



SIDDINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL September 2023

Our vision is – ‘To have fun, do our very best, and look after everyone in a caring, **Christian**, community’.

Siddington, as a church school, focuses on caring for everyone. This is taught by Jesus through the parable of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25). By caring for everyone in our community, children are then enabled to have fun and to do their very best.’ Jesus taught us to look after everyone and in both schools we welcome everyone to our schools (children and parents) and do not exclude anyone no matter of their religion or belief, race, age, sex, marital status, gender identity or disability. We read in the Bible ‘All are made in the image of God. Through the example of Jesus, all are called to live embodied, fulfilled human lives. (Genesis 1:27) At Siddington, as a church school we welcome all. This also reflects our original trust deed.

In our school children and staff will use our values of Respect, Compassion, Courage, Truthfulness, Forgiveness and Thankfulness to show how we put our vision into action.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Members of staff responsible	Mrs Katie Cook
Governors responsible	Local Governing Body
Date approved at Local Governing Body (LGB)	28/9/21
Frequency of policy review	Annual
Date next review due	September 2024

Document Version Control

Issue Number	Issue Date	Summary of changes
1.0		New policy as academy
1.1	Sept 18	No change
1.2	Sept 19	Clarification that multiple births are classed as individual applications & note about same sex relationships.
1.3	Sept 20	Removed specific nature of how Settling In takes place due to the need for flexibility as a result of Covid-19.
1.4	July 2021	Addition in oversubscription criteria section on ‘children adopted from state care out of England’.
1.5	Sept 2021	Review – no change except dates.

Where the term family is used this can mean same sex relationships and civil partnerships.

Reception Year Starting School

Children are usually admitted to our schools in the reception class in the September prior to their fifth birthday.

The school has a Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of 15. This means that 15 children start school in a year group and each year group (cohort) has 15 children in and when two cohorts are in one class, there are usually 30 children in the class.

Gloucestershire County Council admission's team will deal with all the applications for places at our schools for reception children. Please use the following link to the school admissions page and links to the admissions forms.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-or-infant-school-place/>

Deferred entry for infants 1. Parents offered a place for their child have a right to defer entry, or to take a place up part-time, until the start of the term beginning immediately after their child has reached compulsory school age of 4. However, places cannot be deferred until the next academic year.

Settling in

The usual admission arrangements are for all the reception children to begin school part-time for the first 2 weeks of the autumn term.

We make sure that all reception children have a Year 6 buddy (Year 5 children meet them on their pre-starting school visits) so that when they start school they have an older child for support at play times and lunch times. This relationship lasts all year and children have opportunities to read and sometimes work together.

Visits

We welcome visits to the school. Parents who would like to visit the School or who are considering entering their children for admission are asked to get in touch with the Executive head teacher or head of school who are always willing to show parents around and to answer any questions that they may have.

In Year admissions

For applications which are made outside of the normal year of entry to the school, our schools are responsible for offering places using the categories stated above and will inform parents their child/children have a place at the school. Please use the in-year admissions form on the above GCC website. Currently the Local Authority inform us when there is an in year admission request and we follow the normal Local Authority guidance for admission.

Oversubscription criteria

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit:

The 2021 School Admissions Code (the Code) requires children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted to be given equal first priority in admission arrangements, alongside looked after children (LAC) and children who were previously looked after by English local authorities (PLAC). This advice refers to these children as internationally adopted previously looked after children – “**IAPLAC**”.

1. ‘Looked After Children’ (a) or children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption (b) a child arrangements order (c) or special guardianship order (d)

(a) A ‘looked after child’ is a child who is (i) in the care of a local authority, or (ii) 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.

(b) 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’s Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).

(c) Under the provisions of s.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 arrangement orders.

(d) 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).

e) this includes children who are adopted from state care out of England.

2. Children who have siblings attending the school and who will continue to do so at the time of their admission. We use the Local Authority’s standard definition of ‘sibling’: ‘a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer’s partner as well as children who are brought together as a family by a same sex civil partnership. In every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address, at the time of application.’ (Twins and children from multiple births will be considered as individual applications).

3. Pupils with the strongest geographical claim based on straight line distance proximity of the child’s home - those living nearer being accorded priority. This link shows last distances offered for each school: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions-scheme-criteria-and-protocol/allocation-day-statistics-for-gloucestershire-schools/>

Oversubscription

In the event of oversubscription in any of the above criterion, places will be allocated to 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 Reception at the School, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. If necessary, if two or more children live at a precise equitable distance from the school, a further tie-break of random allocation based on names being drawn in a lottery at a specified time by our admissions team will be applied, although we will endeavor to treat twins and children from multiple births jointly.

Appeals & waiting list

If the school is oversubscribed a formal appeals procedure exists. Parents are invited to lodge an appeal in writing, addressed to the School, and their case will be heard by an independent Appeals Panel. We currently buy into the appeals process via GCC. The waiting list will be prioritised according to the school's oversubscription criteria above. GCC currently holds our waiting lists.

Appeals Procedure:

If the Governors are unable to offer your child a place because of over subscription you as a parent have a right of appeal. You should notify the Clerk to the Governors of Siddington Church of England Primary School within 20 days of receiving the letter which will give the grounds for refusing a place. As a parent you will have an opportunity to submit your case to an independent appeals panel. You must set out your grounds for the appeal in writing. You will normally receive at least 10 days' notice of the time and venue for the appeal hearing where you will be able to present your case in person. Decision letters will be sent within 5 school days of the hearing wherever possible.

Education Health Care Plan

Pupils with an Education Health Care Plan naming Siddington C of E Primary School will be offered a place prior to the oversubscription criteria being used to fill additional places at the School and, in the case of in-year admissions, even if the school is full.

Fair Access Protocols

A vulnerable child within the Local Authority Protocols requiring a place in school will take precedent over any child on the waiting list.

Admission of Summer Born Children for Reception Entry

The Local Governing Body 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 Local Governing Body will make a decision on behalf of the schools. 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.