

## **Admissions Policy for Witchampton Church of England First School Entry to academic year 2017–2018**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This document sets out the Policy of Witchampton CofE First School with respect to Admissions. For the purposes of this policy, the Governing Body of Witchampton First School is the admission authority.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the churches at parish and diocesan level.

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 to all its pupils. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the daily Christian act of worship and from Religious Education.

Parents who wish their children to be admitted to the school, must complete the Common Application Form in line with the Local Authority Co-ordinated Admission Scheme and state Witchampton CofE First School as one of their preferences; however, this does not guarantee admission should the school be oversubscribed (please see Oversubscription Criteria). The Common Application Form can be obtained by contacting Dorset Direct on 01305 221060 or completed online at [www.dorsetforyou.co./schooladmissions](http://www.dorsetforyou.co./schooladmissions) - Parents or guardians will receive written notification of the outcome from the Local Authority on a date determined in the Dorset County Council Co-ordinated Primary School Admission Scheme. An offer of a school place should be accepted by the deadline date, which is also set out in the scheme.

Every year the governing body will review and publish information concerning the Witchampton CofE First School's School admission policy ;this will confirm the maximum number of children who can be allocated places at the school as a whole, and explain how places will be allocated. This is known as the 'Pupil Allocation Number' or PAN which for our school is 14.

In accordance with government legislation, the governing body will consult with the Diocesan Board of Education, the Local Authority and other local schools in respect of the admissions policy.

### **AIMS**

The overriding aim of this policy is that it should work for the benefit of all children and parents/guardians in our area. It should be simple to use and assist parents/guardians to take the best decisions on the preferred school for their children. It should contribute to improving standards for all pupils.

The school aims to provide a place for all children whose address is within the 1designated area, defined as being the area within the ecclesiastical boundaries of the parish of

Witchampton CofE First School and the designated catchment area as defined Dorset Local Authority admissions.

The address is the place where the child is permanently resident with his or her parent or parents or legal guardians. Evidence may be requested to show the address, for example: to which any Child benefit is paid or at which the child is registered with a GP together with recent utilities bills, council tax bill or tenancy agreement. This evidence will be used when reaching a decision on the child's home address for admissions purposes (including where a child lives with shared responsibility for each part of the week).

### **STARTING SCHOOL**

A full-time school place in the Reception class is available for children from the September following their 4th birthday. (ie children born between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2013 will be admitted in September 2017.) Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Where an offer of a place is made to a child below compulsory school age, parents have the right to defer their child's entry to school until later in the school year. The place is held for that child and is not available to be offered to another child. Entry may not be deferred beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, or beyond the academic year for which admission is sought.

Witchampton CofE First School's policy for part-time provision, if requested, is for children to attend for the first half of each week day up to the first half of the autumn term. Attendance would be between the hours of 0910 and 1330 including lunchtime. All children are expected to attend full-time from the beginning of the second half of the autumn term usually in November. The school's part-time policy will apply to parents who opt for their child to attend on a part-time basis once an offer of a full time place has been made. Once an offer of a full-time place has been received parents should indicate their preference for part-time provision to the Headteacher before the start of the autumn term.

### **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION**

Applications for Reception Year entry for the academic year starting September 2017 need to be formally registered with the Local Authority by **noon on 15th January 2017** as stated on the Common Admission Form for consideration by the admission authority.

Witchampton CofE First School cannot guarantee places for children when there are no places available as a result of late applications for the normal year of entry or any application that relates to a different year group.

The Governors have set a preferred maximum class size of 28 pupils in Key Stage 1 and 28 pupils in Key Stage 2.

A decision on the admission of new entrants will be made during the spring term 2017. The parents or guardians will receive written notification of the outcome from the Local Authority on the date determined in the County Council Co-ordinated Primary School Admission Scheme.

Late applications, i.e. those received after the deadline for the normal admissions round will not be considered until after all of those which were received on time have been processed.

## **WAITING LISTS**

N.B. It is always necessary to complete a Local Authority Common Application form to apply for a school place. Registering interest with the school on a 'waiting list' before the admissions round guarantees neither a place nor priority within the oversubscription criteria. Offers of places will be made by the Local Authority on the school's behalf. If the school is oversubscribed for children due to start in 2017-2018 a waiting list will be maintained. The position on the list will be determined by applying the published oversubscription criteria and not by date of receipt. This will mean a position will change if a later application is received from someone with higher priority according to the oversubscription criteria. The existence of a waiting list does not remove the right of appeal against any refusal of a place from any unsuccessful applicant.

Names will only be removed from the list if a written request is received, or if the offer of a place that becomes available is declined. The waiting list will close on *31st December 2017*. At that time parents of pupils on existing lists must confirm in writing their wish to be placed on a newly constructed waiting (or continued interest) list which will remain open until *31st July 2018*. Children who are the subject of a direction by a local authority or who are allocated to a school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

## **MULTIPLE BIRTHS**

The school recognises a duty to accommodate all the children of a multiple birth where one but not all siblings can be accommodated within the PAN (i.e. twins, triplets etc.).

## **Applications outside the normal admissions round**

All applications outside the normal admissions round should be made by completing a Local Authority Common Application Form. This should be sent to the Local Authority, who will deal with the Application in accordance with the Co-ordination Scheme in force at the time.

## **POLICY**

The admissions policy of Witchampton CofE First School is, while there are adequate places, to offer a place to all applicants irrespective of gender, religion, ethnicity or country of origin, disability or academic ability. This school participates in the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol.

## **Where this school is named in a child's Statement of Special Educational Needs, the governing body recognises a duty to admit the child to the school.**

Where parents wish to be given preference on the grounds of their faith within their application for a place at this school they should **complete the school's supplementary information form** which is available from the school office. This form must be completed and returned to the **school** together with all documentary evidence by 15th January 2017 if it is to be considered during the admissions process.

## **OVER-SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA**

Where more applications have been received than places available or where to admit would conflict with the school fulfilling class size legislation, the following priorities shall apply in order:

1. CHILDREN IN CARE

Looked after children or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order [1] A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their functions (Section 22(1) Children Act 1989)

## 2. VULNERABLE CHILDREN

- i. children of families with confirmed refugee status
- ii. children with a medical condition where written evidence is available from a senior clinical medical officer and the child's general practitioner or specialist showing that it would be detrimental to the child's health not to admit him/her to the school. Details of this must accompany the initial application.
- iii. Children where one or both parents have a disability which would make travel to a different school difficult. Evidence from a registered health professional such as a doctor or social worker will be required. Details of this must accompany the initial application.

LIVING WITHIN THE SCHOOL'S DESIGNATED AREA AS DEFINED ABOVE:

## 3. SIBLINGS

A child is considered in this category if an older sibling is attending the school at the deadline date, and will continue to do so when the sibling is admitted, and where the child lives within the designated area at the same address as the older sibling. Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

## 4. PRACTISING CHRISTIANS

Those children from within the designated area who are regular practising Christians (whose attendance at church has been at least monthly for 6 months prior to application), of whatever denomination, at a recognised church or religious group; (A recognised church or religious group is one that subscribes to the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland).

## 5. OTHER CHILDREN

Children resident within the designated area who do not qualify under one of the criteria above.

LIVING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL'S DESIGNATED AREA AS DEFINED ABOVE:

## 6. SIBLINGS

A child is considered in this category if an older sibling is attending the school at the deadline date, and will continue to do so when the sibling is admitted, and where the child lives outside the designated area at the same address as the older sibling. Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

## 7. PRACTISING CHRISTIANS

Those children from outside the designated area who are regular practising Christians (whose attendance at church has been at least monthly for 6 months prior to application), of

whatever denomination, at a recognised church or religious group; (A recognised church or religious group is one that subscribes to the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland).

#### 8. OTHER CHILDREN

Children resident outside the designated area who do not qualify under one of the criteria above.

If the school is oversubscribed in criterion 3 then criterion 4 will be used as the determining factor. If the school is oversubscribed in criterion 6 then criterion 7 will be used as the determining factor. In all other oversubscribed criteria, if the school is oversubscribed within any category above, the straight-line distance from the child's home address to the school will be used as the determining factor. Distances will be measured according to the Ordnance Survey eastings and northings for the child's home address and the school. Those living closer to the school will be given priority.

If two or more children with the same priority for admission, live an indistinguishable distance from the school, but cannot be admitted, then the available places will be decided by the casting of lots.

Registration at any nursery or pre-school unit will **not** be considered as a criterion for over-subscription and no priority will be given to such children even if the pre-school is linked to the school.

Parents must accept the offer of a place by the date set out in the Local Authority Co-ordinated Primary School Admission Scheme. Parents will be asked to reply to the Local Authority . If they do not respond by this date it will be assumed that the place offered has been declined.

Once an offer of a school place has been made, it may only be lawfully withdrawn in very limited circumstances, which include an offer of place based upon a fraudulent or misleading application. Where an offer of place is withdrawn, the application will be considered afresh, and a right of appeal offered if an offer of place is refused.

#### **APPEALS PROCEDURE**

Parents have a right of appeal to an independent panel against the decision of the Governing Body to refuse application for a school place. Details of the appeals procedure are sent out with all refusal letters.

#### **ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS POLICY SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:**

The Chair of Governors, Witchampton CofE First School, Witchampton, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 SAP

**Note: Subject to the above policy and the relevant appeals procedure, decisions regarding admissions will be the responsibility of the Governing Body at Witchampton CofE First School.**

