# CLAYTON ST JOHN CofE PRIMARY

# ADMISSIONS POLICY

# 2025-26

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| Ratified by Governors: | | Signed<br>Head of School: Mrs G Emsley<br>Full Governing Body |
| Next Review Date: | Spring 2026 | |

**'Growing together in God's Love'**



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## Safeguarding Statement of Intent

At Clayton St John CofE Primary we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at Clayton St John CofE. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access the school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying. We also work to ensure that our pupils are aware of Online Safety and who to talk to if they feel vulnerable or scared.

## Vision Statement

**'Growing together in God's Love'**

Rooted deeply in God's love, we flourish as individuals and as a community.
Within a nurturing environment, we develop curiosity, creativity and a love of learning.
We learn and grow when things go well and things go wrong. In all we do we hope to be the best we can be.

Ephesians 3 v 16 and Jeremiah 17 v 7 & 8

## Statement of Intent

At Clayton St John CofE Primary we strive to ensure that our pupils are safeguarded against any form of harm. We ensure that our staff are trained appropriately, can identify signs of abuse and follow policy and procedures for reporting concerns, disclosures and allegations.

## Our Vision

At Clayton St John CofE Primary we pride ourselves on developing a positive ethos built on the foundations of the Christian faith. This ethos is based on the following Values and principles that, as stakeholders, we all aim to uphold:

**RESPECT**

R: Resilience- Trying our best to work hard, we never give up when things get difficult. We show the determination and strength to learn from our mistakes, showing our courage and self-belief.

E: Enjoyment- We are motivated by our family, friends and teachers and rejoice in God's love; we are fulfilled by all that this brings. Our love of learning is inspired through fun, creativity, curiosity and excitement.

S: Security- The love, care and responsibility we are given make us feel safe at school. We value honesty and trust and achieve more when we feel protected.

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P: Pride-When we achieve success we feel fulfilled and satisfied. We are happy for each other and confident in all we believe.

E: Excellence- We challenge ourselves and one another with high expectations and aspirations. Together God's greatness, we achieve brilliance through our efforts and dedication.

C: Collaboration- Working together, sharing and helping, we respect our differences and listen to each other. We are a team built on trust and co-operation, celebrating diversity and acceptance.

T: Trust- With faith in God's love and each other, we show kindness, loyalty and patience. We are a strong community, helping each other by showing forgiveness and honesty

BDAT is the Admissions Authority for this school and the local Governing Body makes recommendations on their admissions arrangements to the Trust Board. We welcome equally, applications from parents of the Christian faith, of other faiths and of no faith. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect our distinctive Christian ethos and its importance to the school community.

The planned admissions number (PAN) for the admission to the reception class in the school year commencing September 2025 will be a maximum of 60.

**Making an Application**

Applications for place will be made using the local authority common application form by the national closing date of 15th January 2025. This can be found at Apply for a place at one of Bradford District's schools | Bradford Council

By law, no infant class may normally contain more than thirty children. The Governing Board will not place any restrictions on admissions to the reception class unless the number of children for who admission is sought exceeds this number.

The governing board will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline (above). Applications made after midnight on that date will be considered after all on-time application have been processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

**Admission procedures**

The Local Authority operates a co-ordinated admissions scheme and administers a system of equal preference which all applications are considered equally and the Governing body allocates the available places in accordance with its published admissions arrangements. In

event that there are more applications than places available, the Governing Board will allocate palaces using the oversubscription criteria detailed below, which are listed in order of priority.

The Local Authority will inform parents of the offer of a place on behalf of the governors on the national offer date 16th April 2025.

*For children transferring from nursery to reception a separate application must be made.*

**Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**

All governing boards are required by Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 or the Children's and Families Act 2014 to admit to the school a child with an education, health and care plan, (EHCP) formerly a statement of special needs (SEN), which names the school. This is not an oversubscription criterion and relates only to children who have undergone statutory assessment and for whom an EHCP has been issued. If this school is oversubscribed after the admission of children with an EHCP then the oversubscription criteria will be applied to other applicants.

**Oversubscription criteria**

Where the number of applications received exceeds the planned admission number of the school the Governing Board will apply the following criteria in strict priority order.

1. **Pupils who are looked after children and all previously looked after children.**
2. **Children who have an exceptional medical or social need (recommend by the appropriate professional – please read notes and definitions carefully)**
3. **A child who has a sibling who will be attending the school at the proposed date of admission.**
4. **Children of parents who are members of the Church of England or other Christian. denominations for whom the preferred school is the nearest Church of England school to the home address.**
5. **Other Children.**

For definitions and additional explanations. Please see Notes section below.

**Tie Breaker**

Where there are more applications than available within any one of the above criteria, applications will be allocated to those living closest to the school. The distance will be measured using the same method as the Local Authority. The distance between the child's home and school, measured by a straight line distance from the Ordnance Survey address point of the home to the main entrance to the school building, will be used to decide who is given a place; those living nearest being given the available places.

Where two or more applicants live equidistant from the school, as measure by the Local Authority, the remaining places will be allocated by random allocation; the process will be independently supervised.

**Waiting lists**

Where the application has been unsuccessful parents / guardians may request that the child's name is added to the waiting list. The waiting list will be maintained until December 31st. Any places that become available will be allocated according to the published oversubscription criteria of the admission arrangements with no account being taken of the length of the time on the waiting list.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code as soon as places become vacant the Governing Board must fill the vacancies from any waiting list, even if this is before admission appeals have been heard. Placing a child's name on a waiting list does not affect a parent's / guardian's right of appeal against an unsuccessful application.

It should be noted that children, who are subject of direction by a Local Authority to admit or who are allocated in accordance with an In- Year Fair Access Protocol (The School Admission Code), must take precedence over those on a waiting list.

**Appeals process**

Where governors are unable to offer a place because the school is oversubscribed, parents have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel, set up under the School Standard and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2002.

Parents who intend to make an appeal against the Governing Board's decision to refuse admission must submit a notice of appeal in writing within 20 days of receiving the offer letter

Please note the right of appeal against the governors' decision does not prevent you from making an appeal in respect of any other school.

Appeals forms can be obtained from the Local Authority Admissions Team.

Email: schoolappeals@bradford.gov.uk Tel: 01274 439200

**In year admissions**

In year applications for any year group throughout the school year are dealt with by the Local Authority. Please visit the 'In Year Applications' section of the Bradford Council website for further information.

https://www.bradford.gov.uk/education-and-skills/school-admissions/in-year-applications/

Where more applications are received than places available the over-subscription criteria will be used to support the decision.

**Fair access protocol**

The Local Authority has a Fair Access Protocol to ensure that unplaced and vulnerable children, and those who are having difficulty in securing a school place in-year are allocated a place as quickly as possible. A child would only be eligible to be placed via the Fair Access Protocol (FAP) where they have not been able to secure a school place in-year and they fall into one of the specified FAP categories.

**Children below statutory school age and deferred entry**

A child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday. A child's parents may defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which an offer was made. A child may take up a part time place until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory age. Following receipt of the offer of a place a parent should notify the school, as soon as possible, that they wish to either defer their child's entry to the school or take up a part time place as above.

**Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Parents may request a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. Any such request should be made in writing to the Chair of the Governing Body, Clayton St John CE Primary School, Bradford Road, Clayton, Bradford, BD14 6DD at the same time as the admission application is made to the Local Authority and not later than the closing date of the 15th January 2025. The decision will be based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to considering the views of the headteacher /principal, the governors will also take in to account the parent's views and of appropriate medical and educational professionals.

Applications need to be made under the normal round expressing the wish that the child be admitted the following year.

**Fraudulent applications**

The Governing Board reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place if fraudulent of intentionally misleading information has been used on an application, e.g. false home address. This includes cases where parents take out a short term let or buy a property solely to use its address on the application form without any intention of taking up

permanent residence there. In fairness to all parents, all allegations of fraudulent practice brought to the Governing Board's attention will be investigated.

**Review**

The policy will be reviewed annually.

## Notes and Definitions

**Parents**

'Parents' include all those people who have parental responsibility for a child as set out in the Children Act 1989. Where responsibility for a child is 'shared', the person receiving child benefit is deemed to be the parent responsible for completing application forms.

**Siblings**

Siblings (brother or sister) includes:

i) half-brother or half-sister, adoptive brother or adoptive sister, foster brother or foster sister, stepbrother or stepsister living as one family unit at the same address in attendance at the same school on the date of admission.

ii) It will also be applied to situation where a full, half or adopted brother or sister are living at separate addresses at the same school on the date of admission.

iii) The child of a parent's partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as this child who is subject of the application.

**Priority for Church Attendance**

A regular worshipper is defined as attendance of a parent/carer or the child at church, at an act of public worship for at least one month prior to application, verified by a member of the clergy or other designated church officer / faith leader.

The governors do not give a higher preference to families where more than one member of the family worships.

A church is defined as a Christian Church which is a member of 'Churches Together in Britain and Ireland' or a member of the 'Evangelical Alliance' or a local 'Churches Together Organisation'. (NB Where schools include some priority for the children who worship at a Church which is part of a local Churches Together Organisation this should be named, and if it is not a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, the school must make clear in its admissions information and where a list of membership of that local Churches Together Organisation can be viewed)

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these [admissions] arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

Parents applying under this criterion are required to complete a **Supplementary Information Form (SIF)** which asks for a declaration and verification of being a regular worshipper. The SIF is available from the school and must be completed and returned to the school by midnight on the 15th January. In order to ensure that you have the required church attendance you may need to complete two or more forms. This is normally more applicable to those who have moved into the area but attended church at their previous address. If a SIF is not received within the allotted timescales the application will be considered but nor under church attendance priority criteria.

If a disability or other 'special needs' circumstance prevents regular attendance at a specific place of worship but the person concerned is recognised by the church leaders as a 'regular worshipper' then this can be taken into consideration in your declaration and verification of your "regular worship at a Christian Church".

**Home address**

The child's home address must be where the child lives permanently. If the residency is split between two parents, the address must be where the child lives for the majority of the time. If the residency is split equally between two parents, they can nominate the address they wish to use for the allocation of a school place.

Families who are due to move house should provide:

a) a solicitor's letter confirming that exchange of contracts has taken place on the purchase of a property; or
b) a copy of the current Rental Agreement, signed by both tenants and the landlords, showing the address of the property; or
c) in the case of serving H.M. Forces personnel, an official letter confirming their date of posting from the MOD, FCO or GCHQ

**Exceptional medical or social need**

Priority will be given to those children whose evidence establishes that they have a **demonstrable and significant need to attend this school in particular**. Equally this priority will apply to children whose evidence establishes that their parents/ guardians physical or mental health or social needs mean that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend this school in particular.

All schools can support children with a wide range of additional needs and are expected to accommodate sever medical and social needs. An application made under this criteria should clearly demonstrate why this school applied is the only one that can meet your child's needs in a way that no other school can.

Evidence must be submitted in writing by the closing date for applications (above) and include recent independent objective evidence, for example from a doctor, psychologist, social worker or other professional involved with your child. It should confirm the circumstances of the case and must set out why the child should attend this school and why no other school could mee the child's needs. If this school is not the nearest school to your child's home address, give specific reasons why closer schools will not meet your child's needs.

Providing evidence does not guarantee that a child will be given priority at this school and in each case a decision will be made base on the merits of the case and whether the evidence

demonstrates that a placement should be made at this school above any other. In consideration of each case the board may consult with other medical or educational professionals for a further opinion as to whether the pupil should be allocated a place at this school.

'Medical need' does not include mild medical conditions, such as asthma or allergies. 'Social need' does not include a parent's wish that a child attends the school because of a child's aptitude or ability or because their friends attend the school or because of routine childminding arrangements.

**Children who are looked after**

Children who are 'looked after' by the Local Authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children's Act 1989 (i.e. a child who is in the care of the Local Authority, or provided with accommodation by the Authority) and children who were 'looked after' but have been adopted or have become subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order, including those children 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.

This applies to all looked- after children, including those who are in the care of another local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services function at the time of making an application.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order, including those children 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. In the case of previously looked after children, a copy of the relevant documentation will be required in support of the application. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under the Adopted & Children's Act 2002. Child Arrangement Orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a Child Arrangements Order. See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

**Pupil premium**

The pupil premium is additional funding paid annually to schools under Section 14 of the Education Act 2002 for the purposes of supporting the attainment of disadvantaged children. The service premium is additional funding paid annually to schools under Section 14 of the Education Act 2002 for the purposes of supporting the pastoral needs of the children of the Armed Services personnel. The early years pupil premium is additional

funding paid (from April 2015) to support disadvantaged children receiving government funded early education.

**Multiple births**

Where a family of 'twins', 'triplets' or multiple births request admissions and one child has been offered the 30th place or the last place the 'expected pupil' rule comes in and the other twin / triplet is offered a place.

**Supplementary Information Form (SIF)**

This Supplementary Form should be completed by the parent / guardian of the child who is seeking admission to the school. This form need only be completed to confirm and verify that you meet the requirements of the oversubscription criteria related to church attendance. **No additional information will be considered** unless a family has attended more than one place of worship for that period, in which case more than one form may be submitted to cover the two years. It is the responsibility of the parent to get both sections complete and returned to school.

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**Form should be returned to the school office by no later than midnight on 15th January 2023**

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| **Section A: Application for admission to Clayton St John CE Primary School** | | | |
| Please consider the following information as part of the admissions process for the following child: | | | |
| Child's Surname: | | First name: | |
| Name of parent / guardian | | | |
| Address | | | |
| Postcode | | Contact No | |
| **I confirm that** | | | |
| **Is a regular worshipper at the church below, defined as attending public worship at that place, for at least once a month, for two years prior to the date of application.** | | | |
| Place of Worship | | | |
| Name of Vicar / Priest / faith leader | | | |
| Address | | | |
| Postcode | | Contact no | |
| **Section B: Verification**<br>This section is to be completed by the above church leader | | | |
| **I confirm that that child/parent/guardian named above has attended public worship at church at least once a month for the past two years.** | | | |
| Name: | | | |
| Signed: | | Date: | |

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