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Admission to The Batt St Mary's Partnership - Frequently Asked Questions

Are The Batt CE Primary and St Mary's CE Infant School now one single school?

No - both schools exist as separate organisations and children are registered with one school or the other from Reception to Year 2.

At the end of Year 2 The children registered at St Mary's take up a place at The Batt (unless their parents wish otherwise) and so from Year 3 all children are registered at The Batt School.

This has been how the two schools have operated for many many years.

However more recently the schools have begun working in a much closer partnership with a joint local governing body and shared senior leadership team and from September 2024 we have begun a new arrangement - teaching the youngest children from both schools at the St Mary's School site - meaning we can share wonderful provision, staffing, resources and expertise.

How are classes arranged at both schools under the new arrangement?

All children in Reception and Year 1, regardless of which school they are registered at, are taught at the St Mary's School site on Church Green.

This means there are two Reception classes and two Year 1 classes there. These classes are made up of a mixture of children registered at both schools - allowing us to optimise class sizes and additional adult support.

This works well because the St Mary's site has been developed for infants over many years and allows for the continuous provision, both indoors and outdoors, that excellent early education demands.

At The Batt School site, off Corn Street, all children from Year 3 onwards are registered at the Batt, but the Year 2 classes are a mixture of children registered at both schools. These Year 2 classes continue to have access to dedicated outdoor learning spaces as well as enjoying the benefits that being in a larger primary school brings such as access to sporting and music facilities.

What uniform do children wear?

Currently, in this interim period, children are wearing a mixture of Batt and St Mary's uniform at the St Mary's site. From September 2025 we will introduce a common uniform for both schools which will then roll out across both sites as children progress through the schools. Details of this will be available by the National Offer Day.

Do both schools have before and after school wraparound care?

Our wraparound provision is provided at The Batt School site by DB Sports Coaching, managed by Dominic Baker. Dom has also worked at the school as a sports coach and Teaching Assistant for many years.

Children registered at both schools can attend the Breakfast and After School Clubs that he runs and we provide a walking bus, staffed by Teaching Assistants, to walk children the short distance between The Batt and St Mary's School sites at the beginning and end of the school day.

What if I have children at both sites?

This is a common arrangement and we stagger the start and end of the day at each school site so that parents have time to move between schools and collect their children.

St Mary's School site opens at 8.30am and school starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.10pm
The Batt School site opens at 8.40am and school starts at 8.50am and finishes at 3.20pm

Which school should I apply to if I want my child to start in September 2025?

Whether your child is admitted and registered at The Batt or St Mary's Infants they will benefit from the excellent early learning available at the St Mary's site. To optimise your chances of achieving a place we suggest the following:

If you live in the Batt School [catchment area](#) and/or have other children who will be registered at The Batt in 2025-2026 then you should apply to The Batt as your first choice school and name St Mary's Infants as your second choice.

If you live anywhere else within (or outside) Witney then you should apply to St Mary's Infant School as your first choice as St Mary's catchment covers a much wider area than The Batt, and name The Batt or your next preferred school as your second choice. Please be aware that because of the high number of families that live in The Batt School's catchment area those applicants living outside the catchment are less likely to be allocated a place at The Batt if they name it as their second choice.

Remember, whichever school your child is registered with they will attend the excellent early learning provision at our St Mary's site for Reception and Year 1.

If you would like to visit and find out more come to our Admissions Open Days on Wednesday 16th October or Wednesday 20th November at 10am at our St Mary's site.

You can find more general details about applying for a Reception place in 2025 and how to apply online on the [Oxfordshire County Council Website](#).

Parents of infant school children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 need to apply for an infant or primary school place for September 2025.

- applications can be submitted from 4 November 2024
- deadline for receipt of completed applications is 15 January 2025
- National Offer Day is 16 April 2025
- applications submitted after the deadline will be processed later in the year and have a far lower chance of securing a place at a preferred school, so please apply on time.