

HIGHNAM C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY



ADMISSIONS POLICY 2023-2024

Our Vision

Children with Confidence

We chose **Children with Confidence** as our vision because:

We see **confidence** as a vital ingredient for living,
the **confidence** that makes aggression unnecessary,
the **confidence** to seek support,
the **confidence** not to be anxious,
the **confidence** to put other people first,
the **confidence** to ask the big questions,
the **confidence** to trust in God.

Our vision transforms the pupils of today ready to face the future with confidence.

As an inclusive school every child is valued and very important to us.

The Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the **Admissions Guidance Booklet** issued by Gloucestershire County Council for schools and academies.

For further information on admissions please contact the **Co-ordinated Admissions Team** at Shire Hall, Gloucester, GL1 2TP (01452 425407) or go to **www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions**

Our policy will be published on the Gloucestershire County Council's website and on the school's website: www.highnam.gloucs.sch.uk

The Local Advisory Board is the Admissions Authority for Highnam C. of E. Primary Academy as part of the coordinated scheme with the local authority. Parents must apply for a place at the school using the common preference form which must be returned as specified on the form. Alternatively, parents may apply directly to the local authority online.

There will be 30 reception places available in September 2023.

The Indicated Admission Number for Highnam C. of E. Primary Academy is 30 and should not be exceeded, as stated in Section One of the School Standards & Framework Act 1998 (as amended by the Education Act 2002) and the Education (Infant class Sizes) (England) regulations 1998. However, we will adopt any LA's proposed changes to admissions for September 2023 should they come into force.

Pupils will normally be admitted in the school year in which they reach their fifth birthday.

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order stated below:

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. 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 (residency order) (3) or special guardianship order (4) including those 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 (5).

- (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's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).*
- (3) *Under the provisions of s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014.*
- (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).*
- (5) *A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.*

2. Children who have a sibling who will be attending Highnam C. of E. Primary Academy at the time of reception admission (i.e. a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of a parent/carer's partner).

Note: The older child must be continuing to attend the school when the younger child is admitted and in every case the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address.

3. Children with an authenticated medical reason for attending the school.

Note: Children for whom only this particular school is appropriate due to an exceptional medical condition. Applications will only be considered if supported by a written statement from the applicant's doctor which must demonstrate that there is a very specific connection between the medical need and the facilities or resources of the school. The final decision to accept a child under this category will be made by the Local Advisory Board through consultation with relevant professionals where necessary.

4. Children with the strongest geographical claim in the year in which the child is to start school on the closing date for applications.

Note: The distance will be measured in a straight line from the ordinance survey point of the child's home address (including flats) to the ordinance survey point of the school. Those living the closest will receive the higher priority.

Special notes:

Where any particular category at points 1-3 above is oversubscribed, criterion 4 (the strongest geographical claim based on straight line distance) will be used to determine which child is offered a place.

In the event of a tie between two or more children, when applying criterion 4, the strongest geographical claim will be measured in a straight line from the ordinance survey point from the child's home address (including flats) to the ordinance 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 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 Local Advisory Board. This process will be overseen by an independent person.

Reception Entry children

Children are entitled to a full-time place from the September following their fourth birthday, however, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Admission of Summer Born Children for Reception Entry for Highnam C of E Primary Academy

The Local Advisory Board of Highnam C of E Primary Academy 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 LAB will make a decision on behalf of Highnam Academy. 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 LAB will decide whether the deferred entry can be approved for the school.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are placed in schools through the arrangements set out in the SEN Code of Practice and not through any admission criteria. Governing bodies are required by Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 to admit a child with an EHCP that names their school, even if the school is full. Parents of children with an EHCP should contact their child's casework officer for any further information.

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.

Appeals:

If the Trustees are unable to offer your child a place because of over-subscription, you as a parent/carer have a right to appeal. You should notify the Headteacher of Highnam C of E Primary Academy 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.

Appeals will be arranged in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Admission Appeals*. Further details about the appeal process are available from the Clerk to the LAB via the school office (01452 525872).

Waiting List

If the school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held for the first two school terms (i.e. until the end of December). 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.

In Year Admission

In the school year 2023/2024, and beyond, applications for a school place made outside the normal round of admissions for children of compulsory school age (i.e. Reception to Year 11) must be made directly to the school. However, the Local Authority maintains a statutory duty of being aware of all pupils and vacancies within schools and academies.

Transport

School transport is not available at this school.