

**BONUS PASTOR CATHOLIC COLLEGE**  
**Admissions Policy and Criteria**  
**2009-2010**

Bonus Pastor Catholic College was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. The college is conducted by its Governing Body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and Instrument of Government, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ.

The Governing Body has responsibility for admissions to the college and intends to admit 150 students to Year 7 in September 2009, and maintain 150 students in each year group.

**Oversubscription Criteria**

1. First priority of admission will be given to Looked After baptised Catholic children.
2. Second priority of admission will be given to committed and practising baptised Catholic children from families where one or both parents/carers are baptised Catholic and practising.
3. Third priority of admission will be given to baptised Catholic children who themselves are committed and practising, although the parents are not.

In interpreting commitment and practice the Governors take into account frequency of regular attendance at Sunday Mass. A higher priority will be given where there is a higher regular frequency of attendance at Sunday Mass.

When the college is oversubscribed with applicants whose commitment and practice has been verified by the Parish Priest the Governors will refer to the preceding paragraph in prioritising places and will then take the following factors into account, in the order of priority shown:-

- a) The presence of a Baptised Catholic sibling on the roll of the college at the time of admission, e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009.
- b) Pastoral or medical reasons which have been verified by an appropriate professional authority and given reasons as to why the college is the most suitable and that these reasons are accepted by the Governors.
- c) Proximity to the college.

Any places unfilled under (1). (2) and (3) will be offered in accordance with the following practice in the order of priority shown:-

4. Baptised Catholic children whose frequency of attendance at Sunday Mass is irregular or occasional.
5. Baptised Catholic children who may not be attending Sunday Mass at the time of application.

Sub categories (a), (b), and (c) apply in prioritising applications in the above two groups.

6. Non baptised Looked After Children.
7. The presence of a non-baptised sibling who has regular attendance at Sunday Mass, as verified by their nominated priest.
8. Non baptised children who have regular attendance at Sunday Mass, as verified by their nominated priest.
9. The presence of a baptised/dedicated sibling of other Christian denominations whose practice can be verified by a priest, minister or pastor of the denomination.
10. Baptised/Dedicated children of other Christian denominations whose practice can be supported by a priest, minister or pastor of the denomination.
11. The presence of a baptised/dedicated sibling of other Christian denominations who are not practising but whose parents have a commitment to the aims and ethos of the Catholic college.
12. Baptised/Dedicated children of other Christian denominations who are not practising but whose parents have a commitment to the aims and ethos of the Catholic college.
13. The presence of a sibling from other faiths whose parents are in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the Catholic college.
14. Children of other faiths where parents are in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the Catholic college.
15. Any other applicant.

Sub categories (a), (b) and (c) apply in prioritising applications in the above four groups.

**Notes** (These form part of the Policy and Criteria)

- In addition to the Common Application Form, a Bonus Pastor Supplementary Form **must** be completed by parents/guardians on behalf of all prospective pupils.
- 'Looked after children' has the same meaning as in Section 22 of the Children's Act 1989 and means any child in the care of a local authority and provided with accommodation by them.
- 'Catholic' means a member of the Church in Communion with the See of Rome and includes the Eastern Churches in Communion with Rome.
- 'Baptised' means sacramental baptism in accordance with the rights of the Catholic Church. Catholic children baptised in other Christian denominations should have a certificate of reception into the Catholic Church.

- 'Sibling' – the older sibling **MUST** be on the roll of the college at the time of admission, e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- 'Proximity' means priority will be given in this sub category to those having the shortest distance from the college measured in a straight line from the front door to the main gate at Winlaton site measured as the crow flies. Please note proximity to the college is a sub category and regular attendance at Sunday Mass is a higher priority, e.g. a student with regular attendance at Sunday Mass will have higher priority than a student with irregular attendance but living nearer.
- Register of Interest – in addition to the right of appeal unsuccessful applicants will be offered the opportunity to be placed on the register of interest which will be maintained in order of the criteria set out in this policy and not in the order in which applications are received. The register is renewed in September each year by writing to all those on the register as at 31<sup>st</sup> August and asking whether they wish to remain on the register for the coming academic year.
- The college does not have specific facilities for students with disabilities. As far as possible the college will ensure that students with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as other students.
- The college is committed to taking its fair share of vulnerable children who are hard to place, in accordance with locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal round of admissions, the governing body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol which carries the agreement of both the governing body and the diocese for the current admission year. The governing body has this power even when admitting such a child would exceed the normal admission number.

### **Procedure for Admission at Secondary Transfer Stage**

- A Common Application Form must be completed and sent to your Local Authority by the published date.
- The additional Bonus Pastor Supplementary Form will be made available at the Open Evening and Open Morning sessions as published.
- A completed Bonus Pastor Supplementary Form must be returned to the college by the published date, together with a copy of the Baptism Certificate.

### **Procedure for Admission during the Academic Year**

- Application must be made to your Local Authority who will advise the college of your interest in applying for a place.
- A Bonus Pastor Admission Form must be completed and returned to the college together with a copy of the Baptism Certificate.