



Chilton Foliat Church of England V. A. Primary School

Admissions Policy 2016-2017

*** This Admissions Policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body**

Introduction

This document sets out the Policy of Chilton Foliat Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School with respect to Admissions. For the purposes of this policy, the Governing Body of Chilton Foliat Primary 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.

Every year the Governing Body will review and publish information concerning the Chilton Foliat School's admission policy. This will confirm the maximum number of children to be admitted to the school as a whole, the Published Admission Number (PAN) which is currently 17, and explain how places will be allocated.

Each school has a PAN and admission may be refused if the school has reached the admissions limit for the child's year group. The admissions limit for Chilton Foliat School is published each year.

In accordance with Government legislation, the Governing Body will consult with the Diocesan Board of Education, the Local Education Authority (Wilts) and other local schools in respect of the admissions policy. A full consultation will take place every 7 years.

Deadline for Application

Parents applying for their child to be admitted to Chilton Foliat School are required to fill in a Primary Common Application Form (PCAF), which can be obtained from the school or accessed via the school website and submitted online. Parents should be aware that they must submit an application form even for children living within the school's catchment area. The PCAF will invite parents to express three preferences in rank order and submit all PCAF forms to the Local Authority County Hall by midnight on 15th January. 2016 (having opened on 1 September 2015).

Forms returned to schools and not received by the LA by midnight on 15th Jan 2016 will be treated as late applications.

The LA will send out an acknowledgement of receipt for each PCAF and all online applications. Online applications via www.wiltshire.gov.uk are encouraged. Parents will also be able to make online applications

direct to County Hall Trowbridge via www.wiltshire.gov.uk. The online facility will be available at least from 1st September 2015 up until the deadline of midnight 15th Jan 2016. Applicants will be advised to contact the LA if they have not received an acknowledgement within 10 working days of posting their application.

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 nor beyond the academic year for which admission is sought. For reception entry all children are able to attend full-time from the first day of the September term. If parents wish the children to attend part-time then this must be arranged with the school (see Starting School below).

The Local Authority will consider all applications received by the cut-off date i.e.15th January. **National Offer Day is 18th April 2016** and letters will be sent out to all parents who submitted an application form by 15th Jan 2016 offering a place at one school.

Parents should note that the acceptance date for these applications will be **3rd May 2016** – approx. 2 weeks from the offer of a place.

Parents should respond to the LA. If they do not respond by this date it will be assumed that the place offered has been declined.

Starting School

Children are admitted to the school Class 1 from the September following their fourth birthday according to the following criteria:

All children will begin full time education providing they have had their 4th birthday before September 1st of that year.

There will be an induction period for all reception children of up to 5 sessions per week.

When necessary the head teacher will discuss with parents their child's transition from part time to full time education. This is in accordance with Wiltshire Council guidelines.

All children due to start reception from September 2016 have the right to full time education even if they are summer born. This can be discussed between both the parent/head teacher as to whether they feel it appropriate for the child to spend a whole day at school.

In Year transfers

These are co-ordinated by the Local Authority. The Governing Body will accept applications to classes other than reception providing class size does not exceed 30.

Since September 2001, subject to certain limited exceptions, no infant class may contain more than 30 pupils. Infant classes are classes in which the majority of pupils will reach the age of 5, 6, or 7 during the school year.

Over-subscription Criteria

The school's designated area is Chilton Foliat Ecclesiastical Parish, being the area of benefit defined in the school's Trust Deed. A map is available from the school office. The child's 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 medical GP together with recent utilities bill, 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 parents with shared responsibility for each part of the week)

If the school is not oversubscribed then all applicants will be offered a place. If the school is oversubscribed (i.e. there are more applicants than places) the Governors will decide which children to admit according to the following priorities, in order:

- 1) Pupils with a Statement of Special Education Needs naming the School will be admitted to the School before other preferences are considered.
- 2) Looked After Children/Previously Looked After Children
Children in Care (Looked After Children) 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. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provide 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).
- 3) Other 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.
- 4) 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
- 5) Children living within the school's designated catchment area which is Chilton Foliat Ecclesiastical Parish and who do not qualify under one of the criteria above.
- 6) Children living outside the designated area who have a brother or sister attending at the time of application who will continue to attend at the time of admission, and where the child lives outside the designated area at the same address as the older sibling. Step, half and foster siblings are included in this category, as well as the children of couples who have registered a civil partnership
- 7) Practising Christians
Those children from outside the designated area who are regular (i.e. attending church at least once a month during school year.) practising Christians, of whatever denomination, at a recognised church

or religious group. (A recognised church is one that subscribes to the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland or the Evangelical Alliance) Confirmation of status will be requested from the relevant priest/pastor.

Application for admission should be supported by a letter from a parish priest or minister by midnight on 15th Jan 2015. This letter should be sent to the school and not the local authority and be accompanied by a completed Admissions Policy Supplementary Information Form.

8) Other Children

In case of multiple births, if they fit criteria and there is still room the normal procedure would follow. However when one of the siblings is the 17th child admitted the other siblings of the multiple birth will be admitted over the school's Published Admission Number (PAN).

9) All Other Children

In all oversubscribed criteria the shortest straight line distance from the school to the child's home address will be used as the determining factor. The distances are measured using the Ordnance Survey Northing and Easting of each property as provided by LA.

If two or more children with the same priority for admissions live an indistinguishable distance from the school, but cannot be admitted, then the available places will be decided by the casting of lots (random allocation) which will be carried out by the Governing Body.

Explanatory Notes

- 1) If an application is being made because the parents wish the child to attend a Church of England school, then the parents will be required to provide written evidence of church membership from their parish priest or another person within the church authority.
- 2) All available spaces will be offered. However if, after following the above procedures, it has not been possible to offer a child a place in the school, parents will be offered the chance to put their child's name on a waiting list. If, or when, a place should become available, it will then be offered from the waiting list in accordance with the criteria listed above.
- 3) Waiting lists will be maintained for all intake year groups in the school. Children will automatically be added to these lists if a preference higher than the school place offered has been refused. All applicants have the right of appeal against any refusal of a place. The existence of a waiting list does not remove this right from any unsuccessful applicant.

The position on a list will be determined by applying the published over-subscription criteria and not by date order 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.

Waiting lists will remain open until the end of the 2016 Autumn term (term 2).

A fresh application can be made for a place for the next academic year group but this will not be considered before 17 April 2016.

Places that become available will not be offered to pupils who are not on the waiting list.

Notes:

- Names will only be removed from the lists if a written request is received, or if the offer of a place that becomes available is declined.
- Registration of interest on the school's pre-admission list will not be considered as an application for a school place.

- 4) It is possible that some parents may wish to put in an application after the admissions deadline has passed or when their child is older than would normally be the case for admission to a school. An example of this could be that they have recently moved into the area.
- 5) All applicants will be informed by a letter sent out on **National Offer Day – 18th April 2016** whether or not their application is successful.

If an application is refused, the parents will receive a letter explaining that they can make a formal appeal, which will be put before an independent panel.

Details of the appeal procedure are available from the school.

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 refusals.

In-Year Transfer Applications (for years outside the normal Reception intake for the school)

All applicants for a school place in 2016/17 entry outside the normal admission round must complete an application form which should be returned to the LA.

The applicant may or may not live in Wiltshire.

Should a parent living in Wiltshire wish to apply for a school in another authority, they must contact that authority directly to apply.

Where the LA receives an in year application form expressing a preference for an Academy, Foundation or VA school the application will be forwarded to the school within 5 school days of receipt.

For an Academy, Foundation or VA school, the school's governing body is responsible for deciding the outcome of the application and advising the LA and the parents accordingly within 10 school days of the date on which the information was received by the school.

In all cases, a decision letter will be sent out by the Local Authority within twenty school days of receiving the application form and this will provide information, if appropriate, about the statutory right of appeal.

Children not placed at one of their preferred schools will be considered under the Fair Access Protocol.

Waiting lists for schools must be kept and will be managed as per the admission arrangements for the particular school involved. Waiting lists will be kept in order of the relevant oversubscription criteria and not in date order of receipt.

In accordance with paragraph 2.21 /2.22 of the new School Admissions Code the Local Authority is now required to provide parents on request of the availability of school places within its area. All schools must provide the LA with this information. This must be done on a monthly basis.

Aims

The overriding aim of this policy is that it should work for the benefit of all children and parents/guardians in our area and be fair, clear and objective. 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 Designated area, defined as being the area within the ecclesiastical boundary of the Parish of Chilton Foliat** see footnote.

The admissions policy of Chilton Foliat 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. However, parents should not assume that a place will automatically be allocated to their child

Exceptional Circumstances

“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.”

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.

Enquiries about this policy should be addressed to: The Chair of Admissions, at the school or telephone contact made via the school office on 01488 682630

Note: Subject to the above policy and the relevant appeals procedure, decisions regarding admissions will be the responsibility of the Governing Body.

IMPORTANT KEY DATES

15 January 2016	Closing date for all Common Application Forms to be received by the School Admissions Team at County Hall. Applications must be received by the Local Authority by midnight on this date.
15 January 2016	For applications being made on faith grounds, the school's Supplementary Application Form must be completed and returned to the school together with any documentary evidence by midnight on this date.
18 th April 2016	Notification letters despatched and sent to parents by the Local Authority School Admissions Team.
3rd May 2016	Last date for offers to be accepted by parents. Acceptances must be sent to the Local Authority School Admissions Team at County Hall

OTHER KEY INTERNAL DATES

10 February 2016 – where parents have nominated a primary school outside the LA area the LA will notify the relevant LA

24 February 2016 – the LA will notify VA schools of every preference expressed for that school

14 March 2016 – all VA schools must have considered all of the preferences for their school and provide the LA with a ranked list of applicants in accordance with oversubscription criteria

1 April 2016 – the LA will inform other LAs of any places in Wiltshire schools which will be offered to their residents

14 April 2016 – the LA will inform Wiltshire schools of pupils to be offered places at their schools

