

Hunts Grove Primary Academy **Admissions Policy**

As an Academy Hunts Grove Primary Academy is responsible for its own admissions, however, the school co-operates with the Local Authority in co-ordinating the admission of pupils to schools in the area. Our admissions policy and process will always be in keeping with revised National Admissions Code.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that as far as possible, parents obtain the school of their choice through a fair and transparent process.

Online application can be made using the website address –
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

For admission to a Reception class, parents must submit their Common Application Form no later than 15th January 2015.

Any initial queries should be directed to the Admissions and Transfers Team at Shire Hall, the telephone number is 01452 425407.

Children are normally admitted in the September following their fourth birthday Children are initially admitted on a part-time basis until they are ready to cope with all aspects of the whole-school day, in this respect we will liaise closely with parents and carers on an individual pupil basis.

Parents can defer entry until the child reaches compulsory school age, and that the child can instead take up the place part-time until he or she reaches compulsory school age

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.

From 2nd March 2015 the academy will initially have a reception class with a Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of 15 and KS1 class.

Up to 30 places will be available in both of these classes provided that children meet the oversubscription criteria. From Sept 2015 the school will operate with a PAN of 15 in reception and a PAN of 10 in all other year groups. Additional pupils will be admitted if required by applying the oversubscription criteria.

All preferences in applications received on-time will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria below. If the school is not full, all pupils for whom a valid application has been received will be admitted. If the school is oversubscribed, places will be offered with regard to the priority order below.

1. As a statutory requirement any child with SEN Statements/Education Health and Care Plans statement of special educational needs naming the school, will be admitted.
2. The following oversubscription criteria will be applied in making decisions and priority will be given to applications in the following order:

- a) Looked after children or children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, Child Arrangement Orders or special guardianship order. *See Appendix 1 for a full definition*
- b) Children who have a sibling attending the school and who will continue to do so when the younger child is admitted. *See Appendix 2 for a full definition*
- c) Children for whom only this particular school is appropriate due to an exceptional medical condition. Applications under this criterion will only be considered if they are supported by a written statement from a doctor. This must demonstrate that there is a very specific connection between the medical need and this school.
- d) Children with the closest home address, measured in a straight line from the ordnance survey point centre of the child's home address (including flats) to the central part of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. This measurement will be taken from the school entrance door.

Tie Breaker

In the event of a tie breaker being needed, this will be the drawing of lots by an independent person in a supervised process.

Deferred Entry for Infants

Parents offered a place for their child have a right to defer entry, or to take a place up part-time, until the start of the term beginning immediately after their child has reached compulsory school age of 5. However, places cannot be deferred until the next academic year.

Admissions of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range, for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting his or her schooling. All such requests will be considered on their merits and either agreed or refused, on that basis. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

Waiting Lists

The academy will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where in any year the academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the school year. This will be maintained by the Academy Trust and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves it.

Notes

Where twins or children from multiple births are concerned they will be considered as one applicant when applying oversubscription criteria but counted separately towards the PAN. It is not our intention to split multiple birth children.

The straight line measurement from an apartment block is also taken from the ordnance survey point of the block. Apartments in the same block will be treated equally.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. Appellants should contact the School Office for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals process is on our website at: www.waterwellsprimaryacademy.org.uk/hunts-grove

Waiting Lists

If the school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held by the school for (at least) the first school term (i.e. end of December). The waiting list will be prioritised according to the school's oversubscription criteria. *See Appendix 3 below*

Fair Access Protocols

The academy will be part of the In-Year Fair Access Protocols held by the Local Authority. Should a vulnerable child within these Protocols require a place at the school, they will take precedence over any child on the waiting list, as outlined in the new Admissions Code for school admissions

In Year Admissions

In year admissions will be managed by the school in line with the criteria described here

Transport

The LA has a statutory responsibility to provide transport in certain circumstances. To find out more and determine whether you will be eligible, you should contact Shire Hall at the number given above.

Appendix 1

Looked After Children/Previously Looked After Children Definition

A 'looked after child' (1) or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption(2) child arrangements order (residency order) (3) or special guardianship order (4) .

(1) A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. In Gloucestershire, such children are referred to as Children in Care.

(2) This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).

(3) Under the provisions of s.14 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amend section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangements orders.

(4) See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

Appendix 2

A sibling is “a brother or sister, half-brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent’s/carer’s partner, and in every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address.”

Appendix 3

Whenever a new applicant is added to the waiting list, the list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Names of children will be automatically placed on the waiting list for the school when the child has been refused admission and the parent requests a place on the list for their child.

A vacancy only arises when the number of offers to the school falls below the admission number.

The waiting list will be established on the offer day.

The waiting list is determined according to the Governing Body’s over subscription criteria as defined here.

Following the offer day, should an application be received for the school where the pupil has a higher priority as determined by the admissions criteria for a place at the school, it will be placed on the list, above those with a lower priority.

Date of policy review: February 2015

Date of next policy review: February 2016