



Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in Bartons Primary School. At Bartons, we pride ourselves on being a happy and family school where learning and growing potentials is at the heart of everything that we do. Relationships between the children and adults are strong where every child is known well by the dedicated staff and we embrace team working with the whole of our school community. We want our children to be happy and confident and we work hard to provide a safe, fun and caring environment. Every child is special to us and we work closely in partnership with parents to build on each child's individual skills and talents in order that they develop a love of learning and enjoy school. We strive to develop the whole child and we believe that our inclusive and creative curriculum will stimulate and motivate young curious minds

I hope that you have enjoyed watching the film of our virtual tour of our school. The children enjoyed making it to show you our wonderful school. Normally we would hold some Open Afternoons to show you around in person but at the moment we are unable to offer this. To help you in deciding on your school place application we have collated some 'frequently asked questions' that may answer some of your questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How many places do you offer?**
Bartons is a one-form entry school which means there is one class per year group. It starts from Year R up to Year 6. We have 30 school places in Elm class available.
- **Does Bartons sort out its own admissions list?**
No. Parents need to apply to West Sussex County Council who organise the applications for school places. Bartons does not have any say about allocation and is given the list in April, the same time that parents are told. The Local Authority handles all allocations, queries and holds the waiting list for Bartons. All information can be found on their website <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/>
- **I only want to apply for one school. Do I have to put down three preferences?**
When applying for school places, it is highly recommended that you put down three schools. These should be three schools that you would be happy with should you be allocated one of them. If you only put down one school and no others then you run the risk of being allocated a school that you might not want. One of the schools should be your catchment area school.
- **If I apply to Bartons as my first choice, will I get it?**
School places are not choices but preferences. Even if you put a school down as your first preference, there is no guarantee that you will be offered it. From year to year, we never know how many families will apply in any one year. School places are offered depending on your proximity to the school, whether you have siblings already at the school or whether there are special circumstances. Please check the schools or local authority admissions criteria for this information. Bartons is a popular school and regularly oversubscribed. The children that come here tend to live on the Bersted new houses development or are in the catchment area of the school.
- **What happens if I don't get offered my preferred school?**
If you are not offered a place at your preferred school then make sure that you request to be put on the waiting list held by admissions at the Local Authority. From the time the places are offered in April, to the time they start school in September, there are often changes to the list as people change their mind or move away. It is not impossible to be offered a place after May when the lists are reviewed by admissions but this is purely dependant on the numbers of parents applying.

- **I have been offered a place at Bartons. What happens before they start school?**

At the beginning of the summer term, we will contact parents and send them all of the information and forms required for starting school. You will normally be invited to a parents meeting to meet the Headteacher and class teacher. Our school website has a lot of information on there including what the school uniform is and where to get it from. You will also be able to read a wealth of information about school life, term dates and much more.

- **Will my child be able to come into school before they start in September?**

In the summer term, before they start school, we will arrange for some transition sessions for the children to come into school and to spend some time in their new class with their new teacher. This helps them to familiarise themselves with the new environment and to make some new friends. Also, when the children start school in September, we have a phased transition to starting school to settle them in. They do not start full time straight away in the first weeks.

I hope that that was helpful to you. Please check out the school website for further information on all aspects of school life. Good luck in your application and we hope to meet you soon.

Best wishes

Mrs Kate Powell Headteacher