

AP1 Admissions Policy 2023/2024

Introduction

This document is a statement of the Admissions Policy 2023/2024 and will be reviewed annually.

It was compiled through a process of consultation with *Governors*

It was approved by the *Governing* body on: 10th March 2021

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all *Governors*

Dinting Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Admissions Policy

Policy No.: AP1

There is now a co-ordinated approach to admissions for Primary Schools in Derbyshire. All parents in Derbyshire must apply to the LA for primary school places on a common application form. As an Aided school the Governing Body retains the right to consider applications from parents that are passed on by the LA. All forms to be returned by the date determined with the LA under the co-ordinated arrangements.

Further information about the co-ordinated admissions scheme is available in the Authority's Parents' Information Booklet - 'How to apply for a place at Primary School - A guide for parents'.

Applications can be made either by calling 01629 533190 or online at

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx>

This policy will operate from September 2023 for all new admissions to the school. It will apply to all admissions for the year 2023-24

All children are normally admitted in the September term (single-point entry). The school will, however, support parents who express a preference to educate their four-year-old child(ren) for mornings only. If a parent is offered and accepts a place during the normal admission round but asks to defer the child's entry until he or she is of compulsory school age, the place will be held open provided it is taken up within the same academic year.

Numbers

The Governors will admit a maximum of 20 children to the Reception Class during the academic school year. The school's published admission number (PAN) is 20.

In Year Admissions

If you are moving to Derbyshire or want your child to move schools other than at the normal admission/transfer time, you will need to apply for an in-year admission. All in year admissions are managed by the Local Authority. You can apply by telephone 01629 537499, email admissions@derbyshire.gov.uk

Deferred and part-time entry

The School admits children to the Reception class in the September of the school year in which a child attains the age of 5 years. (The school year runs from 1 September to

the 31st August.) All parents/carers are entitled to a full-time place for their child in the Reception class from September, but may defer entry until the beginning of the term after their child is five years old (i.e., when the child reaches compulsory school age) or until the beginning of the Summer term whichever is earlier. Children may attend part-time until their child reaches compulsory school age. Parents/carers who have been offered a place at the school and wish to defer entry for their child and/or attend part-time must put this in writing to the Headteacher at the earliest opportunity and before the start of the Autumn term

Education out of normal (chronological) age group

Children are normally educated in school with others of their age group; however, in exceptional circumstances parents/carers may seek a place outside of their child's normal age group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case. Parents/carers must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interests and may provide recent professional evidence to support this. Further details of how to make such a request are available from the school.

Fair Access Protocols

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full and admitting children to be educated out of the normal year group.

Late Applications

A place cannot be guaranteed for any child whose parents apply after the closing date. This includes a child who moves into a school's normal area after that date. In situations where late applications are received and the school's admission number has been reached, but subsequently a place becomes available - if choices need to be made between normal area applications, those children living nearest to the school (measured by the nearest available route) will be given preference.

Over-subscription

Children who have a statement/ Education, Health care Plan which names the school will be admitted before the oversubscription criteria is applied. (this is a legal requirement)

The school will always give priority to children living in the parish of Holy Trinity, Dinting Vale, but is pleased to consider applications from families not resident in the parish, unless the total number seeking admission exceeds the school's published admission number. Where applications for admissions exceed the number of places available, the priority will be determined as follows:

- Children who are in public care (Looked After Children) and all previously looked after children including those who appear (to the admissions authority) to have been in state care outside England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order.

(By children previously in state care outside of England, we mean children who have been looked after outside of England by a public authority, a religious organisation or another provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. The care may have been provided in orphanages or other settings. Where Governors are unsure about the validity of the application advice will be sought from the Local Authority's 'Virtual School Head')

- Children resident in the ecclesiastical parish of Holy Trinity Dinting: a map is available in school
- Children who will have siblings in school on the date that they will take up the place (siblings are brothers and sisters, as well as step, half-brother/sisters adopted or fostered brothers and sister's resident at the same address).
- Children of whom at least one parent or carer has regularly (1) worshipped at their local church for a period of at least one year prior to the date of application and (2).
 - (1) Regular means an average attendance of once per month
 - (2) Church attendance must be verified by a letter, from the relevant priest, minister or churchwarden

(the application should be supported by an additional information form completed by a priest, minister or pastor indicating regularity and duration of church attendance, form attached to this policy.)

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church [or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these [admissions] arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church [or in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] or alternative premises have been available for public worship".

- Other children whose parents have requested a place

We will allow KS1 classes to exceed the statutory limit where the 31st child is a twin or from multiple births or of Armed Forces personnel. The same admission rule applies to KS2

Tie Breaker

In the event of Governors having to make a choice between applications of equal strength, places will be allocated on the basis of those children living nearest to the school (measured by a standard straight line distance**).

Footnote: ** The Children's Services Department has a Geographic Information System (GIS) to measure the straight line distance. It is measured by a standard straight line distance calculated to within two metres. This measurement is taken from the postal address file, normally the house front door. For schools the grid reference is taken from the postal address file and will normally be the centre of the school for primary phase schools.

Appeals

If a child is not offered a place, parents/carers have a statutory right to appeal. This should be done by writing to the Clerk to Governors, care of the school, no later than twenty school days after the decision letter has been received. The appeal will be arranged on behalf of the Governors by the Derby Diocese Education Board and will be heard by an independent panel. The decision of the panel will be binding on the school.

Note:

Waiting List

Children who are not offered a place will have their names entered on a waiting list in order of priority ranked by the admission criteria. The waiting list will be maintained until the 31 December of the school year that they have applied for. If a place becomes available, it will be offered to the first pupil on the waiting list.

Places on the waiting list will continue to be ranked using oversubscription criteria listed earlier during the period the waiting list is open. Accordingly, your child's position on the list could go up or down (during this period). Note that inclusion on the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available. Any late applications will be added to the list in accordance with oversubscription criteria.

Other terms used in this policy (such as distance or sibling) are defined in the same way as in the county policy for community and controlled schools.

Place of residence

Place of residence: the child's ordinary place of residence will be deemed to be a residential property at which the person or persons with parental responsibility for the

child resides at the closing date for receiving applications for admission to school. Where parental responsibility is held by more than one person and those persons reside in separate properties, the child's ordinary place of residence will be deemed to be that property at which then child resides for the greatest part of the week, including weekends. Documentary evidence of ownership or rental agreement maybe required together with proof of actual permanent residency at the property concerned.

Schools designated by the Secretary of State as having a religious character (faith schools) are exempt from the provisions making it unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of religion nor belief when oversubscribed in the terms on which it offers to admit a child as a pupil or by refusing to accept an application to admit then as a pupil. Other exceptions for faith schools concern:

- a) The content of the curriculum; and
- b) Acts of worship or other religious observance organised by or on behalf of an educational establishment (whether or not forming part of the curriculum.

Children will not be discriminated against due to religion, disability, race, colour or gender.

It is not a requirement for parents to fill in any other supplementary forms.

Infant Class Size Regulations

Infant classes of 5, 6 and 7 year olds may not, by law, contain more than 30 pupils with a single qualified teacher. Parents/carers should be aware that when the Governing Body is considering applications for places, they must keep to this limit. Parents/Carers do not have a right of appeal in accordance with Infant Class Size Regulations if the school is oversubscribed and their child is refused a place.

Applications for twins/multiple Births

Where a place is offered to a child from a twin or multiple birth the Governors will normally offer places to both twins, triplets, etc. even if this means exceeding the Published Admission Number.

Policy updated 13-09-2021

Approved by Governing Body

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

Date _____