Admissions Policy for the School Year 2014-15

1. St Georges VA Church Primary School was initiated through a local ecumenical agreement between the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the Baptist Church. The Governors wish to reflect the Christian character of the school and its links with the local Christian community in its admissions practice. The School’s Governing Body, in accordance with its Voluntary Aided status, is the Admissions Authority for the school and as such determines and oversees the school’s admission arrangements (following consultation).

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

2. It is the intention of the Governing Body to ensure equality of opportunity for all children seeking places within the school, subject to the criteria listed below in the event of over-subscription, and that the school should reflect the diversity of the local community. All children admitted will be assured of an inclusive education, which respects all religious traditions.

Admission Number

3. The Admissions Number for St Georges VA Church Primary School is 30 and this is the number of places available each year.

Oversubscription for 2014-2015

4. If the school is not over-subscribed all new intake applicants will be offered a place. If the number of applications for admissions exceeds the Admission Number applications will be ranked in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below in that order of priority. (The over subscription criteria will be reviewed and published after consultation with other local admissions authorities including North Somerset Council.)
5:1 Children in Care and children who were previously in Care but immediately after being in Care became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order.

5:2 Children with a brother or sister who will be attending the school at the time of admission. 
   (See Co-ordinated Admission Scheme)

5:3 Children living within the civil parish of St. Georges. A map is available in the school for reference, as well as on the school website www.stgeorgesschool.uk.org

5:4 Children who regularly attend a church or place of Christian worship. (See Note A)

5:5 Children with a brother or sister within the same year group. (See Note B)

5:6 Children living closest to the school. (See Note C)

In applying these criteria:

Note A: If you wish your child to be considered as a regular attender under criterion 5:4, completion of a Supplementary Information Form by yourself and a minister, vicar or priest is required, which indicates that the child currently worships at a Christian Church or place of Christian worship regularly i.e. the form confirms attendance at services at least twice a month on average for a period of not less than the previous six months. This must be submitted to your home Council by the closing time and date to be considered in the first round of allocations.

Note B: Children with a brother or sister within the same intake year group, for example twins or triplets, where St. Georges is the school nearest to their home address, measured in a direct line between the address points of the child’s home and the main entrance to the school indicated on the Council’s Computerised System(s).

Note C: The distances will be measured in a direct line between the address points of the child’s home and the main entrance of the school indicated on the Council’s Computerised System(s).

6. Priority within each criterion will be given to those living closest to the school measured in a direct line between the address points of the child’s home and the main entrance to the school, indicated on the Council’s computerised system(s).

7. Where the direct line distances are equal, priority will be given to those living closest to the school, measured by the shortest route between the address points of the child’s home and the nearest entrance to the school site indicated on the Council’s computerised system(s). Should these distances also be equal the ranking of applications will be made by drawing lots.

8. These criteria cannot be applied to applications received after the initial allocation of places has been completed if the Admission Number has already been reached.

9. Where St Georges school is named in a child’s “Statement of Special Educational Needs” the Admission Authority is legally required to admit the child to the school. Such children will therefore be allocated places before the above criteria are applied.
10. The school will hold a list of those Reception applicants still seeking a place at the school, until the last day of term 2 in 2014. All applications will be ranked in line with the school’s over-subscription criteria and allocations will be made in accordance with it. Priority will not be given on the basis simply of the date an application was added to the list. Children who are the subject of a direction by a local council to admit or who are allocated a school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol for school places will take precedence over those on the waiting list.

11. Children who attend a nursery class at the school do not automatically qualify for a place in the Reception Year group. Parents of children who are admitted for nursery education need to apply for a school place when the child is due to start in a Reception class in the usual way.

**Additional Information:**

**Reception Intake:**
- Applications can be made online or on paper and should be submitted to your home council. If you live in North Somerset you should apply to:
  - Email: cyps.schooladmissionsandtransport@n-somerset.gov.uk
  - Website: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions
  - Tel No: 01275 884078 Fax No: 01275 882747
  - North Somerset Council, Children and Young People’s Services School Admissions and Transport Team, Town Hall Walliscote Grove Road, Weston super Mare, BS23 1UJ

Applications must be submitted by the closing time and date of 23:59 hours on 15 January 2014 in order to be considered in the first round of school place allocations.

ii) Applications submitted after the closing time and date will be treated as a late application and so will not be considered in the first round of allocations except where both of the following are the case:
- Such late applications are received before North Somerset Council has sent details of applications to other councils;
- The applicant’s home council has accepted them as if they had been submitted by the closing time and date.

All other late applications will not be considered until after the first round of allocations; this may mean that all of the places have been allocated.

On-time applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application on 16 April 2014.

**In-Year applications**

If there are more applications than vacancies for any year group, In-year applications will be considered in accordance with the above over-subscription criteria. An In-Year application form is available upon request from the school and/or North Somerset Council.
The school will, where appropriate, consider allocations for children identified as being from vulnerable groups in accordance with North Somerset Council’s Fair Access Protocol (full details available from North Somerset Council).

OTHER INFORMATION:

12. Children in Care
‘Children in Care’ are children who are (a) in the care of a local council or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local council in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

13. Brothers and sisters.
To be considered as a brother or sister a child must be living at the same address for the majority of the time* as a full, half, step or adoptive brother or sister. Full and adoptive brothers/sisters are defined as children who have the same either biological or adoptive parents. Half brothers/sisters are defined as children who share only one either biological or adoptive parent. Step brothers/sisters are defined as children who are not necessarily related biologically (including Foster children) but are living in the same household for the majority of the time* at the address considered to be the address of the child for whom the application is made.
*A child must be living at an address for at least 50% of the time to be considered as living there for the majority of the time.

Except for a brother or sister within the same year group, a brother or sister must be attending (or is expected to be attending) the school at the time of admission.

14. Home address.
A child’s home address is considered to be the place where the child permanently and ordinarily resides for the majority of the time. This would normally be the same address as the person who has parental responsibility for the child as their main carer. Those moving should normally provide independent confirmation of the new address.

15. Parent: This includes all of those people, including carers, who have parental responsibility for a child as set out in the Children Act 1989.

There is a different procedure for Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs. Their parents should apply for a place via the service dealing with Special Education Needs in their home council.

17. Right of Appeal
Parents whose school place application is refused have the legal right to appeal against this decision. Details concerning how to appeal will be explained in the decision letter.

18. Admissions of children outside their normal age group
The governors will consider applications for delayed or accelerated entry in cases where parents would like their child to be admitted to a year group either side of the chronological age year group. The reasons for the request must be fully explained in writing and included with the school place application form.
19. Deferred Entry
Parents of children aged four, but who have not yet reached their fifth birthday have the right to apply for a deferred entry to school. In these circumstances, parents can request that their child start school in the Reception year group at a later stage in the academic year, however, must be in full time education by the start of the term (term 1, 3 or 5 as appropriate) following his/her fifth birthday.

Parents may also request that their child takes up their place part time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

20. Nearest School: For criterion (5.5) the distances used to determine the nearest school will be measured in a direct line. If direct line distances are equal then distances will be measured by the shortest route. If shortest route distances are equal the nearest school will be determined by drawing lots. The nearest school is the nearest appropriate one i.e. a non independent mainstream school (excluding Catholic schools) that is appropriate to the child’s age.

21. All applications will be considered equally regardless of the ranking of a parent’s preference for the school.

22. Contact Details: St Georges VA Church Primary School, Pastures Avenue, Weston super Mare, North Somerset. BS22 7SA. Telephone 01934 426901, Fax 01934 426876.

24 Oct. 12
Appendix 1

Reference Form

It is the parent’s/carer’s responsibility to ensure that the requirements, detailed in this reference form, are fully met prior to submission.

It is essential that this reference form is signed by the Minister, Vicar, Priest or Church Leader.

To: The Governing Body of St Georges VA Church Primary School
C/o Your Home Council (which is North Somerset Council for those living in North Somerset),
School Admissions & Transport Team.

Name of Church:…………………………………………………………………….

Address of Church:………………………………………………………………….

I can confirm that ………………………………………………………………… (name of child)
currently worships at the above mentioned Church at least twice a month and has been for a period of
not less than the previous six months.

Signed …………………………………………………

Date ……………………………………………………

Print name ………………………………………

Position: …………………………………………..

Minister/Vicar/Priest or Church Leader