



BLESSED DOMINIC CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NURSERY ADMISSION POLICY 2026-27

Blessed Dominic's Nursery is a Nursery attached to, and run by, Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School. Nursery admissions are not covered by all the laws governing admissions to the School but the governing body of the School has decided to apply similar criteria for admissions. **It must be noted that admission to the Nursery does not guarantee subsequent admission to the School.** Please see the School Admissions Policy for details.

If the Nursery is oversubscribed, the Governors will, taking note of the Obligations regarding Baptism (referred to in the notes below), give priority to children who were baptised into the Catholic Church, in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below.

The governing body has the sole responsibility for admissions to the Nursery.

We offer term time only part time Universal Entitlement funded 15 hour nursery places to children aged 3 and 4 years. We also offer a limited number of school day places for working families using either 30 hour funding from the government or those who wish to pay for additional hours. All Nursery places are offered as per the oversubscription criteria detailed below. All places will be offered to children receiving their Universal Entitlement Funding prior to offering self-funded hours.

The governing body will try and meet requested preferences for either the morning or the afternoon session for a child entitled to attend one session, but should either session be oversubscribed, the governing body may offer a place in the alternate session. The Governors' decision is final.

Applications must be made in writing on the relevant forms (as set out under Application Procedures below) and only the governing body can offer or refuse a place at the Nursery.

All questions on admissions should be made in writing to the Clerk of the Admissions Committee.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO NURSERY

Children born between **1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023** are eligible to be considered for admission to the Nursery starting in September 2026. Decisions will be communicated to parents by the end of the spring which will be **27th March 2026**.

In this policy applicant refers to the person making an application on behalf of a child; candidate refers to the child on whose behalf the application is being made.

If a child that has a specific disability or medical condition parents should include, with their application, written evidence of any relevant disability or medical condition from an appropriate professional, such as a doctor or nurse.

If a child has an exceptional educational, social or medical need, documentation must be supplied, preferably at the time of application, to ensure that the Nursery can meet the need.

OVER SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered in the following order of priority:

1. Catholic 'looked after' children and Catholic children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangement orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been 'looked after' as well as those Catholic 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.
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling attending Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School at the time of admission.

3. Baptised Catholic children who are resident in the parish of St Margaret Clitherow.
4. Baptised Catholic children who are resident in other Catholic parishes.
5. Other 'looked after' children and children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangement orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been 'looked after' as well as 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.
6. Other children who have a sibling at the school at the time the child would be admitted onto the school roll.
7. Children of catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church.
8. Children of other Christian denominations whose application is supported either by a certificate of baptism or by a letter from their Minister of Religion confirming membership of the faith community.
9. Children of other faiths whose application is supported by a letter from their minister/failth leader confirming membership of the faith group.
10. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the provisions below will be applied in the following order:

- i. The Governing Body will give top priority, within a category, to an application where compelling evidence is provided at the time of application, from an appropriate professional such as a doctor, priest or social worker, of an exceptional social, medical, pastoral or other need of the child, which can only be met at this school.
- ii. The attendance of a brother/sister at the school (the Nursery is not part of the school) at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within a category, so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made, after children in (i) above.

APPLICATIONS FOR TWINS/TRIPLETS ETC.

Where the final place is offered to a child who has other siblings applying for a place in the same school year, these siblings will also be admitted

Applications in previous years

In the past three years governors have been pleased to offer places in all categories

APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

To apply for a place in the Nursery in September 2026 you must complete the following:

1. Blessed Dominic Nursery Application Form (NAF)

Available from: The school office or from the school website.

Deadline: The school must receive the NAF **no later than 15th January 2026**

2. Catholic Baptism Certificate or Certificate of Reception

Available from: The Church in which the child was Baptised or Received into the Church.

Deadline: The school must receive the Certificate **no later than 15th January 2026**

Late Receipt of documents:

If the NAF or any other required documentation is received by the school **after 15th January 2026**, the governing body will be unable to consider the application until after the initial allocation process has been completed and it is unlikely that your child will be offered a place.

Notification of places:

Parents will be advised of the outcome of their applications by the Nursery on behalf of the governing body at the end of the Spring term by **27th March 2026**.

If any of the details on the NAF change between the date of application and the receipt of the letter of offer or refusal, you **must** inform the school immediately.

The Governors reserve the right to seek verification of the information parents have given and to withdraw the place if false information has been given, even if the child has already started in the Nursery.

Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

‘Looked after child’ - A child looked after is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. An adopted child is defined by section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976 and section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

‘Catholic’ means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will be evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism in a Catholic church or a Certificate of Reception into the full communion with the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy this also includes a looked-after child in the process of adoption and living with a Catholic family, where a letter from a priest demonstrates that the child would have been baptised were it not for his/her status as a looked-after child.

‘Catechumen’ means a child or parent who is a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will be evidenced by a Certificate of Reception into the Order of Catechumens for a child aged 7 or over. For a child under 7 years of age it will be the certificate of the parent.

‘Eastern Christian Church’ includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a Certificate of Baptism or Reception from the authorities of that Church.

‘Children of other Christian denominations’ means: children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledging God’s revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God’s will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above. All members of Churches Together in England and of CYTŪN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

‘Children of other faiths’ means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of ‘other Christian denominations’ and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:

- A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
- A religion which does not involve belief in a God.

Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a Supreme Being and an expression of belief in that Supreme Being through worship

‘Parent’ means the adult or adults with legal responsibility for the child.

‘Sibling’ refers to brothers and sisters, step brothers and sisters, half brothers and sisters or adopted brothers and sisters’. A sibling relationship does not apply when the older child will leave before the younger one starts.

‘Adopted’ An adopted child is any child who has been formally adopted, having previously been in care and whose parent/ guardian can give proof of this.

‘Child arrangements orders’. Child arrangements orders is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8 which defines it as an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live. Children ‘looked after’ immediately before the order is made qualify in this category.

‘Special Guardianship Order’. A special guardianship order is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.14A appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian(s). A child ‘looked after’ immediately before the order is made qualifies in this category.

‘Parish boundaries’ for the purposes of this Policy, parish boundaries are as shown on the attached map. (If parishes or other geographical areas are mentioned in the oversubscription criteria a map must be provided.)

‘Resident’ A child is deemed to be resident at a particular address when he/she resides there for more than 50% of the school week.

A council tax bill and a recent utility bill will be required as evidence to prove residency. Any offer made on the basis of false information will be withdrawn.

‘Distance from school’ is distance is measured in a straight line, between the address point for the child’s home supplied by Ordnance Survey, to the school’s main gate using the Council’s computerised geographical information. If distances are identical, the Governing Body will draw lots in the presence of an independent witness.