

**St. Benedict's Parish**  
521 MCCOSH DR., CHESAPEAKE, VA 23320

August 9, 2020

Dear Parents,

The Catechism Program at St. Benedict's Parish prepares children from K4 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade for reception of the Sacraments and for adulthood. Each year, parents must **register their children** by completing a Catechism Registration form that can be downloaded from the parish website as noted below.

Classes are offered from September through April, and meet from 8:45 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. (between the first and second Sunday Masses). Students are **allowed NO MORE THAN 5 unexcused absences during the year** (*see attached schedule*). There are five classes offered: Basic Catechism, First Communion Class, Post Communion Class, Confirmation Class, and Post-Confirmation Class. Further information on these classes is provided in the attached Catalog.

Students who will make their First Confession and First Communion or their Confirmation **must be registered members** of St. Benedict's Parish, and must have a certified copy of their Baptismal Certificate. ***The Baptismal Certificate must be issued by the parish where they were baptized with embossed seal and dated WITHIN 6 months prior to reception of the Sacrament and turned into St. Benedict's NO LATER THAN THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY BEFORE*** the child's First Confession/First Communion, or Confirmation.

First Penance and First Communion normally are scheduled for the first weekend in May (the Sacrament of First Penance followed by First Communion practice on Saturday).

Students who have not yet been confirmed are encouraged to participate in St. Benedict's **All Saints Day Fall Festival** and the **children's annual Christmas Pageant** wearing the costume of their favorite saint. Signups for these events start in mid-September.

Confirmation will normally occur in May or June.

Please pray for our catechists and our Catechism Program, that the Parish teachers may be docile to God's Holy Will in preparing for sainthood your precious treasure.

This letter, along with the Catechism Catalog is also posted on our website at:

[http://www.stbenedictsparish.org/parish\\_life/catechism/](http://www.stbenedictsparish.org/parish_life/catechism/)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions on our Catechism program.

Yours in Christ, through Mary,



Father Neal Nichols, FSSP

**NB: Catechism Program and Schedule subject to COVID requirements.**

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### **Basic Catechism Class**

Students must be 4 years old by September 30th to enter this two-year program. The objective of the yearly curriculum is to introduce the students to their basic prayers (Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, and Apostles Creed); basic postures (folding hands, when and how to genuflect); items in the sanctuary (sanctuary light, Tabernacle, etc) and Seven Sacraments, and the Ten Commandments. Focus of the instruction is to prepare the children for the next stage of instruction, First Communion Class. Parent(s) or responsible sibling (at least 12 years old) must come to the classroom to escort your child's safe departure. Notify instructor with any changes. All children must be properly attended.

**Instructor:** Mrs. Mary Macera; [bride4anthony@aol.com](mailto:bride4anthony@aol.com); Phone: (757) 460-2980.

### **First Communion Class**

First Communion Class provides a ***minimum of 2 years preparation*** by studying the lessons in the "New Saint Joseph First Communion Catechism" book. Students must be 6 years old by September 30th to enter this two-year program. The objectives of the yearly curriculum are designed to increase the knowledge of each student to learn: (1) the purpose of man's existence; (2) God and His Perfections; (3) the Unity and the Trinity of God; (4) Original Sin; (5) actual sin; (6) the Incarnation; (7) Redemption; (8) the seven Sacraments most especially Baptism, Penance, and Holy Eucharist; (9) Ten Commandments; (10) how to make a good Confession; and (11) how to pray the Holy Mass.

At least the last four weeks of each catechism year are devoted only for those receiving the Sacrament of First Confession and First Communion.

**Requirements** include the following: (a) parental assistance with student studying catechism and prayers at home plus attending the Holy Mass in the Extraordinary Form; (b) student satisfactorily completes periodic verbal and written quizzes; (c) use of Sacramentals such as Rosary, prayer book, holy cards, and brown scapular, additional requirements as provided by the teacher during the year.

### **Participants can expect the following class structure:**

- Practice each week the following prayers by reciting together in class:
  - Apostles Creed (opening prayer)
  - Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Angel of God, Act of Contrition
  - Recitation of the Ten Commandments
- Individual recitation of prayers and demonstration of sign of the cross, genuflection, etc.
- Catechism lesson (20 minutes); Holy Mass lesson (10 minutes); activities commensurate with lesson may be scheduled like supervised visits to the church/Most Blessed Sacrament.
- Closing prayer recited by all
- Dismissal with Holy Card
- Parent(s) or responsible sibling (at least 12 years old) must come to the classroom to escort your child's safe departure. Notify instructor with any changes. All children must be properly attended.

**Instructor:** Mrs. Rowanne Stephenson; [whiteskirt81@yahoo.com](mailto:whiteskirt81@yahoo.com); Phone: (757) 353-0670.

### **Sacrament Requirements:**

The First Communicant must:

- 7 years old by September 30<sup>th</sup> of the Fall prior to reception
- successful completion the aforementioned two-year program
  - demonstrated knowledge of the curriculum

**Attire for First Communion:** Girls wear white dresses with veil and white shoes (a white purse and white gloves will be supplied by St. Benedict's); Boys wear a dark suit (or dark blazer) with a white shirt, arm

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band and a white tie (tie and arm band are supplied by St. Benedict's). First Communicants will be inducted into the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular the same day they make their First Holy Communion, a Brown Scapular will be provided for each child by St. Benedict's.

### **Post Communion Class**

The Confirmation preparation catechism class (junior level) is appropriate for children who received their First Holy Communion and are 7 years old by September 30<sup>th</sup> to enter this two year program. Baltimore Catechism book Number Two is the primary textbook for the course, and half the book will be covered each year over the two years. The Post-Communion Class objective is to take the main point of each lesson and to show how it is illustrated or exemplified in some event of Sacred Scripture. The concrete picture language of the Bible will serve as a big help to the child in better understanding the main truths presented in the more abstract language of the question and answers of the official Baltimore Catechism. This textbook presents the class material in three major parts: (1) basic Catholic doctrine as summarized in the Apostles Creed, (2) the Ten Commandments of God and the Six Commandments of the Church, and (3) Sacraments and prayers. Since the class incorporates reading and writing assignments, the children are expected to have these basic skills. Minimum requirements for advancing to the Pre-Confirmation Class is age 11 years old and proved mastery of the class curriculum.

**Instructor:** Mrs. Elaine Franco, [leadtheway321@gmail.com](mailto:leadtheway321@gmail.com); Phone: (757) 424-0315.

### **Confirmation Class**

The Confirmation Class provides a ***minimum of 2 years preparation*** teaching the "why" behind the content of the Baltimore Catechism book Number Two. Students must be 10 years old by September 30<sup>th</sup> to enter this 2-year program. During the class, in addition to reviewing the material of the Post Communion Class, the focus will be on the explanation of the Church's teachings for these topics. Students are expected to answer a variety of questions based on the material already covered.

At least the last four weeks of each catechism year are devoted for those receiving the Sacrament to the study of the "***Preparation for Confirmation***" book, which is based on the Baltimore Catechism and focuses exclusively on the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Instructor:** Fr. Eric Krager, FSSP; <mailto:frkragercatechism@gmail.com>; Phone: (757) 382-0471.

### **Sacrament Requirements:**

- a two-year preparation
- preferred that student be at least 12 years old to receive this sacrament
- qualified sponsor
- one day recollection at St. Benedict's

### **Post-Confirmation Class**

The Post-Confirmation Class is designed to prepare young adults for their college and adult years. Students must be 14 years old by September 30<sup>th</sup> to enter this 4-year program. Students will learn how the Church is not based on the Bible, but how the Bible is based on the Church, and has always been an integral part of the Catholic Church. They will learn how, "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." – St. Jerome. They will learn how they are, as St. Paul states, "an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, and written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in the fleshly tables of the heart." (2Cor3:3)

Students will learn how to, "Evangelize all the time, and sometimes use words" (St. Francis Assisi). Students will learn to, "...reverence the Lord Christ in their hearts, and always have an answer ready for people who ask them for the reason for the hope that is within them. But, to give the defense with courtesy

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and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander them when they are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring.” (1Pt 3:15). They will learn how their prior catechism instruction that required them to, “learn their catechism by heart,” instead of, “memorize it,” was designed to tune their heart and ear to the Shepherd’s voice, for He said, “My sheep hear my voice: and I know them, and they follow me” (Jn 10:27).

This class will use the famous High School Catechetical series by Fr. Laux. *Chief Truths of the Faith* (Book 1), *Mass and the Sacraments* (Book 2), *Catholic Morality* (Book 3), and *Catholic Apologetics* (Book 4). “It is an “incredibly popular and series. A year will be spent in each book so that, at the end of the four-year program, the student will have completed the series. The series will delve into the historical background of virtually everything people find hard to understand about our religion, such as priestly celibacy, sacred images, the Church and the Bible, the Primacy of Peter, communion under one kind, invocation of the saints, etc.” The class will also refer to a variety of books in electronic format that will help your child build a solid library that is indispensable at college and handy throughout their life.

**Prep time needed:** 1 hour/week. Students will be expected to complete the assignments and be prepared to discuss the assigned reading in class.

**Prerequisites:** Students should have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Instructor: Mr. John Bauer; [jbauer@regent.edu](mailto:jbauer@regent.edu); Phone: (270) 484-8222.

### **Adult Catechism**

People aged 18 years old and up may enroll in the Adult Catechism program offered for converts, adult Catholics who need the Sacraments, and those wanting to review their faith. The class is offered by our priest which meets weekly beginning in the Fall. Date and time will be announced in the church bulletin and on the church website.

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CCD Schedule  
Aug 2020-May 2021

Date	Lesson
<b>9 Aug</b> <b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Catechism Registration Forms available</i> <b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>16 Aug</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Catechism Registration Forms available from parish website.</i> <b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>23 Aug</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Catechism Registration Forms available from parish website.</i> <b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>30 Aug</b> <b>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Catechism Registration Continues</i> <i>Parent's Meeting</i> <b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>6 Sep</b> <b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Catechism Registration Continues</i> <b>Labor Day Weekend</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>13 Sep</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Catechism Registration Closes</i> <b>CLASSES BEGIN</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>20 Sep</b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>27 Sep</b> <b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>4 Oct</b> <b>External Solemnity of Our Lady of the Rosary / 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>11 Oct</b> <b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Columbus Day Weekend)</b> <i>Annual Eucharistic Procession on Boardwalk</i>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>18 Oct</b> <b>20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>

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	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>25 Oct</b> <b>Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>1 Nov</b> <b>All Saints Day/ 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>(Set Clocks back 1 Hour)</i>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>8 Nov</b> <b>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>  <b>Veterans Day (Military Mass)</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>15 Nov</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Resumed Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>22 Nov</b> <b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday &amp; Last Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>29 Nov</b> <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Thanksgiving Weekend</b> <b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>06 Dec</b> <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>13 Dec</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) (Christmas Pageant)</b> <b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>20 Dec</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>27 Dec</b> <b>Sunday within the Octave of Nativity</b>  <b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>3 Jan</b>	

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Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus <i>NO CLASS</i>	
10 Jan Feast of the Holy Family	Basic Catechism: First Communion: Post-Communion: Confirmation: Apologetics:
17 Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Basic Catechism: First Communion: Post-Communion: Confirmation: Apologetics:
24 Jan Third Sunday after Epiphany	Basic Catechism: First Communion: Post-Communion: Confirmation: Apologetics:
31 Jan Septuagesima Sunday	Basic Catechism: First Communion: Post-Communion: Confirmation: Apologetics:
7 Feb Sexagesima Sunday	Basic Catechism: First Communion: Post-Communion: Confirmation: Apologetics:
14 Feb Quinquagesima Sunday	Basic Catechism: First Communion: Post-Communion: Confirmation: Apologetics:
21 Feb First Sunday of Lent	Basic Catechism: First Communion: Post-Communion: Confirmation: Apologetics:
28 Feb Second Sunday of Lent	Basic Catechism: First Communion: Post-Communion: Confirmation: Apologetics:
7 Mar Third Sunday of Lent <i>(Set Clocks forward 1 Hour)</i>	Basic Catechism: First Communion: Post-Communion: Confirmation: Apologetics:
14 Mar Fourth Sunday in Lent <i>(Laetare Sunday)</i> <i>(NO Class)</i> <i>Triduum</i>	

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<b>21 Mar</b> <b>Fifth Sunday in Lent (Passion Sunday)</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communion:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>28 Mar</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>4 Apr</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>11 Apr</b> <b>Low Sunday</b> <b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b>	<b>Basic Catechism: <i>No Class</i></b>
	<b>First Communicants:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>18 Apr</b> <b>2nd Sunday after Easter</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communicants:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>25 Apr</b> <b>3rd Sunday after Easter</b>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communicants:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation:</b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>
<b>Sat, 1 May (First Confession)</b>	<b>First Communicants:</b>
<b>Sun, 2 May Fourth Sunday after Easter</b> <i>1st Holy Communion/May Crowning</i> <b>NO Class</b> <i>Only Confirmation classes continue until Confirmation</i>	<b>Basic Catechism:</b>
	<b>First Communicants:</b>
	<b>Post-Communion:</b>
	<b>Confirmation: <i>Classes Continue each Sunday until Confirmation</i></b>
	<b>Apologetics:</b>



# St. Benedict's Parish

## Catechism Registration Form

Date:

FAMILY NAME

Registered in Parish: Yes: No:

If your child is receiving a sacrament for the first time this year, you must be registered in the Parish

STREET

Home Phone

CITY, STATE, ZIP

Work Phone

Cell:

Email address

Family Marital Status:

FATHER

MOTHER

Last Name:

Last Name:

First Name:

First Name:

Title (Mr., Dr, Rank, etc.):

Title (Mrs., Ms, Dr, Rank, etc.):

Where were your children enrolled in Religious Education Classes last year? YES NO

Were your children enrolled in a Catholic School? Yes No

Please state the name of the parish and city where located:

CHILD'S FULL NAME: M F

BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YYYY	SACRAMENTS RECEIVED
BAPTIZED? Yes No	BAPTISM: Yes No
Where:	PENANCE: Yes No
SCHOOL:	EUCCHARIST: Yes No
Grade Entering:	Confirmation: Yes No

CHILD'S FULL NAME: M F

BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YYYY	SACRAMENTS RECEIVED
BAPTIZED? Yes No	BAPTISM: Yes No
Where:	PENANCE: Yes No
SCHOOL:	EUCCHARIST: Yes No
Grade Entering:	Confirmation: Yes No

CHILD'S FULL NAME: M F

BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YYYY	SACRAMENTS RECEIVED
BAPTIZED? Yes No	BAPTISM: Yes No
Where:	PENANCE: Yes No
SCHOOL:	EUCCHARIST: Yes No
Grade Entering:	Confirmation: Yes No

CHILD'S FULL NAME: M F

BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YYYY	SACRAMENTS RECEIVED
BAPTIZED? Yes No	BAPTISM: Yes No
Where:	PENANCE: Yes No
SCHOOL:	EUCCHARIST: Yes No
Grade Entering:	Confirmation: Yes No

CHILD'S FULL NAME: M F

BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YYYY	SACRAMENTS RECEIVED
BAPTIZED? Yes No	BAPTISM: Yes No
Where:	PENANCE: Yes No
SCHOOL:	EUCCHARIST: Yes No
Grade Entering:	Confirmation: Yes No

(OVER for Parent/Guardian Signature and Date)

# St. Benedict's Parish

## Catechism Registration Form

<b>CHILD'S FULL NAME:</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YYYY</b>	<b>SACRAMENTS RECEIVED</b>	
<b>BAPTIZED? Yes No</b>	<b>BAPTISM: Yes No</b>	
<b>Where:</b>	<b>PENANCE: Yes No</b>	
<b>SCHOOL:</b>	<b>EUCCHARIST: Yes No</b>	
<b>Grade Entering:</b>	<b>Confirmation: Yes No</b>	

<b>CHILD'S FULL NAME:</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YYYY</b>	<b>SACRAMENTS RECEIVED</b>	
<b>BAPTIZED? Yes No</b>	<b>BAPTISM: Yes No</b>	
<b>Where:</b>	<b>PENANCE: Yes No</b>	
<b>SCHOOL:</b>	<b>EUCCHARIST: Yes No</b>	
<b>Grade Entering:</b>	<b>Confirmation: Yes No</b>	

<b>CHILD'S FULL NAME:</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YYYY</b>	<b>SACRAMENTS RECEIVED</b>	
<b>BAPTIZED? Yes No</b>	<b>BAPTISM: Yes No</b>	
<b>Where:</b>	<b>PENANCE: Yes No</b>	
<b>SCHOOL:</b>	<b>EUCCHARIST: Yes No</b>	
<b>Grade Entering:</b>	<b>Confirmation: Yes No</b>	

<b>CHILD'S FULL NAME:</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YYYY</b>	<b>SACRAMENTS RECEIVED</b>	
<b>BAPTIZED? Yes No</b>	<b>BAPTISM: Yes No</b>	
<b>Where:</b>	<b>PENANCE: Yes No</b>	
<b>SCHOOL:</b>	<b>EUCCHARIST: Yes No</b>	
<b>Grade Entering:</b>	<b>Confirmation: Yes No</b>	

<b>CHILD'S FULL NAME:</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YYYY</b>	<b>SACRAMENTS RECEIVED</b>	
<b>BAPTIZED? Yes No</b>	<b>BAPTISM: Yes No</b>	
<b>Where:</b>	<b>PENANCE: Yes No</b>	
<b>SCHOOL:</b>	<b>EUCCHARIST: Yes No</b>	
<b>Grade Entering:</b>	<b>Confirmation: Yes No</b>	

<b>CHILD'S FULL NAME:</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>BIRTH DATE MM/DD/YYYY</b>	<b>SACRAMENTS RECEIVED</b>	
<b>BAPTIZED? Yes No</b>	<b>BAPTISM: Yes No</b>	
<b>Where:</b>	<b>PENANCE: Yes No</b>	
<b>SCHOOL:</b>	<b>EUCCHARIST: Yes No</b>	
<b>Grade Entering:</b>	<b>Confirmation: Yes No</b>	

Are there any special needs / concerns that you would like us to know about (any of) your child(ren)?  
(e.g., physical /learning disability)

Please indicate in which way you might help by checking the space below.

Instructor:                      Assistant Classroom Helper:                      Substitute                      Date of Virtus Training:

I have read the Catechism Catalog, and agree to the requirements for each grade level, and will comply with the necessary sacramental requirements for my child.

**Parent/Guradian (Printed Name):**

**Date:**

**Return to:** m.sottung@gmail.com