admissions, parents may wish to consult the Admissions Code of Conduct, published by the Department for Education and available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>

(The Following is not part of the Governors' Policy but is included for the benefit of parents)

APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF A PLACE: Parents who are not offered a place for their child may make an appeal to an independent Appeal Panel, the decision of which would be binding on all parties. Details of appeal arrangements may be requested from the Business Manager at the school once a refusal of a place has been confirmed.