

Visit us

If you are interested in your child joining the St Mary's Catholic First School, please contact the School office on 01305 262258 or via office@stmarysdorchester.dorset.sch.uk to discuss what we have to offer and to arrange a visit.

Once you decide you would like a place you must make a formal application. A fresh application must be made for children who not moving on from our Year 11 to Post-16 education in Year 12 here.

How to apply

Most children join our St Mary's at the normal round, the main intake into school from the start of September in Reception. As a parent, you must apply for a place to the Local Authority. There are different options for parents of children starting school in Reception. This includes part-time education and deferring or delaying admission until later in the Reception year or, for children with birthdays in the summer term, to the following September. Come and talk to us if you are considering this. Do come and talk with us if you are interested in a place in a different year group for any reason.

For questions about your child joining the school or the admissions process in general, please do not hesitate to contact the school direct or contact Plymouth CAST by email to Rose Colpus-Fricker (Chief Operating Officer) admin@plymouthcast.org.uk

If you are interested in your child joining the St Mary's in-year (once the academic year has started), you can apply for a place through the relevant Local Authority or St Mary's.

There is a right of appeal and to a place on a waiting list for places where an application is refused.

Admission Arrangements

- [Parent Privacy Notice](#)
- [Student Privacy Notice](#)

Plymouth CAST is the admissions authority for our school. It has responsibility for the admissions policies and decisions on applications for admission. We have an admissions policy for each academic year, and they will be published on this page when they are proposed for consultation and after they have been determined annually. They are written to comply with the School Admissions Code 2021 and School Admissions Appeals Code 2022.

Our Admissions Policies

You can find our admissions policies below - we review the school policy annually and may make changes if we feel this would be in the best interests of the school and our community. Each academic year has its own policy document, with details about how to apply for a place in school.

School admissions policy 2022-23

See our determined policy below. If you have any comments regarding the policy, you can contact us at admin@plymouthcast.org.uk

- The following amendments were made in August 2021 to the determined policy for 2022-23 to comply with the revised School Admissions Code 2021: priority for children adopted from state care outside England was added to oversubscription criterion 1; wording added to reflect that decisions on in-year admissions must be sent to a parent within 15 school days; provision added for Hard to Place children; advice added regarding applications for overseas children.

School admissions policy 2023-24

See our determined policy below. If you have any comments regarding the policy, you can contact us at admin@plymouthcast.org.uk

School admissions policy 2024-25

See the policy below. This will be open for comment during a public consultation between **16 December 2022** and **27 January 2023**. If you have any comments regarding the policy, you can contact us at admin@plymouthcast.org.uk

We are proposing to amend the oversubscription criteria for the school. The policy will be determined by our admissions authority before the end of February and published here by **15 March 2023**.