



Admissions Policy 2017-18

Date Agreed: 16th November 2015

Review Date: November 2018

Signed: _____

Chair of the Governors

PORTSMOUTH AND WINCHESTER DIOCESAN ACADEMIES TRUST Admissions Policy

Revision Record

Revision No.	Date Issued	Prepared By	Approved	Comments
1	2 nd September 2015	AJ	Board	New policy
2	16 th November 2015	MR	Govs	Adapted PWDAT policy



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

First Floor, Peninsular House • Wharf Road • Portsmouth • PO2 8HB

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

St Blasius Church of England Academy

Admissions Policy from September 2017

Admissions to Year R

This policy will apply to all admissions from 1 September 2017, including in-year admissions.

The Local Governing Body of St Blasius Church of England Primary Academy is the admission authority for the Academy. The admission arrangements are determined by the Local Governing Body, after statutory consultation.

Applications for admissions to St Blasius Academy will be handled by the Local Authority as part of the coordinated admissions arrangements. Details of the Local Authority arrangements, which also explain how parents and carers can express a preference for any academy, and give reasons for that preference, will be available to parents. You can apply for an academy in any area but you must apply to your home authority.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for St Blasius Church of England Primary Academy is 30. The PAN is the number of places for children available in the year group above.

The policy aims to be clear, fair and objective and to comply with all relevant legislation.

Outside the normal admissions round, the Local Authority's Fair Access protocol will be applied alongside the policy to secure the admission of vulnerable pupils from specific groups.

The local governing body will admit any pupil whose final statement of special educational needs (EHCP) names St Blasius Academy. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

If St Blasius Academy is oversubscribed, places will be offered in the following priority order. Places for applications received after the deadline will be allocated using the same criteria:

Admission Criteria

Oversubscription Criteria

1. Children who are in the care of a local authority or children who have previously been in care but immediately after being in care became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.
2. Pupils with a specific medical condition, confirmed by a consultant paediatrician or similar health professional, which makes a particular Academy the most appropriate. [Any application for a place at a particular Academy for medical reasons must be supported by independent evidence supplied at the time of application confirming the reasons why attendance at the Academy is essential or that this Academy is most suitable.]
3. Pupils who, at the time of application, have an elder sibling [brother or sister]
 - Who is already at the Academy; and
 - Who will still be in attendance at the Academy on the day the applicant child starts attending should they secure a place.
4. Children for whom the Academy is the closest primary Academy to their home address at the time of application
5. Children for whom the Academy is not the closest primary Academy to their home address at the time of application.
6. If there are more applicants than remaining places within any of the above criteria the home to Academy distance will be used as a tiebreaker with those living closer being offered places first.

Additional Information

Tie-breaker

If St Blasius Academy is oversubscribed from within any of the above criteria or sub-criteria, straight line distance will be used to prioritise applications; applicants living nearer the Academy have priority. The Local Authority's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will be used to determine distances from the defined point of the home address point to defined point of the Academy.

Distances to multiple dwellings will give priority to the ground floor over the first floor and so on. On individual floors, distances will be measured to the stairs leading to the communal entrance. If distances are equal (for

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example within a block of flats), lots will be drawn by a person independent of The Local Governing Body to determine the allocation of a place.

Definitions

A Looked after children or children who were previously looked after

This criterion provides a priority for 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). It can also be used for children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. A 'residence order' is as an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

B Serious medical, physical or psychological condition

Where a place is requested for a child or family who have a serious social or medical, condition, you must supply supporting independent evidence at the time of application confirming the reason(s) why attendance at St Blasius Academy is essential rather than any other academy. You must also describe the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school/academy. The evidence should be provided by a suitably qualified medical professional. The evidence will be considered carefully in confidence by the admissions committee of The Local Governing Body, who will endeavour to reach a fair and equitable decision.

C The Catchment Area

The catchment area for St Blasius Academy is the Local Authority defined catchment area.

The child's permanent residence is where they live, normally including weekends and during school holidays as well as during the week, and should be used for the application. The permanent address of children who spend part of their week with one parent and part with the other, at different addresses, will be the address at which they spend most of their time.

Moving home & UK service personnel & crown servants

Places can only be offered on the basis of future moves on the basis of:

- a letter from the solicitor (or equivalent) confirming exchange of contracts to buy a property relevant to the application;
- a tenancy agreement confirming the renting of a specific property relevant to the application;
- a letter from a housing association confirming that the parent(s) will be living at a specific address relevant to the application; or
- in the case of UK service personnel and Crown servants, an official government letter (MOD, FCO or GCHQ) letter declaring a relocation date to the relevant parish or catchment area of the Academy (or to establish distance from the Academy).

To be considered all evidence must be submitted at the time of application.

D Siblings

'Sibling' refers to a brother or sister, half brother or half sister, adoptive brother or adoptive sister, step brother or step sister, and includes children living as siblings in the same family unit. 'It will also be applied to situations where a full or half brother or sister are living at separate addresses. Categories 3(i) and 4(i) includes children who at the time of application have a sibling for whom the offer of a place at the preferred school has been accepted, even if the sibling is not yet attending.

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Who can apply

Only a parent can apply for a place at a school. A parent is any person who has parental responsibility for or is the legal guardian of the child, as set out in the Children Act 1989.

How to apply

The Local Authority operates a Co-ordinated Admissions scheme which processes all main round (ordinary) admission applications. They also publish a Composite Prospectus which details all admission arrangements for schools within the Local Authority. Please see www.iwight.com for the prospectus and details of the scheme.

You must complete a Local Authority Application Form available from website www.iwight.com.

Offering places

The Local Governing Body will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on 15 January 2017**. Notifications to parents offering a place will be sent by the Local Authority on **18 April 2017**.

Applications made after **midnight on 15 January 2017** will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

For the normal admission round, all on-time preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria. If more than one school can offer a place, the parent's highest stated available preference will be allocated.

Pupils with a statement of special educational needs (EHCP)

The governors will admit any pupil whose education, health and care plan (previously a final statement of special educational needs) names St Blasius Academy. Where possible these children will be admitted within the PAN.

Multiple births

Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is admitted to a school under this policy then any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above St Blasius Academys's PAN.

In-year applications (ordinary)

The allocation of any places which may become available during the year will be made on the basis of the current Admissions Criteria. There are no deadline dates for in year applications. Applications must be made using the Local Authority Admission Form available on line at www.iwight.com. Any parent with parental responsibility can apply for a place for their child at any time to any school. The Local Governing Body will decide whether a place can be offered at the Academy.

In-Year Fair Access placements by the local authority

The local authority must ensure that all pupils are placed in schools and academies as quickly as possible. It may therefore sometimes be necessary for a pupil to be placed by the local authority, or a local placement panel acting on behalf of the authority, in a particular school or academy even if there is a waiting list for admission. Such placements will be made in accordance with the provisions of the local authority's In-Year Fair Access Protocol. The Protocol is based on legislation and government guidance.

Waiting lists

When all available places have been allocated a waiting list will be operated on behalf of St Blasius Academy by the IOW Local authority.

Any places that become available will be allocated according to the criteria of the admission policy with no account being taken of the length of time on the waiting list or any priority order expressed as part of the main admission round. Fair Access admissions and school closure arrangements will take priority over the waiting list.

The waiting list will be reviewed and revised:

- each time a child is added to, or removed from, the waiting list;

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- when a child's changed circumstances affect their priority;
- periodically when parents, with a child on the waiting list, will be contacted and asked if they wish to remain on the list for the following school year.

At the time of receiving an offer of a school place parents will be advised of the process for adding their child's name to a school's waiting list. Parents may keep their child's name on the waiting list of as many schools or academies as they wish and for as long as they wish.

Starting school and deferred entry to Year R

Admission authorities **must** provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. The authority **must** make it clear in their arrangements that, where they have offered a child a place at a school:

- a) that child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday;
- b) the child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made; and
- c) where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age unless a home school agreement has been put in place. The home school agreement is at the discretion of the Principal.

It is recommended that parents considering such a request contact St Blasius Academy as early as possible to ensure that an informed decision is made.

Notes on compulsory school age and summer born children

A child is not required to start school until they have reached compulsory school age following their fifth birthday. For summer born children this is almost a full school year after the point at which they could first be admitted. Compulsory school age is set out in section 8 of the Education Act 1996 and The Education (Start of Compulsory School Age) Order 1998. A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his fifth birthday (or on his fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

All children born from the beginning of April to the end of August reach compulsory school age in the September following their fifth birthday. It is likely that most requests for children to be admitted out of their normal year group will come from parents of children born in the later summer months or those born prematurely.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents who have deferred entry into Year R or of a gifted and talented child or a child who has experienced problems or missed part of a year, for example due to ill health, can request a place outside the normal age group. The Local Governing Body will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like.

Admission Appeals

If you are unsuccessful in being offered a place for your child at St Blasius Academy you will be informed by The Local Authority in writing, be given reasons for the refusal and informed of your right to an independent appeal against the decision.

Warning

Places are withdrawn every year because parents give false information on application forms, e.g. a false 'home address'. This includes cases where parents take out a short-term let or buy a property solely to use its address on the application form without any intention of taking up permanent residence there. In fairness to all parents, all allegations of fraudulent practice brought to The Local Governing Body attention will be investigated. The Local Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place if fraudulent or intentionally misleading information has been used on an application.

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Legislation

This policy takes account of all relevant legislation including the legislation on sex discrimination, race relations, and disability, together with all relevant regulations and the School Admissions Code (published by the DfE in 2014).

Further Information

If you require further information about applying for a place at St Blasius, Shanklin Church of England Primary Academy, please contact the Academy office on 01983 862444 or email admin@stblasiusacademy.iow.sch.uk