



Frequently asked questions

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions that you will make as a parent / carer. It requires careful consideration and a clear understanding of what the process entails. Here at St Francis, we are confident that we offer an excellent Catholic education. To support the process, we have provided answers to a number of frequently asked questions that we receive annually. We trust that this will enable you to make an informed decision.

Does my child have to be a baptised catholic to be offered a place at St Francis of Assisi Catholic College?

The admissions criteria is available on the school website <https://www.stfrancis.cc/about-us/admissions/official-documentation/> If the number of applications exceeds the admission number, the governors will give priority to applications in accordance with the criteria listed, provided that the governors are made aware of that application before decisions on admissions are made. The vast majority of students at St Francis of Assisi Catholic College are baptised Catholic. However, each year places are offered to a number of non- catholic students.

How do I apply?

- Applications must be made via, and to, your Local Authority directly by 31st October.
- The **Supporting Evidence Form** must be returned to St Francis of Assisi directly by 31st October.

I already have a child at St Francis, does this mean that their younger sibling is guaranteed a place?

In all categories, priority will be given to those who have a sibling or brothers or sisters who are legally adopted and attending St Francis of Assisi at the proposed time of admission. If there is oversubscription within a category, the Governors will give priority first to siblings, then to children living closest to the school.

My child has been baptised, but I do not have their baptism certificate. Will they still be offered a place?

A copy of your child's Baptismal certificate should be sent directly to the school together with the **Supporting Evidence Form**, in line with the deadline for returning your home authority application form. In special circumstances where this is unobtainable (e.g. applicants from abroad) a letter from your current parish priest or minister of religion must be sent directly to the school to support the application. If you fail to send in the **Supporting Evidence Form** your application will be submitted as a non-catholic. Once places have been offered, it is not possible to rescind them. Therefore, should supporting evidence be provided after the date of offers, there is no guarantee that places will be available.

My child has Special Educational Needs, does this mean that they will be offered a place at St Francis?

Children with an Education health Care Plan (EHCP) will be given priority. If your child has an EHCP, you are welcome to discuss the support we could offer them with our Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENDCO) Mrs S Padhiar. Parents/ Carers whose child has an EHCP follow the normal admissions procedures and the Statutory Assessment or Annual Review process.

What about transport to and from school?

Our school is served by several public bus services which a large majority of students use to travel to and from school. The majority of services drop off and collect in Aldridge town centre which is a 10 minute walk from school but some do come onto the school site. A search on the travel planner section of the West Midlands Travel website or Bus Link website will show the routes and timetables.

Students who travel from Tamworth have the option of using a dedicated school service which is paid for via Parentpay and serves all areas of Tamworth across to buses (SFA 1 and SFA2)

Details about all bus services are available on the school website.

Where can I purchase school uniform from?

Wearing the school uniform is essential to being part of our school community. We believe that wearing our uniform indicates that students have the highest standards and, this outward sign, indicates that they are proud to be part of St Francis of Assisi. Students should be proud to be members of St Francis of Assisi and therefore should wear the uniform properly and with pride. The specific uniform requirements are available on the school website and can be purchased from the following suppliers (including PE kit):

Crested School Wear:

- Walsall, 7 Victorian Arcade, Walsall, WS1 1RE. T: 01543 504866
- Crested School Wear Stafford, St Marys Mews, Stafford, ST16 2AP. T: 01785 748481
- Crested School Wear Cannock, 1 Wolverhampton Rd, Cannock. WS11 1AH. T: 01785 748481
- S K School Uniforms, 44-46 Chartwell, Tamworth, B79 7UG. T: 01827 705779

Clive Mark stores:

- Walsall: 19 Park Place Shopping Centre, Park Street, Walsall WS1 1NP. T: 01922 622556
- Sutton Coldfield: 407-411A Birmingham Rd, Sutton Coldfield B72 1AU. T: 0121 382 1728
- Birmingham: 1-2, Anderton Rd, Birmingham B11 1TG. T: 0121 459 4599

How are students put into their teaching groups?

Students are set or banded as soon as they start at St Francis. Information is provided by the primary schools to aid this process. Some lessons however, are taught in mixed ability groups in Year 7 e.g. PE and Music. Students will also sit assessments in their induction week to help us find out about how they learn best and identify their areas of strength and areas for development. This will enable them to start making progress as soon as possible. All classes in year 7 will experience the same curriculum and will sit mini and formal assessments in the first half term. The results from these assessments in the core subjects will be used to review the teaching groups for the second half term and beyond.