

Admissions 2023 - 2024

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Date: September 2021

Review date: September 2022



Building Community, Enriching Lives

Introduction

Our Governing Body applies the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend this school. This policy should be read in conjunction with advice to Parents and Carers given by Gloucestershire County Council which is available on the Gloucestershire County Council website: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions or by contacting the Co-ordinated Admissions Team on 01452 425407.

Aims and objectives

We seek to be an inclusive school, welcoming children from all backgrounds and abilities. All applications will be treated on merit and in a sensitive manner. The only restriction we place on entry is that of number. If the number of children applying for entry exceeds the places available, we adopt the procedure set out below to determine whether a child is to be accepted or not. It is our wish for parents to find a place for their child at the school of their choice. However, this is not always possible, due to excess demand on the places available. A child's level of ability is irrelevant to this school's admissions policy; as are any Special Educational Needs the child may have.

Longney C of E Primary Academy will act within the Schools Admission Code 2014 to ensure that it follows a fair, consistent and transparent method of offering places to children, but it does support the county-wide principle of allowing children to access a local school place. The Schools Standards & Framework Act 1998, Section 86, requires admission authorities to only refuse admission of pupils where it may compromise education to do so and therefore the School Admission Code 2014 does make provision for admission authorities to admit above their admission number during the admissions process to meet parental demand. In this instance, the Governing Body will consider all applications for a school place in line with the school's admission policy, taking individual cases into account in line with its exceeding PAN protocol – which sets out how the school will implement such flexibility in a transparent manner whilst ensuring sustainability of the whole school system.

How parents can apply for their child to be admitted to our school

The admissions process is co-ordinated by the Local Authority in to Reception on behalf of the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust.

The County Council's annual admissions prospectus informs parents how to apply for a place at the school of their choice. Parents have a right to express their preference but this does not, in itself, guarantee a place at that particular school. Application should be made on a form that can be obtained from Gloucestershire County Council and should be returned by the date stipulated on that form. Applications can be made online at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If a letter containing important admissions has not been received by the end of November 2022, you should contact the Co-ordinated Admissions Team, Shire Hall, Gloucester GL1 2TP and arrange for one to be sent to you.

Admission Criteria

When the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, places are given based on the following priorities:

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 an older sibling attending Longney C of E Primary 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/carer's partner, and in every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address.

3) 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 and the River Severn forming a natural obstacle for families living the other side of the river.

4) Children for whom Longney C of E Primary Academy is not the nearest school when measured as in point 3.

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

In the event that two or more children live at the same distance from the school (as can happen with families living in blocks of flats), random allocation, where supervised drawing of lots by an independent responsible person of good standing will be used to decide which child(ren) will be allocated the remaining place(s) (in accordance with 1.34 and 1.35 of the School Admissions Code).

Admission appeals

If a child is not offered a place at this school, this will be because to do so would prejudice the education of other children by allowing the number of children in the school to increase too much.

Parents and Carers have the right of appeal to an independent panel against any decisions made in relation to any decision made concerning their child's entry to school. If the appeals panel decides that we should admit a child to whom we had refused a place, then we will accept this decision and continue to do all we can to provide the best education for all the children at our school. (Further details of appeal arrangements are set out in the revised Code of Practice on School Admissions Appeals, which came into force in September 2004.) The school is required to admit a child with a statement of Special Educational Needs that names the school, even if the school is full.

Please follow this link for further information on the Local Authority appeal process: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/information-on-admission-appeals/>

Waiting Lists

If the school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held for at least the second (i.e. December) school term following the admission request. The waiting list will be prioritised according to the school's admission criteria above.

Fair Access Protocols

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 precedence over any child on the waiting list. For more information please follow this link: <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions-scheme-criteria-and-protocol/school-admission-protocols/>

Transport

Transport is currently available for children who live in the neighbouring village of Elmore. This is arranged by Gloucestershire County Council.

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.

When will my child reach statutory school age?

Children must be receiving full-time education by the start of the term following their fifth birthday.

- For children born between 1 September and 31 December, they reach compulsory school age on 31 December and must be receiving full-time education at the start of the Spring term (i.e. after the Christmas holidays, in January).
- For children born between 1 January and 31 March, they reach compulsory school age on 31 March and must be receiving full-time education by the start of the Summer term (i.e. after the Easter holidays, in March or April)

- For children born between 1 April and 31 August, they reach compulsory school age on 31 August and must be receiving full-time education at the start of the new school year (i.e. after the summer holidays, in September).

In response to the Department for Education (DfE) guidance and the new statutory requirements in the revised School Admissions Code, Gloucestershire County Council has updated its admissions policy to address the options available to parents of summer born children (those born between 1 April and 31 August). This information is designed to explain the options available to parents for their child's starting school arrangements and to answer the frequently asked questions. Further information can be found on the Gloucestershire County Council website:

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/13649/summer-born-information-sheet.pdf>

Admission of Children Outside of their Normal Age Group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In order for the school governors to consider such a request, such an application must be made in writing, stating clearly the reasons for this proposal. The school governors will normally seek external advice to be reassured that such an arrangement is in the long term interests of the child. The school governors will communicate the reasons for their decision in these cases. In all other respects the child will be considered in the same way as any other child and in the case of over-subscription the same admission criteria will apply.

The Published Admission Number (PAN)

The 'Published Admission number' is the number of children that the Local Authority considers the school can accommodate. The standard number for our school is 15. We keep this number under review and the governors will apply to change the number if circumstances change.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be monitored by the Governing Body, who will always take due note of the guidance provided by the local Admissions Forum.

The policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier in the light of any changed circumstances, either in our school or in the local area.

Policy drawn up and ratified by the Governing Body December 2021