



St Mary
Magdalene
Academy

ADMISSION POLICY FOR SEPTEMBER 2017/18 - PRIMARY

St Mary Magdalene Academy is a Christian community of learning. We aim to nurture young people to become high achievers and to discover their vocation in the global society.

“Show by a good life that your works are done by gentleness born of wisdom”
James 3.13

2017/18 PRIMARY ADMISSIONS - POLICY STATEMENT

ST MARY MAGDALENE ACADEMY

The St Mary Magdalene Academy Trust follows and is compliant with the 2014 School Admissions Code published by the Department for Education (DfE) under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Approval Committee:	Full Governing Body
Review Committee:	Community Relations & Student Welfare (CR&SW)
Author/responsible person:	Head Teacher (Primary School)
Last reviewed:	2nd December 2015
Next review date:	September 2016
Required to publish on website?	Yes
Statutory?	Yes

- 1.1 Our hope is to take any child whose parents/carers wish him or her to join St Mary Magdalene Academy. Where numbers permit we will do so.
- 1.2 The published admission number for each year group is 30 pupils. This is based on the capacity of the Academy and on government legislation, which restricts the size of infant classes to 30.
- 1.3 Any place offered is for admission from the September following the child's 4th birthday.
- 1.4 A place may be deferred until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age (i.e. the term after his/her 5th birthday). Any place deferred under this provision will be held for the child, but will not be deferred beyond the start of the final term of the school year for which the application was made.
- 1.5 A pupil with a deferred place (see 1.4 above) may attend part-time until he/she reaches compulsory school age.
- 1.6 Parents/carers applying for a place in the Reception Class commencing September 2017 should complete their home borough's Common Application Form. For Islington residents this is Islington Borough Council's PAN London application form, available electronically at <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>. Hard copies may be obtained from the London Borough of Islington, 222 Upper Street, London N1 1XR. Completed forms should be returned to the home LA or to the London Borough of Islington, if an Islington resident, by the date required on the form.
- 1.7 Parents/carers applying under criteria 1.10.3 or 1.10.4 below should complete and return the Academy's Supplementary Information Form and Church Attendance Form directly to the Admissions Office at the Academy. The Supplementary Information Form and Church Attendance Form can be requested directly from the Academy Admissions Office or downloaded from the website (http://smmacademy.org/parents/page/apply_for_a_place/).
- 1.8 In certain circumstances, as specified in the Department for Education School Admissions Code 2014 children, e.g. summer born children, may have their admission deferred for a year. Any parents/carers wishing to apply for a place under this provision should discuss this with the Academy at the earliest opportunity. Decisions will be made according to the relevant protocols, according to the individual circumstances and with regard to the best interests of the child. Parental views, academic achievement, social and emotional development and (where relevant) medical views will also be taken into consideration, as well as the views of the Head Teacher. The reasons for the decision will be clearly communicated.

- 1.9 It is also permitted for parents/carers not to apply for a Reception place for September 2017 but instead to apply for a Year 1 place for the Academic Year 2018/19. Parents/carers should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies, as it could be full with students transferring from the 2017/18 Reception Year Group.
- 1.10 If the number of applications for a Reception class place exceeds 30, then the following criteria are strictly applied in the order of priority set down below:
- 1.10.1 A 'looked-after child' or a child who was previously looked-after but immediately after being looked-after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. Applications under this criterion should be accompanied by evidence to show that the child is looked-after or was previously looked-after (e.g. a copy of the adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order).
 - 1.10.2 Children having a sibling (or siblings) who will be attending the Primary School of the Academy (which does not include the Early Years Centre) at the date of the applicant's admission (*see 1.11.5 below for definition of sibling*).
 - 1.10.3 Children whose parents/carers regularly attend St Mary Magdalene Church, Holloway Road, St David's Church, Lough Road, or St Luke's Church, Hillmarton Road, Holloway.
 - 1.10.4 Children whose parents/carers live in the Borough of Islington and regularly attend Christian Churches or Chapels other than those listed in criterion 1.10.3.
 - 1.10.5 Any remaining places available (i.e. 30 minus those places granted under criteria 1.10.1, 1.10.2, 1.10.3 & 1.10.4 above) will then be allocated on the basis of the proximity of the parent's/carer's permanent residence to the Academy, with priority being given to those living closest.

1.11 **Notes**

- 1.11.1 A looked-after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority (LA), or (b) being provided with accommodation by the local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition of Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).
- 1.11.2 An adoption order is one made under the Adoption Act 1976 (section 12) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Section 46).

- 1.11.3 A child arrangements order is one settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live (Children Act 1989, Section 8, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014, Section 14).
- 1.11.4 A special guardianship order is one appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s) (Children Act 1989, Section 14A).
- 1.11.5 In criterion 1.10.2, "sibling" refers to brother or sister, half-brother or half-sister, adopted brother or adopted sister, step-brother or step-sister, or the child of the parent's/carer's partner, and in every case, any sibling must be on roll in the Primary School of the Academy at the date of the applicant's admission and must be living permanently at the same address as the applicant, in the same family unit.
- 1.11.6 In criteria 1.10.3, 1.10.4 & 1.10.5, and in these notes, the term "parents/carers" refers to any person who has parental responsibility for care of the child. Where admission arrangements refer to 'parent's attendance at church' it is sufficient for just one parent/carer to attend.
- 1.11.7 In criterion 1.10.4 "Christian Churches or Chapels" are defined as those churches that are members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and/or are members of the Evangelical Alliance or Afro-Caribbean Evangelical Alliance.
- 1.11.8 All parents/carers wishing to have their application considered under criteria 1.10.3 or 1.10.4 should ensure that they complete a Supplementary Information Form and their church minister completes a Church Attendance Form, so that the Governors may consider their application fully. Supplementary Information Forms and Church Attendance Forms can be downloaded from the St Mary Magdalene Academy website (www.smmacademy.org), or hard copies can be obtained by post or in person from the Academy's Admissions Office. Unless the completed Church Attendance Form is returned to the Academy by the Minister on or before the London Borough of Islington closing date in January 2017, the Governing Body will be unable to consider any evidence of church involvement, and the application will proceed without such evidence. A completed Church Attendance Form does not automatically guarantee a child a place at this Academy.
- 1.11.9 In criteria 1.10.3 and 1.10.4 "regularly attend" means attending church services on at least 48 separate dates during the 2-year period immediately prior to the application deadline. If a family has moved into the area within the previous two years, and regularly attended a Christian

Church or Chapel in the place where they used to live, a Church Attendance Form will be required from both their current and previous ministers. Completed Church Attendance Form(s) must be returned to the Admissions Office of the St Mary Magdalene Academy on or before the Islington Council Reception Admissions deadline in January 2017.

- 1.11.10 If one of the criteria above becomes full, or if places are available under criterion 1.10.5, then within that particular criterion places are allocated on the basis of the proximity of the parent's/carer's permanent residence to St Mary Magdalene Academy, with priority being given to those living closest.
 - 1.11.10.1 "Proximity" is calculated by measuring the straight line distance from the permanent residence of the parents/carers of the applicant to the mid-point of the St Mary Magdalene Academy grounds (indicated on the attached plan).
 - 1.11.10.2 This distance is measured by a computerised mapping system.
 - 1.11.10.3 For any applicant applying whose permanent residence is within a block of flats, the distance will be measured from the street door of that block of flats that is closest to the applicant's own flat's front door.
 - 1.11.10.4 In the event that it is necessary to prioritise between two or more applicants who live in the same block of flats, priority will be given to the applicant whose flat's entrance door is the closest walking distance to the street door of that block of flats.
 - 1.11.10.5 In the event of two or more applicants having the same distance a decision will be made by random allocation.
 - 1.11.10.6 Evidence of permanent residence of the applicant, which may include, but not be limited to a current child benefit notice, may be requested.
- 1.11.11 "Permanent residence" is defined as the address of the parent(s)/carer(s) with parental responsibility for the child, and with whom the child lives.
 - 1.11.11.1 If two parents/carers both have parental responsibility for the child, but do not live at the

same address, the permanent residence will be regarded as the address of the parent/carer with whom the child spends most of his/her time (Monday to Friday).

1.11.11.2 If parents do not live at the same address, and the child lives equally with both, then it is the parents' responsibility to make this clear at the time of the application and to provide supporting evidence in respect of both addresses, e.g. a Residency Order from a court.

1.11.11.3 Please note that only one address can be used for school admission purposes and the final decision will rest with the St Mary Magdalene Academy Admissions Office.

1.11.12 Should the parents/carers move home after having made an application to the Academy, but before being advised whether their child has been offered a place, they must immediately advise the Academy and the London Borough of Islington of this. Failure to do so may constitute making a fraudulent application, and is likely to mean that no place will be offered to the applicant and/or that any offer of a place shall be withdrawn.

1.11.13 If the Academy and/or Governing Body are given false information in any application, the Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place to the child at any time.

1.11.14 Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the Academy are given a place under different SEN admissions criteria administered by the local authority.

1.11.15 If you have any further questions, information can be downloaded from the St Mary Magdalene Academy website (www.smmacademy.org), or requested by contacting the Academy's Admissions Office.

1.12 Additional Information

1.12.1 Parents/carers who are considering applying to the St Mary Magdalene Academy may find it helpful to view the previous year's statistics of Reception Class offers made according to each admissions category and these can be viewed on the Academy website or obtained from the Academy Admissions Office.

- 1.12.2 Please note that this analysis changes each year, and can only be taken as an approximate guide.
- 1.12.3 If parents/carers wish to appeal against the Governing Body's decision on admissions, details of the appeals procedure can be obtained from the Academy's Admissions Office.

1.13 In-Year Admissions

- 1.13.1 Applications for in-year admissions should be made directly to the Academy's Admissions Office using an Academy In-Year Admissions Form which can be downloaded from the Academy website or obtained from the Academy Admissions Office. If more applications are received than there are places available then applications will be ranked by the Governing Body in accordance with the oversubscription criteria, with the following modification: children without an offer of a school place are given priority immediately after other 'looked-after' children. If a place cannot be offered at this time then you may ask us for the reasons and you will be informed of your right of appeal. You will be offered the opportunity of being placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained by the Governing Body in the order of the oversubscription criteria (see 1.10 above) and not in the order in which the applications are received. Names are removed from the list at the end of each academic year. When a place becomes available the Governing Body will decide who is at the top of the list and an offer will be made.
- 1.13.2 We review our waiting list regularly by writing to parents/carers and enclosing a new Supplementary Information Form. If parents/carers wish to remain on the waiting list, they must reply to the letter to confirm this within the time limit specified in the letter. If parents/carers do not reply to the letter within the time limit stated therein, this will be considered by the Academy as a withdrawal of their application.
- 1.13.3 Any parents/carers wishing to apply for admission under criteria 1.10.3 or 1.10.4 must complete a Supplementary Information Form and also ensure that their Church Minister returns the Church Attendance Form to the St Mary Magdalene Academy Admissions Office duly completed and within the time limit that shall have been required. Church Attendance Forms can be obtained from the Academy website or Admissions Office.