

Guidance Notes for Parents/Carers – Year 7 September 2025

Please read very carefully the relevant Admissions Policy, which is on our school website before filling in any part of the online Supplementary Application Form and following the guidance below:

1. Meet with the two authorised representatives from your Church/Place of Worship (C/PoW) before completing the online Supplementary Application Form as you will need their signatures to verify the grouping and dates attended. Please look at the current Admissions Policy very carefully to help you decide into which group you and/or your child fits as it will form the basis of your reference.
2. You can access the online Supplementary Application Form on our school website. There are mandatory sections that must be completed to enable you to progress through the form. You will receive an automatic email response once it has been submitted together with the following attachment: 'Church/Place of Worship reference', which you must complete and then take to your C/PoW for their two signatures. Please complete as many of these forms as necessary to cover the 3-year period.
3. If you attend more than one C/PoW or have changed C/PoW in the last 3 years, then we also ask that you contact two authorised representatives from each as we will be asking for verification from all. Three years in total across all Churches/Places of Worship will make up the full reference if you are indicating Group 1 in either the Christian or Other Faith categories. We do not need C/PoW references outside of this 3-year period.
4. The home address is the address is the permanent place of residence of child and Parent/Carer. Bristol will not accept more than one address as the child's home address. Where a child regularly lives at more than one address the Local Authority will have to reach a conclusion about which should be counted as the main address when allocating places, taking relevant evidence into account. Normally this will be the address where the child is registered with a medical GP. Where parents or carers are living separately and do not agree on the child's home address, they are urged to reach an agreement. If this does not happen evidence may be required by providing court documents or other legally binding documentation such a sworn affidavit confirming where the child resides for the majority of the school week. Where satisfactory evidence cannot be provided Bristol Local Authority will determine the address be used for allocating a school place.
5. The online Supplementary Application Form must reach St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School by the 31 October 2024. Failure to do so will jeopardise your application as faith criteria will not be added until after the first round of offers in March 2025.
6. You must also complete the Local Authority's Common Application Form and it must reach your Local Authority on or before this same date, 31 October 2024.
7. Faith-based applicants must complete both forms, numbers 5 and 6 above, **even if there are siblings in the school**, and return them to their correct destinations by the closing date.

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the Church, or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant Place of Worship, has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the Church or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant Place of Worship or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

The Value of Worship at St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School

Worship helps cement our ethos. It binds us together, whether we are in our tutor rooms, in assembly or in church. We try to make our worship as inclusive as possible as we know we have students and families from many faiths and of none. We are a Christian school and this is reflected in the language that we use and we have more services than in community schools. If joining in the school's worship presents a problem for your family you may wish to consider whether you should apply for a place at this school. If you are not sure what all this means, we encourage you to talk it through in advance with a school representative.

Guidance notes for Church or other Place of Worship Representatives

Please read these guidance notes very carefully before agreeing with the level of involvement of the Parent/Carer and/or Child in your Church/Place of Worship (C/PoW).

1. It is hoped that the Parent/Carer has already made an appointment with two authorised representatives from your C/PoW before they complete and submit the online Supplementary Application Form.
2. As soon as the online Supplementary Application Form is submitted by parent/carer an email of receipt and a Church/Place of Worship reference form is sent to them. The family are responsible for getting this form to you and we ask both representatives to verify the years attended and attendance per month which the family will have populated.
3. We require the signature of two people who hold a position of responsibility in your C/PoW but who must not be related in any way to the Parent/Carer and/or the child.
4. To help you decide into which Group the applicant fits, descriptions of the Groups are printed below. Where a Parent/Carer has indicated more than one C/PoW on the online Supplementary Application Form please have the conversation with them about how both/several C/PoW may make up the group selected over the 3-year period.

Group 1: The child is a member of Group 1 if the Parent/Carer and/or the child are very regular worshippers. This means normal attendance for worship at a C/PoW* is three or more times a month for a minimum of the last three years.*

Group 2: The child is a member of Group 2 if the Parent/Carer and/or the child are regular worshippers. This means normal attendance for worship at a C/PoW* is two or more times a month for a minimum of the last two years.*

Group 3: The child is a member of Group 3 if the Parent/Carer and/or the child are occasional worshippers. This means normal attendance for worship at a C/PoW* is a minimum of four times in the past year.*

'Worship' in the above includes Sunday services, weekday services, Sunday School or other faith development groups on a Sunday or any other day. It does not include worship during normal school activities.

'Minimum of years': Parents/Carers should calculate the minimum number of years' attendance as including the period up to the day before the specified closing date for submission of the Supplementary Form.*

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the Church, or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant Place of Worship, has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the Church or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant Place of Worship or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

5. Please remind Parent/Carers to return the completed and signed reference form to the school as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for your help and time in this process.