



Admission Criteria for 2026

As an Academy, School admissions are the responsibility of the Local Governing Body. The Local Governing Body have arranged with the Gloucestershire County Council for admissions procedures to be administered by the County Council but the final responsibility for deciding admissions rests with the Local Governing Body. Our published admissions' number is 209.

Pupils with an Education Health Care Plan naming Cirencester Deer Park 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.

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:

1. 'Looked After Children' (a) or children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption (b) child arrangements order (c) or special guardianship order (d) or a child who has previously been in state care outside of England (IAPLAC) (e).
 - (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 Childrens 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s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amend section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangement orders.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) 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 (see Section 23ZZA (8) of the Children Act 1989 (inserted by Section 4 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017)).

2. Children living in the existing catchment area of the school which includes the town of Cirencester (excluding the estates bounded by London Road and the town bypass) and the parishes of Coates and Sapperton to the west, and parishes of Siddington, Kemble, Poole Keynes, Somerford Keynes to the south. A map of our catchment area is available on our website and on request.
3. 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.'
4. Other children: proximity of the child's home to the school, with those living nearer being accorded priority.

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 endeavour to treat twins and children from multiple births jointly.

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. In the case of first Admission, Appeals for places in Year 7 in September are usually heard in June. Following these appeals, parents are notified of the outcome by the Clerk of the Appeals' panel. A waiting list will be held until 31 December. The waiting list will be prioritised according to the school's oversubscription criteria above.

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 applications are all those made outside the normal round of admissions for children of compulsory school age i.e. those applications made during the academic year for a school place in Year 7 through to Year 11. The Local Authority are no longer responsible for offering places to children on behalf of all schools/academies, but the Local Authority does maintain the statutory duty of being aware of all pupils and vacancies within schools/academies within Gloucestershire. To apply for a place at Cirencester Deer Park School, parents should therefore contact the school in the first instance.

Pupils who live over three miles from the school (measured by the shortest pedestrian route), but within our catchment area, are usually entitled to free school transport provided by the Local Authority. Additional services to the school are provided by local bus companies for which they charge. The contacts for these are available on our school website and on request.