I can walk from my house to the school and the church, so I must be in the Parish!

Not necessarily. The School and the Church are situated at the most northerly end of the Parish Boundary; much of the Parish is to the south of the church, stretching towards Bartley Green and beyond, towards Rubery. Because of the geographical makeup of the Parish, any properties below Shelah Rd, on Furnace Hill, although very close to the school and the church, are actually not in the Parish of Our Lady & St Kenelm, although they may be less than a mile away. The boundary is the river that runs between Shelah Rd and Dudley Rd. Similarly, properties to the left of Gorsty Hill, going up the Hill, are also NOT in the Parish

On the other hand, you could live almost in Rubery, which is over five miles away, and still be in the Parish.

As a rough guide, if you pay rates to Sandwell Council or Birmingham Council you will probably not be in the Parish.

All houses along the Dudley Road from 'Our Plaice' towards Old Hill and all properties to the left of Gorsty Hill are out of the Parish, even though the church and school are within walking distance.

The Parish Boundary was determined by the Boundary Commission over sixty years ago, when the Parish was created.

I have a child in Y6. Will my younger child get a place in Reception Class automatically?

No. The sibling connection is only valid when the younger child is admitted, not when the application is received. When your younger child is admitted (in September), your older child will not be a pupil at the school, so the younger child will not have a sibling in the school when the younger child starts. What matters in this case, is the time of admission, not the time of application. The younger child will be treated as a non-sibling.

I have a child in school with a Statement. Does this mean that my younger child will automatically get a place because of it?

No. The Statement enabled you to get that particular child into the school, because Statements override all other Criteria, but it does not apply to any other children. Subsequent children will be treated as all other siblings, unless they have their own Statement.

Do I need to fill in a Supplementary Form?

Yes. The Supplementary Form informs the Governors about which Criterion your child will be in. If you do not fill in this form and take, or send it to the school, along with a copy of the Baptismal Certificate or other evidence of Baptism into the Catholic Church, your child be considered NOT to be a Catholic and will be placed in the last Criterion.

Do I need to provide a copy of my child's baptism certificate?

Yes. If you do not ensure that the school office has seen your child's Certificate of Baptism, you will be presumed to be non-Catholic and placed in the appropriate Criterion.

It is important for you to have proof and evidence that the school has seen your child's Certificate of Baptism. Ask for a receipt or acknowledgement from the School Office.

My children are all Baptised Catholics.
If I live in the Parish and have a child or children already in the school, will my next child get a place?

Having a Baptised Catholic child or children in school and living in the Parish of Our Lady & St Kenelm, places you in Criteria 2 and usually gives you a very good chance, but not a guarantee.

If there are any Catholic children in the care of the Local Authority, they will be ahead of your child. However, all other places, in each criterion, are allocated according to the distance from home to school, so it depends on how many other families, in the same circumstances as you, are applying for a place, and where they live- whether they are live nearer or further away from school than you.

If I live in the Parish and this is my first child. S/he is a Baptised Catholic. Will my child automatically get a place?

There is a good chance, but not a guarantee. This places you in Criteria 3. It depends on how many other families with Baptised Catholic children, who have a brother or a sister already attending the school, are applying (see above) and how many other Parishioners are applying for the first time. Places are allocated according to the distance from home to the school in each Criterion.

If I live outside the Parish boundary and have a Baptised Catholic child or children already in school, will I get my next Baptised child into the school?

You would have a reasonable chance, but not a guarantee. You would be placed in Criteria 4. It would depend on how many other families are in the criteria ahead of you and your distance from the school.

If I live outside the Parish boundary and have a Baptised Catholic child, with no siblings in school, will I be offered a place in the school?

You would have a chance, but not a guarantee. You would be in Criteria 5. It would depend on how many other families are in the criteria ahead of you and your distance from the school.

I live nearer than lots of other people, on the Lodgefield Estate and my friend lives along Dudley Rd and we have friends who live much further away, near the Royal Oak at Lapal and Lutley Lane on the Squirrels. It's not fair if they can get children in and we can't.

Because we live nearer the school, we must be in the catchment area.

That's what lots of people think, but Catholic Schools don't have catchment areas like state schools. Catholic schools were build with the money raised by each Parish and contributions made by parishioners, so it was only fair to give first priority to Catholic families living in the Parish. Therefore, the Admission Criteria gives preference to Baptised Catholics living in the Parish, before those living outside it. This policy was confirmed by the Ombudsman in September 2013. Click here to read it.

If my child is not a Catholic, but I have a child or other children in school, will I get a place?

This cannot be guaranteed. It depends how many families, in the categories mentioned above, are applying for a place that year.

If my child is not a Catholic will I get a place?
This cannot be guaranteed. It depends how many families, in the categories mentioned above, are applying for a place that year.

As you may see from these questions and answers, it is impossible to be precise, because the Governors never know from one year to the next, how many people will be applying for a place or places each year.
Some years there are more Catholic siblings than other years.
Some years there are more Catholics without siblings than other years.
Some years there are more non-Catholic siblings than other years.

When there are places beyond the requests from Catholic families, these are offered to non-Catholic families, but this does not guarantee a place for subsequent children.

Because of these uncertainties, it is vitally important that you consider alternative schools very carefully, because, if you are unsuccessful at Our Lady & St Kenelm, because of oversubscription, you need to have acceptable and convenient alternatives.

If you do not name other schools on the application form, you could be offered a place in a school; some distance away, or in one that you are not happy about.

Choosing a list of preferences is very important for you, your family and your child.

For the September 2012 intake into Reception Class, several non-Catholic siblings were unsuccessful.

For the September 2013 intake there were 85 applications for a place in Reception Class. Several Catholic siblings were unsuccessful, several Catholics without siblings were also unsuccessful and several non-Catholic siblings were unsuccessful

Governors are most upset and unhappy when sibling children cannot be offered a place, but all places are offered in accordance with the criteria for that year.

Unless there is a change required by legislation, the admission criteria is generally unchanged from one year to the next, apart from dates and these Criteria are published well in advance of the year of admission. Please read the appropriate criteria for your child's year of entry.