



Admissions Policy **Governors' Ethos Statement**

“The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian Belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian Values through the experience it offers all its pupils.”

The Aims of the school

“The school aims to create a happy, secure and stimulating environment in which all members of the school community can grow in self-esteem and develop their true potential as human beings.”

We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect the ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

Introduction

This policy sets out the guidelines agreed by the governors, which should be followed by the Head teacher and governors for the admission of children to the school.

Reception aged children

All children will be admitted to Weston in the September of the year in which they are 5.

(Parents have the right to request that entry is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year.)

The number of reception age children to be admitted to Weston in the next academic year has been set at 20.

If the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs where the school is named in the Statement, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in order:

- 1. A ‘looked after child’ or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order 67. 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).**

- 2. Residence within the parish/normal catchment area of the school. Please note: The Children’s Services Department has a Geographic Information System (GIS) to measure the straight line distance. It is measured by a standard straight line distance calculated to within two metres. This measurement is taken from the postal address file, normally the house**

front door. For schools the grid reference is taken from the postal address file and will normally be the centre of the school for primary phase schools, or the nearest gate or entrance for secondary schools.

3. Children who have siblings already attending the school at the time of the proposed admission.

For the reasons of clarity a definition of sibling is as follows:

- A brother and/or sister
- A half-brother and/or half-sister
- A legally adopted child regarded as a brother or sister
- A step-brother and/or step-sister residing in the same family unit

4. Children of whom at least one parent or carer has regularly worshipped at a Christian church for a period of at least one year prior to the date of application.

For the reasons of clarity a definition of:-

- ✓ “regular” means an average attendance of once per month
- ✓ “Christian church” is as defined by the Council for Churches in Britain and Ireland
- ✓ Church attendance must be verified by a letter from the relevant priest, minister or church warden.

5. All other children not eligible under the above criteria.

Where choices have to be made between children satisfying the same criteria, those children living closest to the school (measured in a straight line as defined by the Local Authority) will be given preference.

The Local Authority is required to co-ordinate admissions to all Derbyshire Primary, Infant and Junior Schools. Essentially, the Authority acts as a ‘clearing house’ for all admissions, including in year admissions, and enables parents to express a preference for one, two or three schools and to place those preferences in rank order. Parents must make their application on a common application form, to be returned direct to the LA and give reasons for their preferred schools.

Application forms will be available from the local authority and should be returned by the closing date for applications. Parents will be offered one place only in a Derbyshire school. Parents wishing to appeal against the decision of the governing body are advised to contact the Head teacher who will outline the appeal procedure.

Further information about the co-ordinated admissions scheme is available in the Authority’s Parents’ Information Booklet – “An Essential Guide to Primary Education 2011-2012.”

Parish Map.

A copy of the parish/normal catchment area map can be viewed at the school office.

Waiting List and oversubscription

The school will maintain a waiting list for at least one term in the academic year of admission. As soon as school places become vacant, this will be filled from the waiting list. Children will be ranked in the same order as the published oversubscription criteria.

We do not give priority to children of staff in either or both of the following circumstances:

- o a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
- o b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. (the requirements of para 1.39)

Deferred and part-time entry

The School admits children to the Reception class in the September of the school year in which a child attains the age of 5 years. (The school year runs from 1 September to the 31st August.) All parents/carers are entitled to a full-time place for their child in the Reception class from September, but may defer entry until the beginning of the term after their child is five years old (ie, when the child reaches compulsory school age) or until the beginning of the Summer term whichever is earlier. Children may attend part-time until their child reaches compulsory school age. Parents/carers who have been offered a place at the school and wish to defer entry for their child and/or attend part-time must put this in writing to the Headteacher at the earliest opportunity and before the start of the Autumn term

Education out of normal (chronological) age group

Children are normally educated in school with others of their age group; however, in exceptional circumstances parents/carers may seek a place outside of their child's normal age group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case. Parents/carers must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interests and may provide recent professional evidence to support this. Further details of how to make such a request are available from the school.

Visits to the School

Any parent wishing to visit the school prior to deciding whether to apply for a place can do so by arranging an appointment with the Head teacher.