



Parish of Wokingham St Sebastian's

www.stsebschurch.org.uk

GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION REFERENCE

Parish Of Wokingham St Sebastian's, Diocese Of Oxford

Responsibility for admission of pupils to Church of England Schools rests with the Governing Body of each school. The Governing Body determines and publishes an Admissions Policy each year, which is included in the school prospectus. Every school that has faith-based criteria will have their own requirements regarding church attendance and it may differ between schools. It is suggested that you review the prospective school's own policy to understand the requirements needed. St Sebastian's Church will follow the individual School's Admission Policy.

There are usually seven categories for schools to consider admissions. The first three are: (1) Local Authority, (2) Significant Need and (3) Child of School staff. This Parish Guidance addresses the 4th and 5th categories: faith-based applications via public worship attendance at a Church of England Church and similar attendance at a Bracknell and Sonning Deanery Church of England Church. The remaining two categories are out of scope: (6) any other Christian Church and (7) families who already have a sibling attending the school.

Faith-based Applications (Categories 4 and 5)

(4) – Church of England Public Worship in the last 12 to 24 months

Reverend Rickey Simpson-Gray, Parish Priest of Wokingham St Sebastian's, has full responsibility for completion of these applications.

A key criteria of such applications centres around attendance of public worship at St Sebastian's Church main services by way of the following example:

- 2 or more times per month for at least 20 of the last 24 months;
- Once a month for at least 20 of the last 24 months;
- 2 or more times for at least 10 of the last 10 months;
- Once a month for at least 10 of the last 12 months;
- Once every 2 months for at least 10 of the last 12 months.

By main services at St Sebastian's Church, we offer the following examples:

- 8am Weekly Sunday Communion;
- 10am Weekly Main Service;
- 6pm Monthly Worship.

(5) – Church of England Public Worship at a Bracknell and Sonning Deanery Church in the last 24 months

St Sebastian's Church falls within the scope of this criteria as a Parish within the Sonning Deanery of Diocese of Oxford. The criteria is similar to (4), save for 24 months' minimum attendance period for one of our local Faith-based High Schools, for example.

In all cases, it is the data that enables the relevant Church of England school to score attendance to determine priority weighting of admission application.



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For applicants who have moved into the Parish area or who have changed their place of worship within the relevant period preceding School application date, previous church attendance will separately need evidencing to assist the School's consideration. It is advisable that an equivalent form from the Parish Church previously attended is provided to support your evidence.

St Sebastian's Parish completion of Faith-based applications

Reverend Rickey has sole responsibility to complete your Faith-based application verifying attendance in the preceding 12 to 24 months to date of application. He cannot verify public worship attendance that is factually untrue nor would he wish to assist in such an application. His key measure is based on Public Worship attendance during main services, and would consult amongst the Church community where appropriate.

Secondly, to misrepresent attendance for the benefit of securing an Admission's place would be deemed unfair to other families who already meet the Admissions' criteria. It is also unfair to Schools, who work in partnership with the Parish and Sonning Deanery, struggling to balance demand against availability of places.

Thirdly, there remains a benefit for all families joining our Church community beyond meeting School Admissions criteria. Reverend Rickey would welcome the opportunity to discuss how you and your family could be involved in Parish ministries, events and community activities beyond public worship attendance.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please get in touch with Reverend Rickey via the Parish Office.

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