



## **ADMISSIONS POLICY**

**2023 - 2024**



Oundle CE Primary School

## **Applying for a place at Oundle Church of England Primary School**

Northamptonshire County Council (the local authority) co-ordinates applications for places in this School.

In order to submit an application, please refer to the local authority's website – [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions)

### **Admission Policy For academic year September 2023 – August 2024**

#### **Oundle Church of England Primary School**

Oundle Primary School is an Academy within Peterborough Diocese Education Trust. The Trust is the Admission Authority and has responsibility for setting the Admission Policy, but the policy is administered by the Academy Governance Committee (AGC).

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the Reception year of entry is 60

The AGC will admit children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) which names the School.

#### **DESIGNATED AREA**

Oundle CE Primary School serves the designated area of the town of Oundle, together with Ashton, Barnwell, Benefield, Cotterstock, Luddington, Stoke Doyle, Tansor and Thurning. The school's standard admission number is 60.

Children from outside the designated area may take up a place in the school if the standard number for that year has not been reached. Governors will accept all children from this designated area, up to the number in each year, regardless of race, colour, ethnic or national origin, creed or disability. Oundle Primary School offers equality of opportunity to all its pupils.

Governors may agree to admit a number of children in excess of 60 in years 3, 4, 5 & 6 only to a maximum of 64 if there are surplus places in other years in the school.

On the occasions when the school places are over-subscribed, Governors will allocate available places using the following prioritised criteria:

#### **Oversubscription criteria**

Where there are more applications than there are places available, children will be admitted according to the following criteria, which are listed in order of priority:

1. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order including those 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. (See *definition below*).

2. Pupils who live in the linked area, as detailed above.
3. Pupils with an older brother or sister continuing at the school at the time of admission of the younger child.
4. Other children.

### **Tiebreaker**

If the admission number is exceeded within any criterion, priority will be given to those who live closest to the School. (*As to how this distance is measured – see “Distance Measurements” below*).

### **Notes and Definitions**

#### ***Children in Care i.e. Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children***

Looked after children are children who are (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 application to a school.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order including those 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.

### **Distance Measurements**

Distances are measured on a straight line basis from the address point of the child’s home to the address point of the School, using a geographical information system. Each address has a unique address point established by the most valuable elements from the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NPLG), Ordnance Survey Master Map, Royal Mail Postal Address File and The Valuation Office Agency. The address point for a property does not change.

In the case where there are multiple applications from the same shared dwelling (e.g. Flats) or where there are two homes where the distance from the address point of the home to the address point of the school (using the system referred to above) is identical, random allocation, supervised by a suitable independent person, will be used to decide the priority in which applicants are selected in the event of a tiebreaker.

### **Definition of child’s home address/residence**

The child’s home address means the permanent residence of the child at the time of application. Parents / carers may be asked to provide proof of a claim of residence at any time during the admission process.

The address must be the child's only or main residence that is either:

- ❖ Owned by the child's parent(s) or carer(s);
- ❖ Leased to or rented by the child's parent(s) or carer(s) under a lease or written rental agreement of not less than 6 months duration. The property leased must be where the family lives.

**Please note** – if false or misleading information is used to try and gain a place, this may lead the AGC to reject the application or to withdraw the offer of a place.

### ***Definition of Sibling***

A brother or sister living at the same address as the applicant (i.e. within a family unit) including:

- ❖ a brother or sister sharing the same parents;
- ❖ a half brother or half sister where two children share one common parent;
- ❖ a step brother or step sister, where two children are related by a parents' marriage/civil partnership;
- ❖ A child who has been adopted or is fostered by parents / carers who have other children.

### ***Separated parents***

If a child lives with separated parents, the home address will be treated as the place where the child sleeps for most of the school week (i.e. Sunday night – Thursday night inclusive). If the child spends an equal amount of time at 2 addresses, the parents must decide which address they wish to use as the child's main address for the application. **Please note** – if false or misleading information is used to try and gain a school place, this may lead AGCs to reject the application or to withdraw the offer of a place.

### ***Late applications***

Late applications are any application forms (*known as Common Application Forms (CAFs)/Preference Forms*) received by the local authority after its deadline of 5pm on 15 January 2023. Late applicants will not receive an offer of a school place by the local authority on offer day (16 April) but their application will be processed in the next round of allocations (*for details of when these are – refer to the local authority's composite prospectus*).

### ***Waiting lists***

All parents / carers who are unsuccessful at gaining a place for their child at the School may wish to place their child's name on the waiting list. To do so, parents / carers must contact the School and request that their child's name is placed on the waiting list. This should be done by email/in writing to Ann Chance.

If a place becomes available at the School, it will be allocated according to the oversubscription criteria (see *above*), not on a first come, first served basis.

A child's name will remain on the waiting list until the end of the School term in which the application was made. If parents / carers wish their child's name to stay

on the waiting list for the remainder of the academic year, they must email/write to the School at the beginning of each term to renew their interest i.e. in January and /or following the Easter break (April / May). Please note a new application form will have to be completed if parents / carers want their child's name to remain on the waiting list in the following academic year.

**Please note** – placing a child's name on the waiting list does not affect parents' / carers' right to appeal.

### ***Admission of children below compulsory school age and deferred entry to school***

#### **1. Admission of children below compulsory school age and deferred entry to school**

Children are required to start their compulsory education from the beginning of the term following their 5th birthday (based on a 3 term year with terms starting in September, January and April). In Oundle Primary School, children are entitled to a full year in Reception i.e. the school place is available from the beginning of the school year in which the child has their 5th birthday.

#### **Deferred entry:**

Parents/carers can request that entry to the School is deferred until later in the same school year (i.e. a child born in the Autumn term could defer starting school until January and a child born in the Spring or Summer term could defer their start until after Easter). If such a request is made the School is required to hold the place for the child; the place cannot be offered to another child but it cannot be kept open beyond the beginning of the Summer term.

Any parents/carers considering deferring their child's admission to school are recommended to discuss this with the Headteacher.

#### **2. Admission of children out of their normal age group**

2.1 Parents/carers may seek a place for their child out of their normal age group e.g. if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Additionally;

2.2 Parents/carers of a summer born child (i.e. a child born in the period from 1 April to 31 August) may not want to send their child to school until the September following their 5th birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – e.g. to Reception rather than to Year 1 – please refer to the section on Summer Born children below.

#### **Process for requesting a place out of normal age group (not Summer Born)**

Parents/carers may seek a place for their child out of their normal age group as stated in 2.1 above. If parents/carers wish to do so, they must contact Ann Chance at the School.

The Academy Governance Committee (AGC) will convene a meeting to consider the request and will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of:

- ❖ the parent's/carer's views;
- ❖ information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- ❖ where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- ❖ whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- ❖ whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
- ❖ the Headteacher's views.

**Please note** – if the Academy Governance Committee does not agree to this request to be admitted out of cohort, there is no right of appeal against that decision.

### **Requests for admission out of normal age group (Summer Born children)**

- Parents/carers who wish to apply for a place in Reception out of the normal age group should make a request to the AGC which is responsible for administering the admission arrangements at the School. The request needs to be accompanied by reasons for such a request and should be made by 1 December of the year prior to the year the child should enter Reception if they had not requested to defer applying.

- The AGC will convene a meeting to consider the request and will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of:

- ❖ the parent's/carer's views;
- ❖ information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- ❖ where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- ❖ whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- ❖ whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
- ❖ the Headteacher's views.

### **What happens next?**

- The AGC will inform the parents/carers of its decision on the Year group the child should be admitted to when they have to start school (i.e. Reception or Year 1) and will set out clearly the reasons for their decision. (For details of when a child has to start school -see paragraph 1 above - "Admission of children below compulsory school age and deferred entry to school");
- If the AGC agrees to the parent's/carer's request to defer the application for a

Reception place, they will inform the local authority and the parents/carers will then need to make an application for a place in Reception in the normal round of admissions in the following academic year.

**Please note** – in this following normal admissions round, if the School is oversubscribed, all applications (including deferred applications) for the School will be ranked in accordance with the School's oversubscription criteria. If the application is not successful, parents/carers will have the right to appeal but, as the purpose of the appeals process is to consider whether a child should be admitted to a particular school, parents/carers do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like;

- If the AGC does not agree to the application being deferred, there is no right of appeal against that decision and the parents/carers will need to make an application to the local authority for a place in Reception by 15 January or make an in-year application for a Year 1 place at the appropriate time.

You can read the full Admissions Code online: School admissions code - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

### **Right of appeal**

If a parent / carer is refused a place at the School, they have the right to appeal against the decision to an independent Admission Appeals Panel. Those wishing to appeal should write to or email as follows:

The Clerk to the Appeals Panel  
Bouverie Court  
6 The Lakes  
Bedford Road  
Northampton  
NN4 7YD

Email – [education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

**Date agreed by Academy Governance Committee:**