

Ann Cam C of E School

Policy on Admissions 2021-22

Introduction

Ann Cam C of E Primary School has a special status, because it is aided by the Church of England. In terms of admitting children into the school, Governors of aided schools are allowed to have admission criteria that enable them to preserve the special character of the school.

Aims of the Admissions Policy

The Governing Body has a responsibility to safeguard the efficient education of all the children it admits to school.

The Governing Body has a responsibility for ensuring that all decisions regarding admissions are treated in a fair and equal manner. For this reason, all requests for admission are judged against identical, published criteria.

In this document, the Governors of Ann Cam C. of E. School define the following:

- i) The target number of admissions
- ii) Admissions criteria
- iii) The arrangements for parents to appeal
- iv) Application for places

Admission limit

The standard number of admissions is **15**.

With effect from September 2001, the Department for Education and Employment set a Key Stage 1 class size limit at 30. Additional children may only be admitted under very limited circumstances, which are:

- Previously looked after children will be included under the looked after children exception
- Twins and multiple births when one of the siblings is the 15th child admitted.

SEND

The school is required to admit a child with a statement or EHC plan that names the school, even if the school is full.

Admissions criteria for the School Year September **2021** – August **2022**.

The criteria for admission, in priority order, is:

- a) i) The highest priority is given to a 'looked after child' ⁽¹⁾ or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption ⁽²⁾ child arrangements order ⁽³⁾ or special guardianship order ⁽⁴⁾.

- (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. In Gloucestershire, such children are referred to as Children in Care.
- (2) 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).
- (3) Under the provisions of section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amend section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangements orders.
- (4) See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

ii) Location: Where the family live in the ecclesiastical parishes of Dymock (including Ryton), Preston, Donnington and Kempsey.* (A map showing these parishes is available from the school.)

b) Siblings: Children who have brothers or sisters attending the school and who will continue to do so when the younger child is admitted. A "sibling" is defined as a brother or sister, half-brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent's/carer's partner, and in every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address."

c) Denomination: Where the parents or guardian seek specifically Church of England teaching, and where the family has an active connection with their local church. In this case, a letter of reference is required from the priest –in – charge, confirming that the parents and child attend regular worship and are involved in the church community. Regular worship is defined as attending at least two services per calendar month. The letter should be sent to the Chair of Governors at Ann Cam C of E Primary School by 4th January 2021.

d) Other denominations or faiths: Where the family have an active connection with another denomination or faith. As in c) a letter of reference is required from the religious leader, confirming regular worship and involvement in the relevant faith community.

The letter should be sent to the Chair of Governors at Ann Cam C of E Primary School by 4th January 2021.

* Where one of the above named parish boundaries runs along the centre of a road, the governors agree to admit children from both sides of the road, providing the houses are no more than 30 metres from the road.

e) Children with the strongest geographical claim, measured in a straight line from the Ordnance Survey address point of the child's home address (including flats) to the Ordnance Survey address point of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Where any particular category at points a to d is oversubscribed, criterion e (strongest geographical claim based on straight-line distance) will be used to determine which child will be offered a place.

In the event of a tie between two or more children when applying criterion e (strongest geographical claim based on straight line distance) where there are not enough places available to offer all children a place at the school, a process of random allocation will be followed by the Governing Body.

Waiting Lists

If the school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held for (at least) the first school term (ie until end of December term). The waiting list will be prioritised according to the school's oversubscription criteria.

The school has signed up to the In-Year Fair Access Protocols held by the Local Authority. Should a vulnerable child within these Protocols require a place at the school, they will take precedent over any child on the waiting list.

Application for places:

Application for places should be made to the Governing Body of Ann Cam C of E Primary School.

The date of registration of a child's name on the school's admission list confers no priority. It is also necessary to apply to the Local Authority in which the child is resident for admission in the following September. Further details can be found at <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions> for Gloucestershire. Attendance at Happy Turtles, the on-site pre-school does not give any child a higher priority for admission to our School.

The LA will apply the admission criteria and notify parents of the outcome on the 15th April 2021.

In Year Admissions:

For in-year applications only, the parent should apply directly to the school in the first instance.

The Right of Appeal.

A committee of Governors will meet during the autumn term to review the current policy, and apply it to the requests for admission which have been received.

In 2021, places will be offered to those qualifying. Where requests for admission exceed the standard number, parents will be notified if a place is not available for their child, and of their right to appeal.

When a parent wishes to appeal against the refusal to admit a child to an aided school, an independent appeals committee will be set up. Letters of appeal should be sent to The Chair of Governors at Ann Cam C of E Primary School by 28th April 2021.

The Governors of Ann Cam C. of E. School agree that the process will be managed by Gloucestershire Education Authority, in compliance with the advice given by the Diocese of Gloucester.

Age of Admission:

By law, children reach school age following their fifth birthday. The Government has set cut-off dates, as follows:

Child becomes five between:	Child is of school age from:
1 st September and 31 st December	Beginning of Spring Term 1
1 st January and 31 st March	Beginning of Summer Term 1
1 st April and 31 st August	Beginning of Autumn Term 1

As in all Gloucestershire schools, the Governors offer a three-year infant course, which means that all children may start school in the September of the year in which they become five.

Delayed admission:

With effect from September 2002, The Governors will follow the Government guidance, which states that parents may "book" a place from September, but arrange with the Headteacher that the child will not take up the place until later in the academic year. In practice,

- The place which is booked, is reserved for the child, and cannot be offered or allocated to another child, even during the period for which it is not filled.
- The child must take up the place at the beginning of the Spring or Summer Term, depending on the child's date of birth. If the place is not taken up, then the child loses it.
- If the child loses the place through not taking it up, then the parent must make a fresh application for the following year. This application will then be for a place in Year 1, because admissions are judged against the age peer group. If the application is successful, the child will enter the school as a Year 1 child, not as a Reception child.

Admission of summer born children

The Governing Body of Ann Cam School acknowledges the updated advice from the Department of Education that, parents/carers of "summer born" children (born between 1 April and 31 August) may request to start the Reception Class of a school a whole academic year later. The Governing Body will make a decision on behalf of Ann Cam School. We follow the Local Authority process which states that parents can only apply for a Reception place at a school once and must apply for a place during the standard application process timeline for their chronological year group, stating their reasons for requesting deferred entry to the following year. The Governing Body will decide whether the deferred entry can be approved for the school.

Normal Admission Round

The term 'normal admissions round' refers to all applications for admission to the main year of entry of the school i.e. Reception for Infant and Primary Schools. Applications made during the normal admissions round will be made in advance of the academic year in which the child is due to start at the new school. Children are entitled to a full-time place, however, may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

School Transport

There is a bus transporting children to and from school. The local authority will pay the travelling expenses for pupils if Ann Cam C of E Primary School is the nearest school to their home address and if the journey is 2 miles or over for a child aged under eight, and three miles or over for a child aged eight or over. The bus is run by the Governors of Ann Cam C of E Primary School.

Policy proposed by Governing Body- 18th September 2019
Policy determined by Governing Body- 12th February 2020