



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM  
**ST. MARGARET MARY'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Dear Parents

We want you to be informed about the possible choices you make for eventual application for a secondary place for your child and the consequences for parents and children of Nursery , Reception, Y1 and Y2.

Secondary schools which are oversubscribed (which are, therefore popular) will adopt as part of their entry requirements a "*Certificate of Catholic Practice*". This certificate is available on the DES website.

The Certificate of Catholic Practice has, at this stage, been adopted by St Pauls School for Girls and Bishop Walsh School.

The Certificate of Catholic Practice is issued on request by the families' Parish Priest (or the Priest in charge of the church where the family attends mass). It is only issued if the Priest is satisfied that at least one Catholic parent / carer (along with the child if he / she is over seven years old) have attended mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation for at least five years.

The Certificate of Catholic Practice can only be obtained from a Catholic Priest and must be attached to the SIF form when making an application. It will also be issued when the practice has been continuous since being received into the Church if that occurred less than five years ago. It is expected that most Certificates of Catholic Practice will be issued on the basis of attendance. A Certificate of Catholic Practice may only be issued by a priest when attendance is interrupted by exceptional circumstances which excuse from the obligation to attend on that occasion or occasions. Further details of these circumstances can be found in the guidance issued to priests on the Diocesan Education services website at [www.bdes.org.uk/admissions.html](http://www.bdes.org.uk/admissions.html)

We want to emphasise, therefore, that for families who want the widest choice of secondary school for their child, parents should be very much aware that attendance over a five year period leading up to that choice, will be a vital part of your application. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require more information.

Yours sincerely,  
Fr. Simon Ellis      Mr. M Aldred  
Parish Priest      Head teacher

