



St Joseph's Catholic Infant School

Part of the St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust
(working in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council Admissions Team)

Welcome

'I am special in God's eyes'

*We will be a happy, welcoming school with
Christ at the centre, where everyone is
recognised as special.*

"Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine. Because you are precious in my eyes, because you are honoured and I love you." Isaiah 43:2





Starting School September 2025





Today we will :

Tell you about our school

Let you tour the school

Tell you about the application process

Answer any Questions you may have

Hopefully show you this is not just an OFSTED 'good' school but a 'good' choice of school for your child



Choosing a School Place?

Visit as many schools as you can.

Talk to others – don't just read OFSTED reports.

Think about what you want for your child.

Applying for a school place?

Once you have decided on the schools that you like and are best for your child you will need to apply online:

If you live in Buckinghamshire apply online:

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions -

between 05 November 2024 and 15 January 2025

Key Points!

- Make a note of which email account you have used and your password!
- The deadline for applications is **11:59 on 15 January 2024.**
- **Do not leave it until 11.58!**

Making an application

When you apply you can:

- List up to **6** schools including out of county schools
- Apply to your own council if outside of Buckinghamshire
- Put the schools in the order of preference

Key points!

- Councils always advise putting your catchment school amongst your list
- Don't forget to send your supporting evidence – proof of address, utility bill etc

Applying to Our School

The same process is used for applying to our school. Our applications are made via the Buckinghamshire Council online portal.

Applications are collated and shared with the school after the deadline for the school to rank applicants according to our Admission Policy and criteria.

Example

Baptised Catholics have a higher ranking – the number of Catholics applying and admitted each year varies and historically there is a mix of Catholics, other faiths and children of no faith.

Siblings - If you have another child already at the school make sure you include that child's details on your application – this will place you in the sibling category.

Your child may have **exceptional 'medical or social needs'**. If you think this applies to you let us know and send in your independent evidence.

Applying to Our School

Key Points!

There is a separate Supplementary Information Form that should also be completed and handed to the school if faith evidence applies to you.

There is no catchment area for our school – admission criteria is applied to allocate places.

You can check the admission rules to see which rule applies to your child?

If your child attends our Pre-School you must still apply for a school place.

What happens Next?

- Ranked applications are returned to the Council
- Councils send out the offers
- You receive an email on **16 April 2025** (after 11 am) with your child's allocation.
- You can log on to the online portal to accept the place from 2pm.
- Automatically added to the waiting list for any higher preferences that could not be offered.

Key Point!

You need to accept the offer online before the deadline

Induction for Our Families and New Children

June/July

- Reception Leader holds a meeting with new parents to discuss key information and their child
- Transition handover meetings and activities take place between our Pre-School and Reception teachers. Phone-calls and meetings take place with external Pre-Schools wherever possible.
- All Families complete an 'All about Me' questionnaire to help us get to know your child
- Children offered places at our school attend introductory sessions at the end of June and through July
- We hold a new family and children coffee morning

Settling Our New Children

September

- Children start full-time in their new class
- Parents are invited to a get to know the new class meeting
- Parents have a 'settling in' drop in class session
- There is a formal parents evening

Key Messages!



Apply on time:

By 11:59 on 15 January 2025 - Do not leave this until the last minute

- Use an email address that you will still be using in April and keep your user name and password somewhere safe!
- List the schools in your **true** preference order
- Consider putting your catchment/local school down as one of your preferences.
- Visit the schools, ask questions and make your own decision rather than depend on other people. Think about what is best for your child.
- Check admission rules - Catholics have priority at our school but not all children who attend are Catholic. Who attends our school depends on the number of people applying under each admission criteria and this varies greatly year on year.



Further Information

Visit the Buckinghamshire Council website at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk There is information on the website about last year's allocation which you can use as a guide

Contacting the Admissions Team www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/contactadmissions

Contact Us – 01296 484618

Visit our website – www.stjosephsrcinfant.bucks.sch.uk