

Admission Policy for 2018

On 16th January 2017, Governors of Weston St Mary Church of England Primary School agreed to adopt the Lincolnshire County Council Admissions Policy and related procedures and recommendations as detailed below.

The County Council has delegated to the governing bodies of individual community and controlled schools the decisions about which children to admit. Every school must apply the County Council's oversubscription criteria shown below.

In accordance with legislation the allocation of places for children with the following will take place first; **Statement of Special Educational Needs** (Education Act 1996) or **Education, Health and Care Plan** (Children and Families Act 2014). Remaining places will be allocated in accordance with this policy.

Weston St Mary CE Primary School provides for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Where we have offered a child a place at our school:

- a) that child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday;
- b) the child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made, whichever is the sooner;
- c) where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age. Parents interested in deferring admission or arranging part-time attendance must contact the school to discuss this.

For entry into reception in September we will allocate places to parents who return an application before we consider any parent who has not returned one.

Oversubscription criteria

The oversubscription criteria are listed in the order we apply them. Words marked with a number, for example 1, 2 and 3 are explained separately in the definition and notes section.

- A. Looked after children and all previously looked after children. (see note 1)
- B. There is a brother or sister (see note 2) on roll at the school at the time of application.
- C. The child meets the religious criteria published by an individual Church of England or joint Church of England and Methodist school, (see note 3) which has chosen to give priority on religious grounds.
- D. The school is the nearest one to the home address, (see note 4).
- E. The distance from the home to the school, priority will be given to the child living closest the school, (see note 5).

Definitions and notes

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. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).

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).

Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

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

2. Brother or sister:

- A full brother or sister, whether or not resident in the same household.
- Another child normally living for the majority of term time in the same household, where an adult in the household has parental responsibility as defined by the Children Act 1989.
- Or any child in the household where an adult in the household is defined as a parent for the purposes of Section 576 of the Education Act 1996.

Twins and other siblings from a multiple birth:

In these cases all the children will be considered together as one application. If one or more can be admitted within the published admission number the school will be allowed to go above its admission number as necessary to admit all the children, unless this would make the class too large. The government's school admissions code makes an exception to the infant class limit in this situation. Alternatively the children could be offered a place in another school and if this school qualifies for free transport this will be provided on application.

Brothers and sisters in the same year group

Where there is only one place available in the school the children will be considered together as one application. The school will be allowed to go above its admission number as necessary to admit all the children except in cases where infant class regulations prevent this from happening. If this happens we can only legally offer one place because the government's school admissions code makes no exception to the infant class size limit for siblings in the same year group. We will offer the parent one place for one child and a different school for the other child or children. Alternatively we could offer all the children a place in another school and if this school qualifies for free transport we will provide it for all of them.

3. A number of Church of England schools give priority to children who meet their religious criteria. These schools require regular monthly attendance at the place of worship for at least a year before making your application unless other arrangements are specified in the table. The attendance should be verified by a signed letter from an officiating minister at the place of worship. If you have only recently moved to the area the school can also consider written evidence of an equivalent commitment to a place of worship at your previous address, provided you have started to worship in the area you have moved to. *Weston St Mary CE Primary School does not use this criteria: it is a school that is fully inclusive and open to all, those of faith and no faith.*

4. The nearest school is found by measuring the distance from your address to all schools by driving distance along public highways. We measure electronically along public highways using the post office address point of the home to the post office address point of the school. By home we mean the address where the child lives for the majority of the school term time with a parent who has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act 1989, or any child in the household where an adult in the household is defined as a parent for the purposes of Section 576 of the Education Act 1996. This could include a person who is not a parent but who has responsibility for her or him. It could include a child's guardians but will not usually include other relatives such as grandparents, aunts, uncles etc. unless they have all the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities and authority, which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and their property.

Where your child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of term time. If you can show that your child spends an equal amount of time at both addresses during school term time, you can choose which address to use on the application. If you have more than one home, we will take as the home address the address where you and your child normally live for the majority of the school term time.

5. The nearest address to the school is determined by driving distance as calculated by Lincolnshire County Council school admissions team from the Post Office Address Point of the home to the Post Office Address Point of the school.

Oversubscription

If any of the oversubscription criteria have too many applicants then the tiebreak will be by distance using the method in note 5. If two or more children are tied for the last place a lottery will be drawn by an independent person, not employed by the school or working in Children's Service Directorate at the local authority.

Reserve list

For admission into the intake year the governors will keep a waiting list which we call a reserve list. If we have to refuse a place at our school your child is automatically put on the reserve list, unless you have been offered a higher preference school. This list is in the order of the oversubscription criteria, as required by the school admissions code. This means that names can move down the list if someone moves into the area and is higher placed under the oversubscription criteria. The governors must not take account of the time you have been on the list.

For the intake year the list is kept by the Schools Admission Team until the end of August.

After this the school admissions code requires that schools keep the reserve list until the end of the autumn term.

Weston St Mary CE Primary School will keep reserve lists for the intake year and all other year groups until the end of each academic year.

Appeals

The procedures for appeals relating to admissions will be in accordance with all relevant legislation. They are independent and organised by the County Council Legal Services Section and entirely separate from the admission system. The decision of the appeal panel is binding on all parties.

Admission to Reception Year

Arrangements for applications for places in Reception at Weston St Mary CE Primary School will be made in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council's co-ordinated admission arrangements; parents resident in Lincolnshire can apply online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions, they can also apply by telephone, or ask for a hard copy application form, by telephoning 01522 782030. Parents resident in other areas must apply through their home local authority. Weston St Mary CE Primary School will use the Lincolnshire County Council's timetable published online for these applications and the relevant Local Authority will make the offers of places on their behalf as required by the School Admissions Code.

Mid-year Admissions

Weston St Mary CE Primary School will accept midyear applications made via Lincolnshire County Council School Admissions as detailed above. The school will normally admit up to the pupil Admission Number (PAN) in all year groups, and may agree to admit pupils over the PAN in any year where this will not disadvantage the educational provision for existing pupils and/or exceed the determined class size for any pupil cohort. Currently PAN is 8.

Fraudulent or misleading applications

As an admission authority we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about any application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence that you have made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information, for example a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

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. Parents wishing to make these requests must contact their home local authority for guidance on the procedure to follow.

It is important for parents to note that they will have the opportunity and responsibility to provide whatever evidence they wish to support their request.

Weston St Mary CE Primary School will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of:

- the parent's views;
- any available information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- the views of the headteacher

Fair Access Protocols

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children who live in the home local authority, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full. Lincolnshire County Council's Fair Access Protocol is available from the website www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces)

For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area, or crown servants returning to live in the area from overseas, the Governors will:

- Allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address to use when considering the application against the school's oversubscription criteria.
- Accept a Unit postal address or quartering area address for admissions purposes for a service child.

The Governors will not refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area.

This Policy was ratified at a meeting of the Governing Body of Weston St Mary CE Primary School on 16th January 2017.

Signed.....H Beeken..... Chair of Governors 16.01.17