



St Chad's CofE Nursery and Infant School

Admissions Policy

School Leader: K. Leach

Link Governor: Rev. Andy Ward

Policy Approved **Signed: Rev. Andy Ward** **Date: 17.06.2020**

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Statement of intent

At St Chad's CofE Nursery and Infant School, we welcome all pupils, and places at the school are offered in an open and fair way. Our admissions process is delivered in-line with the Equality Act 2010, the School Admissions Code, the School Admission Appeals Code, the Human Rights Act 1998 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

The number of places available is determined by the capacity of the school, and is called the 'agreed admissions number'. Our published admissions number (PAN) is 40.

The table below sets out who the admission authority is and other responsible bodies in our school.

Type of school	Who is the admission authority?	Who deals with complaints about arrangements?	Who is responsible for arranging/providing for an appeal against refusal of a place at the school?
Academy	Academy trust	Schools Adjudicator	Academy trust

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- DfE (2014) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2012) 'School Admission Appeals Code'

Roles and responsibilities

The admission authority is responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance when carrying out the overall admission of pupils into the school.
- Outlining the school's admissions arrangements and publishing them on the academy website.
- Clearly communicating any reasons for rejecting the admission of a pupil, as well as the parent's right to appeal and the appeal process.
- Implementing any advice or recommendations given by the Schools Adjudicator without undue delay.
- Determining the admission arrangements on an annual basis and publicly consulting stakeholders on any proposed changes to the admission arrangements.
- Setting clear, fair and effective oversubscription criteria which do not discriminate against any pupil.
- Communicating oversubscription criteria clearly to parents.
- Notifying the LA of any in-year admissions and their outcomes.

The Schools Adjudicator is responsible for:

- Acting in line with the relevant legislation and guidance pertaining to admissions.
- Receiving concerns and objections regarding the admission of pupils and making recommendations to the admission authority as a result of these concerns and objections.
- Approving variations to determined admissions arrangements where there has been a major change in circumstances or law.

The appeals clerk is responsible for:



- Having an in-depth knowledge of the relevant appeals codes and other relevant law.
- Providing an independent and impartial service for admission appeals.
- Making the necessary administrative arrangements for hearings.
- Notifying all parties of the order of proceedings in advance of an appeals hearing.
- Responding to queries from appellants in advance of an appeals hearing or identifying who will be appropriate to respond.
- Being an independent source of advice on procedure and admissions law.
- Keeping accurate records of proceedings and providing written notification of the appeals panel's decisions.

Determining a PAN

The number of places available is determined by the capacity of the school.

The PAN for new Reception pupils is 30.

Oversubscription criteria

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs or EHCP where the school is named in the Statement, priority for admission will then 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 in accordance with Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989.
2. Children who are both living in the catchment area served by the school and have brothers or sisters* of compulsory school age still attending the school at the time of their admission.
3. Other children living in the catchment area at the time of admission.
4. Children who do not live in the catchment area served by the school but who have brothers or sisters* of compulsory school age attending the school at the time of their admission.
5. St Chad's - children whose parents request a place on religious grounds as stated on their application form.
6. Other children whose parents have requested a place.
7. Children whose parents did not request a place by the closing date for admissions.

* For the purposes of admissions, we class a brother or sister as:

- having one or both natural parents in common
- are related by a parent's marriage
- are adopted or fostered.

Note: a brother or sister must be living at the same address. Cousins are not classed as brothers or sisters.

Where we have to make a choice between children who meet the same criteria, we will give priority to the child living nearest the school, measured by a straight line. The line will be measured from the home address to the school using the national Ordnance Survey set points.

When formulating their admission arrangements, the admission authority will not carry out the following:

- Place any conditions on the consideration of any application other than those in the oversubscription criteria published in their admission arrangements
- Take into account any previous schools attended, unless it is a feeder school
- Give priority to children whose parents rank preferred schools in their application
- Give priority to children based on any practical or financial support their parents give to the school or associated parties (including any affiliated religious organisation)
- Give priority to children according to the occupational, marital, financial or educational status of parents applying – apart from where these factors determine a child's pupil premium eligibility, and for children whose parents work at school
- Take account of reports from previous schools about children's past behaviour, attendance, attitude or achievement, or that of any other children in the family



- Discriminate against any protected characteristic
- Give priority based on a child's or their parents' past or present hobbies or activities
- Name fee-paying independent schools as feeder schools
- Interview children or parents
- Request financial contributions as part of the admissions process
- Request photographs of children – apart from for proof of identity when sitting selection tests

Catchment areas

- Furthest distance offered: 0.402 miles
- Catchment Area Streets (in alphabetical order)

Ambrose Street	Dashwood Street	Northumberland Street
Avondale Road	Empress Road	Norman Street
Bailey Street	Gorodn Road	Normanton Road
Bainbrigge Street	Howard Street	Provident Street
Belgrave Street	Industrial Street	Renals Street
Breedon Hill Road	Lower Dale Road	Salisbury Street
Burton Road	Lyndhurst Street Mill	Silverhill Road
Byron Street	Hill Lane	Society Place
Chestnut Avenue	Mill Hill Street	St Chad's Road
Co-operative Street	Moore Street	Temple Street
Cummings Street	Mount Carmel	Upper Bainbrigge Street
Darby Street		Western Road

- The school will accept pupils from outside the catchment area – oversubscription criteria will apply where applicable.

Equal opportunities

- The school will not establish admissions criteria that excludes individuals with a particular protected characteristic.
- The admissions criteria will not exclude a greater proportion of pupils with particular protected characteristics, unless the school can justify how this is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.
- The admissions criteria will not discriminate against disabled applicants, unless the school can justify how this is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

Admissions procedures

The school will offer open events and school visits to all potential applicants, irrespective of any protected characteristics. Where necessary, the school will make reasonable adjustments for disabled applicants or disabled parents.

The school may assess its ability to cater to the applicant's needs by:

- Visiting the applicant's home
- Visiting the applicant's current education provision
- Inviting the applicant to attend the school

Consultation and determination

- The admission authority will consult on any proposed changes to the admissions arrangements.
- Consultation will last for a minimum of six weeks and will take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year.



- The admission authority will consult on admissions arrangements at least once every seven years, even if no changes have been made in that time.

The admission authority will consult with the following:

- Parents of all pupils
- Stakeholders
- Other admission authorities within the relevant area
- The governing board and the LA who are not the admission authority

- The admission authority will publish a copy of the full proposed admission arrangements and the contact details of the individual responsible for admissions liaison on the school website.
- A copy of the proposed admission arrangements will be made available upon request.
- Admission arrangements will be determined by 28 February in the determination year on an annual basis, even when no changes to the arrangements have been made.
- Finalised admission arrangements will be published on the school website.
- A copy of the finalised admission arrangements will be sent to the LA for entry by 15 March in the determination year.
- Any objections to the admission arrangements will be directed to the Adjudicator by 15 May in the determination year.

Applications and offers

- Parents will be provided with a common application form (CAF) where they will note their three preferred schools, along with a brief explanation, in rank order – the schools do not have to be located in the LA area where the parents live.
- Parents will provide LAs with the following information within the CAF:
 - Their name and their child's name and date of birth
 - Theirs and their child's address and proof of residence
 - The CAF will be submitted to the parents' LA.
- Parents are not guaranteed to have their preferences met.

The admission authority will not request any of the following:

- Any personal details, including information on criminal convictions or financial status
- The first language of the parent or child
- Details about the parents' or child's disability, medical or SEND requirements
- Any parental agreement to follow the ethos of the school in a practical way
- For the child to complete any part of the form or for both parents to provide signatures

- Once a place has been offered, the admission authority may ask for the child's short birth certificate as proof of birth date.
- For PLAC and LAC, the admission authority will request a copy of the adoption order, child arrangements order or special guardianship order, and a letter from the LA confirming that the child was looked after immediately prior to the order being made.
- A clear, fair and objective waiting list will be provided until 31 December of each year. Priority will not be given to pupils based on the date they were placed on the list. LAC and PLAC will take priority over the waiting list.
- An offer will only be withdrawn if it has been made in error, a parent has not responded within 20 working days, or if the offer was made via a fraudulent or misleading application.
- If any application is found to be fraudulent after a child has started at the school, the school may withdraw the place.
- All offers will be made on National Offer Day, i.e. 16 April or the next working day.
- The admission authority will maintain a waiting list for oversubscribed schools.
- The admission authority will make clear in the admissions arrangements the process for requesting admission outside of the normal age group for the admissions round.



- The headteacher will assist the admission authority with deciding on which year group a child will enter. Once a decision has been reached, the child's parents will be informed in writing along with an explanation of how the decision was reached and any reasons why.
- Pupils not of usual school age will not be given less of a priority where the school is over subscribed.
- Applications for children coming from overseas will be treated in accordance with EU law or Home Office rules.
- For children of UK service professionals, the following procedure will be adhered to:
- A place will be allocated to the child in advance of the family arriving in the area named in the application form.
- The application must be accompanied with an official letter confirming the relocation date and the service unit's postal address or quartering area address when considering the application against the oversubscription criteria.
- The application will not be refused on the grounds of the child not currently living in the area, nor will places be uniquely reserved.
- The arrangements for service children will be in line with the government's commitment to removing disadvantage for service children.

Admissions appeals

- When informing a parent of their unsuccessful admissions application, a letter will be sent which includes the reason why admission was refused; information about the right to appeal; the deadline for lodging an appeal and the contact details for making an appeal.
- Parents will be informed in the letter that, if they wish to appeal, they must make the appeal in writing.
- Grounds for appeal are not limited.

Induction arrangements

At St Chads, we believe in giving every child and parent/guardian the best start. We provide a range of opportunities to build strong relationships prior to a child starting school to ensure we are well equipped with as much information as possible to meet the needs of each individual family.

1. A letter of confirmation will be sent to parents/guardians to confirm their child's reception school place. Children arriving in Key Stage 1 will receive confirmation from the admissions department at the Local Authority.
2. Parents/guardians are encouraged to make an appointment to walk around the school environment.
3. A member of the admin team will call a parent/guardian to make an appointment to complete induction paperwork in school
4. The EYFS Lead or a member of the New Communities Team will complete induction paperwork with parent/guardian and child at school:
 - School admissions form
 - Pupil checklist
 - Sun safety letter
 - Video and photo consent policy
 - Home school agreement
 - Derby Dental services
 - Pupil premium form
 - Attendance information
 - Class Dojo log in details
 - 'Save the date' parent induction meeting

Parents are asked to bring ID, their child's Birth Certificate, National Insurance numbers, emergency contact details, GP information and dental information



5. All parent/guardians are invited to attend a parent induction meeting to learn about the school's expectations, ethos and values. Where children arrive mid-year, school expectations are shared by the child's class teacher.
6. All parent/guardians will receive a home visit by two staff members of our St Chad's team. Staff will complete a home visit form. At this time staff will discuss support from health visitors/GP, embedding good routines and play and learning opportunities at home.
7. Parent/guardians are encouraged to support settling their child into school life. For some children this does take some time. Staff will give regular updates on each child's progress of settling in
8. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to complete medication forms and bring any labelled prescribed medication into school as needed
9. The New Communities Team will support with translation and sharing school expectations, if necessary.

Constitution of appeals panels

- The admission authority and the appeals panel will act in accordance with all relevant legislation and guidance.
- The judicial function of the appeals panel will be transparent, accessible, independent and impartial, and will operate in accordance with the principles of natural justice.
- A clerk will be appointed to the appeals panel who is independent of the school and the education functions of the LA.
- The appeals panel will comprise a chair and at least two other panel members. The panel will also include at least one lay person and a person who has experience in education.
- The chair of the appeals panel is responsible for the conduct of the hearing, including introducing parties, explaining individual roles and how the hearing will be conducted, and ensuring that parties have sufficient opportunity to state their case and ask questions.
- Panel members will be independent from the school and will remain independent for the duration of their service.
- The clerk is responsible for assigning members of the appeals panel; however, they will not assign the following disqualified persons:
 - A member of the LA which is the admission authority or in whose area the school is located
 - A member or former member of the governing board of the school
 - An employee at the LA or governing board of the school, other than a teacher or TA
 - Any person who has, or at any time has had, any connection with the admission authority, school or LA who may not act impartially
 - Any person who has not attended training required by the admission authority arranging the appeals panel
- There will be three members of the panel available at all times during the appeals process. If any member has to temporarily withdraw, the hearing will be postponed until the panel member returns. If the panel member is unable to return, they will be replaced, and the appeals will be reheard.
- Appropriate training will be given, funded by the admission authority, to all panel members and clerks before they take part in a panel hearing. As a minimum, this training will include:
 - The law relating to admissions.
 - The panel's duties under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010.
 - Procedural fairness and natural justice.
 - The roles of specific panel members, e.g. the chair.
- Members of the appeals panel will receive travel and subsistence allowances where applicable, and will be compensated for any loss of earnings or expenses.
- The appeals panel must not have a vested interest in the outcome of the hearing.
- The admissions authority will indemnify the members of the appeals panel against any legal costs and expenses they incur in connection with any decision taken in good faith whilst acting as a member of the appeals panel.



Appeals hearings

- The admission authority will publish an appeals timetable on their website by 28 February each year. The timetable will comply with section three of the 'School admission appeals code'.
- Appeals will be lodged and heard for the **normal admissions round** within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals.
- For **late applications**, appeals will be heard between 30-40 school days of the appeal being lodged.
- For **in year** admissions, appeals will be heard within 30 days of the appeal being lodged.
- Admission authorities will provide appellants with written notification of the date and all final arrangements of the appeal hearing, including a deadline for the submission of any further evidence that was not sent in the original appeal.
- The admission authority will comply with any request for information to help parents prepare their case for the appeals hearing.
- All evidence relating to the appeal hearing will be passed on to the clerk, including the admission process, reasons for the decision and how the admission would cause prejudice to the education provision of the school.
- The clerk will send all the papers required for the hearing to both parties and the members of the panel seven days before the hearing.
- The presenting officer will be responsible for relaying to the attendees the decision not to admit the child, and answer questions where necessary.
- Appellants may attend in person or be represented by another individual. Where appellants cannot attend, a decision will be made based on the written evidence.
- Appeal hearings must be private and held in an accessible location. The order of the appeals will be:
 - Case for the admission authority.
 - Questioning by the appellant(s) and panel.
 - Case for the appellant(s).
 - Questioning by the admission authority and panel.
 - Summing up by the admission authority.
 - Summing up by the appellant(s).
- Multiple appeals will be heard, either individually or in groups, by the same appeals panel where appropriate.
- Notes of the hearing will be made and kept securely by the admission authority for a minimum of two years. These notes are, in most cases, exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Reaching a decision

- When reaching a decision, the admission authority will have due regard to section three of the 'School admission appeals code'.
- Appeals decisions will either be upheld or dismissed – there will be no conditional decisions made, in line with section 94(6) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
- The final decision will be decided by a simple majority. If votes are split equally, the chair will make the casting vote.
- The final decision and accompanying reasons will be communicated in writing to the appellant, admission authority and the LA.
- The decision letter will be signed by the clerk or chair of the appeals panel and sent no later than five school days after the decision has been made.
- If a child has been refused admissions due to any SEND, this will be considered by the First-tier Tribunal (SEND) and not the appeals panel.
- The admission authority will have due regard for the two-stage process outlined in the 'School admission appeals code' when negotiating appeals regarding infant class sizes.



Complaints

- Appellants do not have the right to more than one appeal in respect of the school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the admission authority has accepted a second application from the appellant due to a material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission.
- Appellants can apply for a place at the school for a different academic year.
- If appellants have an issue with the appeal process, they can complain to the Secretary of State.
- If appellants have an issue with the appeal process, they can complain to the school directly.

Monitoring and review

- This policy will be reviewed by the governing board on an annual basis.
- Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff and other interested parties.