



## **Aspire London Admissions Policy 2024-2025**

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School  
and  
St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Aspire London, comprises of two schools: Holy Cross Catholic Primary and St. Augustine's Catholic Primary. These two Schools are situated in the respective Parishes of Holy Cross, Catford and The Annunciation and St. Augustine, Beckenham Hill. The Schools work in collaboration with parents and carers to offer high quality, Catholic education. Each child within the federation is nurtured and cherished as they are taught to live out the Gospel values. Our children benefit from the close links we have with our Parish Churches and understand the importance of being a part of a wider community. The Admissions Committee of the Governing Body of Aspire London makes decisions regarding admissions. Having consulted with the Local Authority, the Diocese and other admission authorities, the Governors intend to admit into the Reception Class of both Schools, in September 2023, up to 30 pupils without reference to ability or aptitude.

### **Criteria:**

Where the number of applications exceeds 30 the Governors will offer places using the following criteria in the order stated below:

1. Looked after Catholic children or looked after children in the care of Catholic families and previously looked after Catholic children who have been adopted or who have become the subject of a residence or guardianship order. This includes Catholic children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Baptised Catholic children from practising Catholic families who have a sibling in the School at the intended date of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children from families who attend Mass on a weekly basis and who reside in the Parish of Holy Cross, Catford / Parish of The Annunciation and St Augustine, Beckenham Hill.
4. Baptised Catholic children living in the Parish of Holy Cross / The Annunciation and St. Augustine who attend Mass less than weekly. These will be ordered by level of practice, with those attending Mass more frequently being ranked higher - firstly those who attend three times each month followed by those who attend twice each month and finally those who attend once each month.
5. Baptised Catholic children from families who attend Mass on a weekly basis and live outside the Parish of Holy Cross / The Annunciation and St. Augustine.
6. Baptised Catholic children living outside the Parish of Holy Cross / The Annunciation and St. Augustine who attend Mass less than weekly. These will be ordered in relation to their level of practice with those attending Mass more frequently being ranked higher - firstly those who attend three times each month followed by those who attend twice each month and finally those who attend once each month.

7. Other looked after children or looked after children and other previously looked after children who have been adopted or who have become the subject of a residence or guardianship order. This includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
8. Those children from Orthodox and Eastern Orthodox Churches not in union with the See of Rome. Evidence of baptism is required.
9. Christians of other denominations whose parents are in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the School and whose application is supported by a minister of religion.
10. Any other applicants whose parents are in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the school.

### **Tie-break**

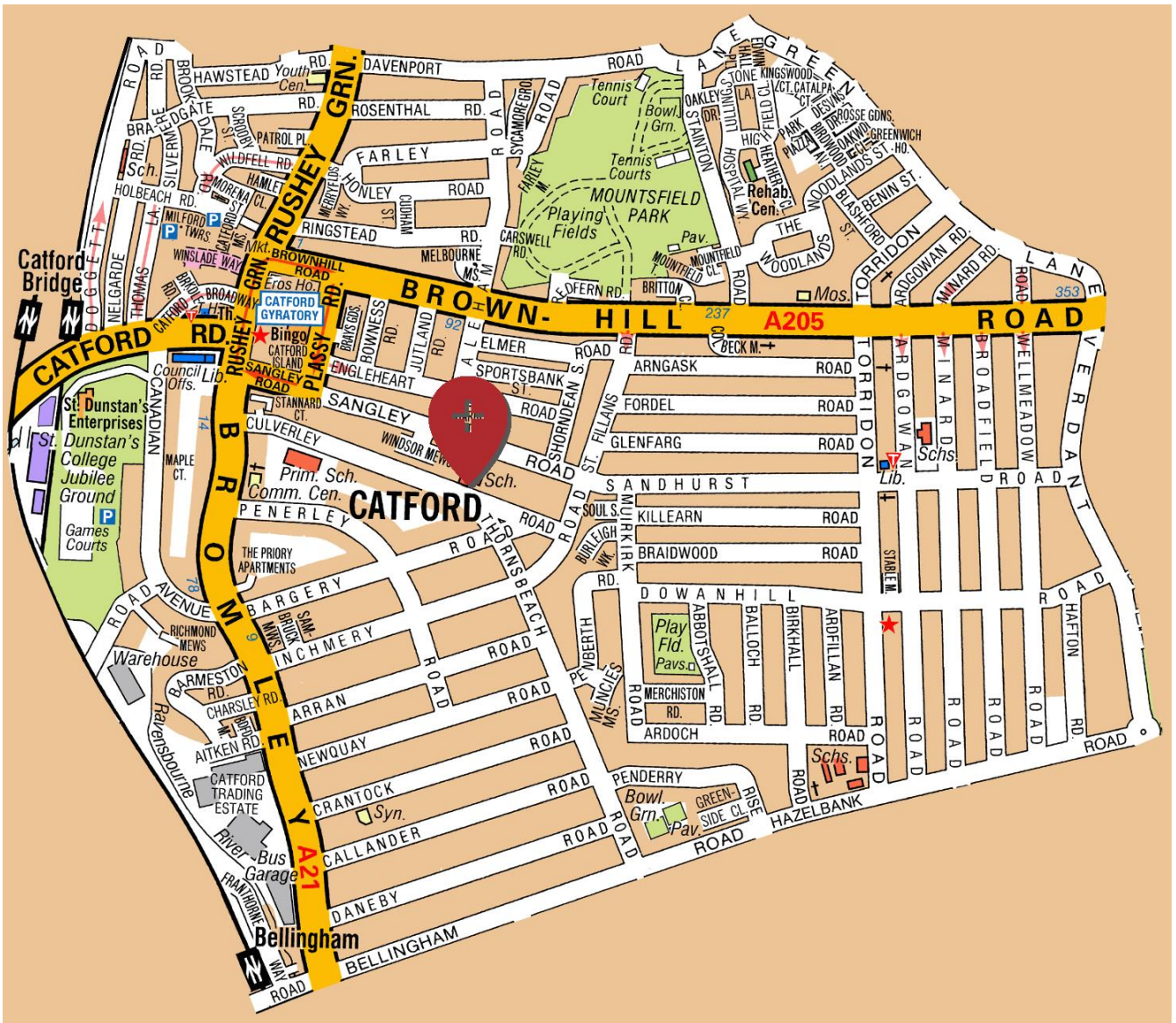
When the number of applicants within a criterion exceeds the number of places available the distance from home to school will be used. All distances will be measured to a central nodal point in the school premises, using digitised mapping software of the area, from a nodal point in the applicant's permanent home address. Lewisham LA provides distances from their mapping system. Where the last remaining place is to be allocated and two or more children are deemed to live at the same distance from the school the places will be decided by the drawing of lots.

### **Notes:**

1. Parish boundary: for the purposes of this policy, Parish boundaries are as shown on the maps attached to the admission policy. The Parish boundary map for Holy Cross is applicable to applications to Holy Cross School. The Parish boundary map for The Annunciation and St. Augustine's is applicable to applications for St. Augustine's School.
2. Catholics are children who are baptised or received into the Catholic Church including the Ordinariate, and the Latin and Oriental Rite Churches that are in union with the Bishop of Rome. A baptismal certificate or evidence of reception into the Catholic Church must accompany the supplementary information form.
3. From the 18 March 2020 through to the 5 June 2022 the Bishops of England and Wales suspended the obligation to attend mass in England and Wales. As of the 5 June 2022, Pentecost, the Bishops reinstated the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Parents applying for a place at Aspire London, under a faith based criteria will need to complete a Supplementary Information Form. Evidence of practice will be measured by frequency of attendance at Mass as validated by either a priest or minister, as was the case prior to 18th March 2020. These arrangements apply to the admissions round for 2023 and subsequent rounds.
4. Mass attendance for a minimum of three years immediately prior to the application needs to be confirmed by the authorising priest.
5. Sibling is defined as a blood or adoptive sibling or half-sibling plus foster or step-siblings living at the same address as the child. Proof of the sibling relationship may be required.
6. The admissions of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are dealt with by a completely separate procedure. The procedure is integral to the making and maintaining of EHCP plans by the pupil's home local authority. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the SEND code of practice. Pupils with an EHCP naming the school may be admitted without reference to the above criteria.

7. The governors will provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to the school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year; parents may also request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.
8. In very exceptional circumstances the Governors of Aspire London will consider a request for admission outside their normal age group, including those born in the summer term. The application may be supported by the child's nursery/primary headteacher and/or an educational psychologist/specialist confirming that the child has learning delay or difficulty or their social maturity is well below that of his or her peers. In coming to a decision, the governors will consider the grounds presented by the parent to support their request as well as the views of the Executive Headteacher and any evidence provided to them. Parents must consider the implications of a deferred transfer as primary/secondary schools are not required to continue to keep the child out of year group and may decide to later educate the child in the correct year.
9. In addition to the admissions Common Application Form (CAF), the Supplementary Information Form (SIF), available from any Lewisham Catholic primary school office or website, should be completed and submitted to the school not later than the published closing date. If the Supplementary Information Form is not completed, the Governors will only be able to consider the application after all applicants who have completed a Supplementary Information Form. Offers of places will be sent to parents on the common offer date as notified.
10. Parents whose applications for places are unsuccessful may appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel set up in accordance with section 85(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing and must set out the reasons on which the appeal is made. Appeals should be made to the Admissions Appeal Clerk at the school address. Parents/Carers have the right to make oral representations to the Appeal Panel. Infant classes are restricted by the legislation to 30 children. Parents should be aware that an appeal against refusal of a place in an infant class may only succeed if it can be demonstrated that:
  - a) the admission of additional children would not breach the infant class size limit; or
  - b) the admission arrangements did not comply with admissions law or had not if the arrangements had complied or had been correctly and impartially applied; or
  - c) the panel decides that the decision to refuse admission was not one which a reasonable admission authority would have made in the circumstances of the case.
11. Parents of children who have not been offered a place at the school may ask for their child's name to be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list, which will be maintained for one year after which you will need to reapply, will be operated using the same admissions criteria listed above. Placing a child's name on the waiting list does not guarantee that a place will become available. This does not prevent parents from exercising their right to appeal against the decision not to offer a place. It is possible that when a child is directed under the local authority's fair access protocol they will take precedence over those children already on the list and this may, on occasion, mean admitting above the planned admissions number.
12. Further general information regarding school admission processes can be found on the Lewisham Local Authority website.
13. If false information has been given and an offer made on the basis of that information, the offer of the place will be withdrawn.

# Boundary map of The Parish of Holy Cross



# Boundary map of The Parish of The Annunciation and St. Augustine

