



The Diocese of Ely

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The Multi Academy Trust has a service level agreement with Cambridgeshire County Council at individual academy level.

Therefore, the academies within the Trust adopt the Admission Policies held by Cambridgeshire County Council:

**ACT MULTI ACADEMYTRUST IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL
AUTHORITY (LA)**

**DETERMINED SCHEME FOR
CO-ORDINATION OF
PRIMARY ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 - 26**

DOCUMENT CONTROL	
NAME OF POLICY	Admissions Arrangements Policy
AUTHOR	Adapted from Cambridgeshire County Council
VERSION NUMBER	1
APPLICABLE TO	All ACT Academies
APPROVED BY	Trust Board
APPROVED ON	Sept 2025
REVIEW CYCLE	Annually
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW	December 2026
PUBLISHED ON WEBSITE	Yes

1 Introduction

- 1.1 All local authorities (LA) are required¹ to formulate a scheme to co-ordinate admissions during the normal admission round to maintained primary and secondary schools (including academies but excluding special schools and maintained nursery schools) within their area.

Co-ordination for September 2025

- 1.2 Cambridgeshire County Council (LA) will notify the Secretary of State for Education that agreement to its co-ordinated scheme for admissions has been secured and has provided them with a copy.

Admission Criteria

- 1.3 Under the co-ordinated scheme, the LA, as the admission authority will set and apply the oversubscription criteria for all maintained community and voluntary controlled schools. Academies, voluntary aided, free and foundation schools continue to set and apply their own oversubscription criteria.

2 Aims of the Primary Scheme

- 2.1 Co-ordination schemes are intended to simplify the admissions process whilst reducing the likelihood of any child being left without a school place. Co-ordination establishes a mechanism that ensures that, as far as is reasonably practicable, every parent of a child living in a local authority area who has applied to a maintained school is sent a single offer of a school place by their local authority.

- 2.2 Co-ordination schemes do not affect the rights and duties of the governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools to set and apply their own admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria, nor for academies and free Schools to agree their own arrangements with the Secretary of State. Admission authorities do not have to determine the same or similar oversubscription criteria but must ensure that their own admission arrangements are compatible with, and do not undermine, the co-ordination scheme for their area. These arrangements are required to:-

- Meet all statutory requirements relating to the co-ordinated admissions process;
- Ensure that the needs of the child and the wishes of the parent(s) are the prime considerations;
- Ensure that as many parents as possible gain a place for their child at one of their preferred schools;
- Ensure that every child living in the LA area who has applied for a school place in the normal admission round is issued with an offer letter on the agreed offer letter date;
- Specify how late applications should be dealt with and how applications that fall outside of the normal admission round should be dealt with;
- Ensure that all parties to the admissions process work together to achieve the above aims, within the limits of the legislation relating to school admissions.

¹ The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements (England) Regulations 2012 No.8

3 The Scheme

3.1 The scheme shall:

- apply to all maintained including community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided, foundation and academy primary schools in the LA area;
- ensure that a fair and transparent system for the allocation of school places is achieved;
- require the LA to produce a guide for parents providing information about the primary admissions process, the application procedure and containing information relating to every Cambridgeshire maintained primary, infant and junior school, specifying the criteria by which the admission authority for each school shall determine whether a child is to be granted, or refused, admission. This guidance will be available on the LA website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions no later than 11 September;
- provide a single on-line application form enabling a parent living in LA area to apply for up to three primary² schools, whether in the LA's area or not, to give reasons for those applications and to rank them in order of preference;
- provide a paper common application form upon request for parents/carers unable to make their application through the on-line facility;
- ensure that on the national offer date (16 April, or next working day, where this is a weekend or bank holiday) a single offer of a primary school place is made by the LA to the parent of every child living within the LA area for whom an "on-time" application has been received within the published timetable;
- stipulate timetables for all aspects of the process;
- set out a procedure for determining any application made after the application deadline stipulated by the scheme;
- specify whether, in determining if a pupil is to be granted or refused a place at a school in Cambridgeshire, the LA will have regard to any information provided by another LA (co-ordination) as to whether that pupil is to be granted a place in that LA's area.

4 The Process of Allocation

Normal admission round

- 4.1. This scheme will apply to all children resident in the Cambridgeshire area who are applying for a school place for the school's initial year of entry for the start of the relevant autumn term; that is, either Reception Year (for all infant and primary schools); Year 3 (for all junior (KS2) schools) or Year 5 to other local authority area Middle Schools – the normal admission round. This scheme will apply to all admission authorities in the LA area. (Note Cambridgeshire does not have any Middle Schools).
- 4.2. Applications received for children transferring to Reception, Junior or Middle School will only be considered in the normal admission round where the year group applied for is the point of entry to the school. Applications received for schools where this is not the point of entry will be considered as an in year application and should apply when the transfer group opens.
- 4.3. For information regarding admission to these year groups and all other year groups after the start of the academic year please refer to "In Year Co-ordination – Admission Arrangements for all Maintained and Academy Schools."

² Within this scheme, 'primary' refers to any school with an initial year of intake between Reception and Year 6.

Common Application Form and the Admissions Information Booklet

- 4.4. Parents are expected and encouraged to apply online. We will, therefore, limit the availability of a paper version of the common application form; instead signposting the on-line access to as many applicants as possible.
- 4.5. The LA will provide a brief guide to the application process and information on applying for a school place in advance of the application process opening to all:

Early Years Settings, Primary and Infant schools in respect of admission to Reception; and Infant schools in respect of transfer to Junior school

- 4.6. This information will allow settings and schools to support the parents of children who are due to start or transfer to the school the following September. The Admissions Information is available online and will include information and guidance explaining the operation of the co-ordinated scheme and advice on completing the application form.
- 4.7. The on-line facility is available at: **www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions**
- 4.8. The on-line facility, or the common application form, (whichever is used by the applicant) will collect the basic pupil/parent data required by all LAs to process the application. This will include the child's name, date of birth, address, telephone number, applicant details, primary school attended (where applicable), sibling details, and whether or not the child is Child in Care (CiC) or was previously a Child in Care (PCiC), but ceased to be so by reason of adoption, a care arrangements order or special guardianship order, or an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).
- 4.9. The application form will allow parents to express a preference for up to three schools, to rank the preferences in order.

Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

- 4.10. Admission authorities, other than the LA may have their own Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for the collection of any necessary additional information from parents to enable them to apply the school's oversubscription criteria. This will include any criteria relating to church attendance.
- 4.11. A SIF must not ask:
- personal details about parents and families, such as maiden names, criminal convictions, marital, or financial status;
 - for any financial contribution, voluntary or otherwise;
 - details of parents' achievements, educational background or whether either the parents' or the child's first language is English;
 - details about parents' or children's disabilities, special educational needs or medical conditions;
 - about parents' or children's interests, hobbies or membership of societies; for parents to agree to support the ethos of the school in a practical way; or for both parents to sign the form, or for the child to complete the form.
- 4.12. Information on which schools may require a SIF will be provided in the guide for parents and on the website, where copies of the SIF will be available for download from the school websites.

- 4.13 All parents making applications for a school requiring the completion of a SIF must still complete an online/paper common application form. All SIFs must be returned directly to the school being applied for by the national closing date. Any forms, which are submitted to the LA, will be forwarded to the relevant school.

Processing Applications

- 4.14 The LA will co-ordinate all applications and the offer of places for all school places in the Cambridgeshire County Council area (being the admissions authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools and acting as a co-ordinator for all other own admission authority schools within the Cambridgeshire County Council area).

On time applications

- 4.15 An “on-time” application is an online, postal application or emailed application/preference change, submitted and received by the local authority admissions team, or a Cambridgeshire school by no later than 23:59 on the National Closing Date (see timetable in **appendix 1**), or a hand-delivered or posted paper application received at the local authority offices.

Late Applications

- 4.16 Any application for the normal admission round received after the national closing date will be deemed ‘late’. Late applications will be dealt with after all on-time applications have been processed and places allocated. Late applications will be processed in “rounds” and places will be allocated in accordance with the published timetable.

Verification of Data

- 4.17 Parents may be asked to provide proof of address by the LA at the data processing stage.

Request to Change Preferences

- 4.18 Once an application form has been received no changes can be made to that application after the National Closing Date has passed, unless there is a genuine reason for the change (such as a change of address or siblings have changed schools). A second deadline date (see timetable in appendix 1) applies for such changes.

- 4.19 Parents or carers wishing to amend preferences after the closing date, will need to complete a “Change of Preference” Form, which will be available from the LA webpages, or by contacting the School Admissions Team. The new application will replace any previous application(s) made. This means that parents must include any schools from previous applications if they would like them to remain as a live preference. If a school is no longer included on the most recent application form the parent, or carer, will be agreeing they are refusing any previous offer made for that school and any right of appeal against refusal of a place at that school. The parent will also be agreeing to their child's name is to be removed from any waiting list for any school refused that is not included on a preference on the most recent application form. This ensures that a parent will have a maximum of three live preference for the normal year of entry at any one time.

Children of UK Service Personnel (UK Armed Forces)

- 4.20 Applications received for children of UK Service Personnel will be accepted in accordance with the requirements of 2.21 of the School Admissions Code. Applications submitted after the national closing date will be accepted and treated as having been received “on-time” where this is received with documentation specified in 2.21 of the

School Admissions Code provided this received by the second deadline date specified in the timetable in **appendix 1**.

Applicants Moving into Cambridgeshire

- 4.21 Applications submitted after the closing date but before the second deadline, will only be accepted and treated as having been received “on time” where a parent can demonstrate a valid reason for not meeting the closing date in accordance with recommendations within the School Admissions Code. This will include parents moving into the LA area from other parts of England and Wales, who have made an on-time application to the local authority admissions team in which they previously live.

All Preferences Equal

- 4.22 Parental preferences will be ranked by the relevant authority within the LA area according to the oversubscription criteria for the relevant school. The order of preference will not affect this ranking as the system operated is one where ‘all preferences are equal’.
- 4.23 Own admission authority schools, who have chosen not to buy-back the validation service from the LA, will receive, through the Schools Portal, information about all preferences received for their school and will be asked to rank these preferences in accordance with the published timetable. Children will be ranked according to the school’s determined over-subscription criteria and not by the order of their preference. These schools will provide the LA through the Schools Portal how these applications have been ranked in accordance with their admission policy and return this to the LA in accordance with the published timetable.

Allocation of Places

- 4.24 The LA, using preference and oversubscription criteria rankings (including those supplied by own admission authority schools), will allocate places according to each parent’s preference ranking, as follows:
- Where a parent’s first preference can be met, a place will be allocated at that school. The LA will then ‘discard’, i.e. not consider, any lower ranked preferences.
 - Where a parent’s first preference cannot be met, but the second preference can, a place will be allocated at the second preference school. The child’s name will be placed on the waiting list for the first preference school ranked according to their oversubscription criteria. The third preference will be ‘discarded’ i.e. not be considered.
 - Where a parent’s first and second preference cannot be met, but the third preference can, a place will be allocated at the third preference school. The child’s name will be placed on the waiting list for the first and second preference schools ranked according to their oversubscription criteria.
 - Where none of the parent’s preferences can be met, a place will be allocated at the next nearest school to the home address with available places (if the child resides in the Cambridgeshire County Council area). The child’s name will be placed on the waiting list for first, second and third preference schools ranked according to their oversubscription criteria.

Co-ordination with Other Local Authorities

- 4.25 The LA will, wherever possible, take account of higher preference offers that can be made by another local authority where notification of these is received in accordance with the published timetable.

Offer Letters

- 4.26 Parents will receive one offer of a school place. Offer letters or emails, will provide parents with the reasons for refusing their child at their first, second or third preference schools (if applicable). It will explain that they have the right to appeal against those refusals. Parents will also be able to log back into their online accounts after the National Offer date to see the school allocation if an online application was made.

Reply to an offer

- 4.27 Parents are required to accept/refuse the allocation of a school place within 10 school days of the offer being sent or posted. During that period the allocated school will attempt to contact parents to confirm if the place offered is to be accepted, or refused. It is the school's responsibility to ensure that contact is made with the applicant.

Refusing an offer

- 4.28 **Parents should not refuse the offer of a place unless they are certain of a place at an alternative school.** (This does not remove a parent's right of appeal, but should ensure that all children have a school place.)

Co-ordination after allocation day (16 April)

- 4.29 The School Admissions Code (page 37 "The Admissions Timeline") clarifies that parents must continue to apply to their home local authority for "late" applications for the normal admissions round (i.e. between 17 April and 31 August for reception places and junior/middle transfer). This will ensure that places which become available are re-allocated effectively and duplicate offers are avoided.

5. Waiting Lists

- 5.1. Waiting lists for all oversubscribed primary schools will be maintained by the LA until 31 December. Waiting lists are held in strict oversubscription criteria order. Applicants will be ranked according to each individual school's oversubscription criteria. Own admissions authority schools who process their own 'in year' admissions will from the 1st September take over the waiting lists and allocate directly.
- 5.2 After the offer date there will be no distinction between 'on-time' and 'late' applications on waiting lists.
- 5.3 Schools must advise the LA when a place becomes available. The LA will then offer the place to the child who is at the top of the waiting list.
- 5.4 If, after a child is offered a place at a lower preference school which they have not yet started, a place becomes available at a higher preference school and their name has been added to the waiting list for that school, the original offer will remain and the new offer will be provisional until accepted. The reason for this is that the child will not yet have started or placed on roll at that lower preference school and we are obliged to meet a parent's highest preference. If a parent is happy to accept and keep the lower preferred offer, they must inform the LA within 10 days to remove them from the higher preference school's waiting list.
- 5.5 After the offer date, if a parent wishes their child to be considered for an alternative school, a new application form must be completed listing the new order of preferences

Appendix 1

Primary Admissions – Timetable for Admissions 2025 - 2026

DATE	EVENT
By 11 September 2025	Application process goes live. On-line application facility opens, composite prospectus are available on-line and in hard copy on request. Hard copy application forms are available on request.
	LA Admissions Team sends information to all registered Early Years settings in Cambridgeshire information to be forwarded to the parents of children due to start school in the 2025-2026 school year.
By 9 December	Email to Cambridgeshire Infant schools and Early Years Settings with reminder letter to be issued to all children due to start school or to transfer to Junior school
On or by 6 January	Email to Cambridgeshire Infant schools with reminder letter to be issued to all children due to start school or to transfer to Junior school
15 January 2026	CLOSING DATE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS AND SIFS (to be classed as 'on-time') Please see point 4.15
24 January	All applications collected by schools must be received by the LA Admissions Team.
31 January	Final date change requests linked to changes of address and applications from UK Service Personnel will be accepted (Second Deadline)
17 February	LA sends details of all applications to neighbouring LA's
3 March	LA sends details of all applications to own Admission Authority Schools with non-standard criteria.
	Voluntary Aided, Foundation and Academy schools send reminder letters to parents who have not submitted any required SIF, apply their own criteria and rank the preferences received.
17 February	SAT Team must have informed pupils with an EHCP of the school named in their statement.
17 March	Voluntary Aided, Foundation and Academy schools send the LA their lists ranked according to criteria.
2 April	Final data exchange with other LAs
7 April	LA processes applications following exchange of data with other LAs and criteria ranking and begins final allocation process
10 April	All allocations completed.
	LA notifies final allocation details are on the portal to all Cambridgeshire primary Schools
	Infant schools receive details via portal of which Junior Schools their children have been allocated
	LA prints all offer letters via post room.
16 April 2026	NATIONAL PRIMARY OFFER DATE Email confirmation/Offer letters sent to parents via Royal Mail by 2 nd class post, or by email in cases where the parent has applied online
	Parents asked to return a reply slip if they do not wish to take up the offered place.
	Parents also informed of right of appeal against any refusal and to whom to appeal. Places declined by parents are allocated to those on the reserve list in order of ranking.
17 April 2026	Vacancies arising as a result of offers being refused by parents will be offered to children at top of reserve lists created following National Offer Date

1 May 2026	No further changes to preference or allocation from reserve lists will be processed or made until offer have been made as part of Second Round
2 May	LA processes applications received between 16 January and 2 May 2025 (Second Round)
14 May	Deadline for parents to submit appeal forms in order to ensure appeal is heard within 40 school days
19 May	LA issues offer letters by 2 nd class post to those parents whose application was considered in Second Round including places to children on a reserve list where a place has become available.
20 May – 31 August	LA processes all late applications received after 3 May 2025 on an individual basis in order of the date the application was received.
3 June	Junior/Y3 only Offers are sent by 2 nd class post to parents of children who are known to the LA for whom an application has not been submitted.
15 July	Statutory deadline by which all appeals submitted by 14 May 2025 must be heard.
	Allocation list available on the school's portal.
1 September	In Year Co-ordination commences

Appendix 2

PRIMARY ADMISSION AUTHORITIES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridgeshire LA	On behalf of all community and voluntary controlled primary schools
Abbots Ripton	Voluntary Aided Church of England
Alderman Jacobs, Whittlesey	Academy
All Saints, March	Academy Inter-church
Babraham	Academy
Bar Hill	Academy
Barton	Voluntary Aided Church of England
Bottisham	Academy
Bourn	Academy
Buckden	Academy
Burrowmoor, March	Academy
Bury	Academy
Cavalry	Academy
Chesterton, Cambridge	Academy
Cromwell Academy	Academy
Cromwell CC Primary	Academy
Crosshall Infant, St Neots	Academy
Crosshall Junior, St Neots	Academy
Ditton Lodge	Academy
Downham Feoffees	Academy
Earith	Academy
Elm P	Academy
Elm Road	Academy
Elsworth P	Voluntary Aided Church of England
Elton	Voluntary Aided Church of England
Ely St. Mary's Junior	Academy
Ermine Street, Alconbury Weald	Academy
Farcet	Academy
Fawcett, Cambridge	Foundation (in Federation)
Fen Ditton	Academy

Gamlingay VCP School	Academy
Girton Glebe	Academy
Glebelands	Academy
Godmanchester Community Academy	Academy
Godmanchester Bridge	Academy
Gorefield	Academy
Gt & Lt Shelford	Voluntary Aided Church of England
Great Staughton	Academy
Great Wilbraham	Academy
Guilden Morden	Academy
Guyhirn	Academy
Hartford I	Academy
Hartford J	Academy
Hatton Park, Longstanton	Academy
Histon & Impington Park Primary	Academy
Histon & Impington Brook Primary	Academy
Holme	Academy
Icknield	Foundation with a trust
Isle of Ely	Academy
Jeavons Wood, Cambourne	Academy
Kennett	Academy
Kimbolton	Academy
Kingsfield	Academy
Lantern	Academy
Leverington	Academy
Linton Infant	Voluntary Aided Church of England
Linton Heights J	Academy
Little Thetford	Academy
Marleigh Primary	Academy
Meadow, Balsham	Academy
Mepal and Witcham	Academy
Middlefield, St Neots	Academy
Millfield	Academy

Milton P	Academy
Murrow	Academy
Nene Infant, Wisbech	Academy
New Road, Whittlesey	Academy
Northstowe CC Primary Phase	Academy
Oakington	Academy
Offord	Academy
Orchards P	Academy
Park Lane P	Academy
Park Street, Cambridge	Voluntary Aided Church of England
Pathfinder P, Northstowe	Academy
Peckover, Wisbech	Academy
Petersfield, Orwell	Voluntary Aided Church of England
Queen Edith, Cambridge	Foundation (in Federation)
Queen Emma, Cambridge	Foundation (in Federation)
Ramnoth Junior, Wisbech	Academy
Ramsey J	Academy
Ridgefield, Cambridge	Foundation
Round House, St Neots	Academy
Sawtry J	Academy
Spinning I	Academy
St Albans, Cambridge	Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic
St Andrew's, Soham	Academy
St Anne's, Godmanchester	Voluntary Aided Church of England
St Helen's, Bluntisham	Foundation
St John's, Huntingdon	Academy
St Laurence, Cambridge	Academy
St Luke's, Cambridge	Academy
St Mary's, St Neots	Academy
St Paul's, Cambridge	Voluntary Aided Church of England

St Peter's Junior, Wisbech	Academy
St Philip's, Cambridge	Voluntary Aided Church of England
Somersham	Academy
Spaldwick	Academy
Stapleford	Academy
Stilton	Academy
Swaffham Bulbeck	Academy
Swaffham Prior	Academy
Teversham	Voluntary Aided Church of England
The Galfrid	Academy
The Shade, Soham	Academy
The Vine, Cambourne	Voluntary Inter Church Aided
The Weatheralls	Academy
Thomas Eaton P, Wimblington	Academy
Thongsley Fields	Academy
Thriplow	Academy
Trumpington Meadows	Foundation (in Federation)
Trumpington Park	Academy
Upwood	Academy
University of Cambridge	Academy
Warboys	Academy
Westwood	Academy
Wheatfields, St Ives	Foundation
William de Yaxley Junior	Academy
Winhills, St Neots	Academy
Wintringham	Academy
Wisbech St Mary	Academy

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The School Admissions Code is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>

The School Admissions Regulations 2012 are available at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/8/contents/made>

DETERMINED

ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE FOR ADMISSION IN 2025 - 26 AND LOCALLY AGREED PROTOCOLS AND DEFINITIONS

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The Local Authority (LA), as the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in the Cambridgeshire County Council relevant area, is responsible for ensuring that when changes were proposed to these arrangements, they are subject to consultation for a period of six weeks which must start no earlier than 1 October and be completed by 31st January in the determination year.
- 1.2** Changes are being proposed for September 2025 as a result of the following:
- issues that have arisen throughout the last year with regard to the administration of applications;
 - changes in the accommodation and organisation of certain schools;
 - legislative changes; and
 - as the result of a determination made by the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator.
- 1.3** This document details the proposed arrangements for the 2025/26 academic year.

2. PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBERS & CATCHMENT AREAS

- 2.1** As part of the admission arrangements for a school, the admission authority must set an admission number for the "relevant age group" i.e., the age group at which pupils are, or will normally be admitted to the school e.g., Reception, or Year 7. This is known as the Published Admission Number (PAN).
- 2.2** The School Admissions Code (2021) states that admission authorities are not required to consult on any proposals to increase a school's PAN. However, the PAN for a school should have regard to the capacity of the school.
- 2.3** Changes to the PAN at schools for which the LA is the admission authority are being proposed where:
- a request has been received from the governing body or academy trust; and
 - the LA, as the admission authority for the school, considers a change to the PAN would be appropriate to reflect the circumstances of a particular school; or
 - a recalculation of the school capacity indicates a change would be appropriate; and
 - it is possible to have a more practical number;

- 2.3** Your views are sought on the following proposed changes, outlined in 2.4 below, which have been agreed by the governing bodies of the schools concerned and the local authority, as the admission authority for the school. If approved these changes will apply to the intake cohort with effect from September 2026 entry

2.4 Proposed changes to the PAN for admission to the school in September 2025 are: -

PAN reductions:

- Wilburton reduction of PAN from 20 to 15
- Meridian Primary School reduction of PAN 45 to 30
- Thorndown Primary School reduction of PAN 90 to 60

2.5 Own Admission Authorities:

Consulting on their admission policies for 2025/26:

St Albans

St Laurence Catholic Primary

Queens Federation (Queen Edith and Queen Emma)

Thomas Clarkson Academy – Brooke Weston Trust

The Wisbech Academy – Brooke Weston Trust

Comberton Village College – The Cam Acadmey Trust

For further information about these proposed changes, please contact the school direct.

3. CO-ORDINATED SCHEME

3.1 The application process and timetable will be as described within the co-ordinated scheme. Full details are contained in: -

- Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2025 – 2026
- Co-ordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2025 – 2026

Both documents, and other related documents can be found at [Annual Consultation 2025-26](#)

4. OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED AND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Over-Subscription Criteria for admission to Cambridgeshire Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Infant Schools in 2025-26

Children who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names the school will be admitted. NB. Those children with an EHCP that does not name the school will be referred to the Statutory Assessment Team (SAT) to determine an appropriate place.

1. Children in Care, previously known as Looked After Children¹ (LAC), and children who were previously Children in Care but ceased to be so by reason of adoption, a residence order (now known as a child arrangement order) or special guardianship order.
2. Children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceases to be in state care as a result of being adopted²
3. Children living in the catchment area with a sibling at the school (or a partner junior school) at the time of admission.

¹ A Child in Care is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions

² A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society

4. Children living in the catchment area.
5. Children living outside the catchment area who have a sibling at the school (or a partner junior school) at the time of admission.
6. Children of members of staff, provided that they have been employed for a minimum of two years and/or are recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.
7. Children who live outside the catchment area, but nearest the school as measured by a straight line.

Under each criterion, in cases of equal merit, priority will go to children living nearest the school as measured by a straight line.

4.2 Criteria for Junior Schools:

Children who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names the school will be admitted. NB. Those children with an EHCP that does not name the school will be referred to Student Assessment to determine an appropriate place.

1. Children in Care, previously known as Looked After Children³ (LAC), and children who were previously Children in Care but ceased to be so by reason of adoption, a residence order (now known as a child arrangement order) or special guardianship order.
2. Children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceases to be in state care as a result of being adopted⁴
3. Children who live in the catchment area, attend the partner infant school and who have a sibling at the school (or the partner infant school) at the time of admission.
4. Children who live in the catchment area who have a sibling at the school (or the partner infant school) at the time of admission;
5. Children who live in the catchment area and who are attending the partner infant school.
6. Children living in the catchment area.
7. Children who live outside the catchment area, but who are attending the partner infant school and have a sibling at the school (or the partner infant school) at the time of admission.
8. Children who live outside the catchment area but have a sibling at the school (or the partner infant school) at the time of admission.
9. Children who live outside the catchment area, but who attend the partner infant school.
10. Children of members of staff, provided that they have been employed for a minimum of two years and/or are recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.
11. Children who live outside the catchment area, but nearest the school as measured by a straight line.

Under each criterion, in cases of equal merit, priority will go to children living nearest the school as measured by a straight line.

5. DEFINITIONS

³ A Child in Care is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions

⁴ A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society

5.1 Unless otherwise stipulated by an academy, a foundation or voluntary-aided school governing body, the following definitions will apply for all schools in Cambridgeshire.

5.2 Distances within Cambridgeshire are calculated by measuring a straight line from **the reference point of the home** as determined by the Ordnance Survey (OS) Address Base Premium™ to:

- **the reference point of the primary school** as determined by the Ordnance Survey (OS) Address Base Premium™ ; or
- **the main pupil entrance to the secondary school**, (with the exception of Longsands Academy please see their admission criteria).

For families who live outside the area covered by the Cambridgeshire mapping system, straight line distances are determined using a combination of local maps and on-line resources. Distances for transport purposes are measured by the shortest available walking route.

In the event of (a) two or more children living at the same address point (e.g., children resident in a block of flats) or (b) two addresses measuring the same distance from the school, the ultimate tiebreaker will be random selection, witnessed by a Council officer, who is independent of the Admissions Team.

5.3 Home address – the address given on a child's application should be the child's permanent or main residence at the time school places are allocated. This should also be the address where the child will be residing when they start school in the September. A child's application can only be considered from **one** home address. Therefore, their "main residence" must be the address at which they spend the majority of their school nights. An address used for before and after-school childcare arrangements will **not** be considered appropriate.

5.4 Shared responsibility – where more than one adult shares parental responsibility and they live at different addresses, it is important that agreement is reached, prior to making the application, on which schools will be named on the application form. If different applications are received, or the Admissions Team is made aware of a dispute between two parents, all applications will be placed on hold and will **not** be processed until such time that:

- one joint application is made; or
- written agreement is provided from **both** parents; or
- a court order is obtained confirming which parent's application carries precedence.

5.5 Future House Moves - Places cannot be allocated on the basis of an intended future change of address, unless the new address has been confirmed by exchange of contracts, for a house purchase or the signing of a formal lease agreement.

5.6 Moving House - If a family move address at any point during the admissions process, either within Cambridgeshire or into Cambridgeshire, it is **their** responsibility to immediately inform the Admissions Team, in writing, of this change, and provide proof of their new address. Failure to do this may invalidate a child's application.

5.7 Parent - A person who is either the child's birth or adoptive parent, has parental responsibility for the child or an adult who has delegated responsibility for the child, for which confirmation will be requested.

5.8 Siblings - children aged between 4 and 16, living together in the same family unit, who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application and admission to the school. Sibling includes:

- brother, or sister;
- half-brother, or sister;
- adopted brother, or sister;
- child of the parent/carer or their partner;
- children in Care, or previously Child in Care. This doesn't include children temporarily living in the same household - for example a looked a child in short-term, or interim, foster placement.

In every case, the sibling must be living permanently in the same family home (at least Monday to Friday) and must be on the roll of the school or have been offered and accepted a place at the school at the time of application and when the child starts".

5.9 Previously Children in Care - a child who was previously Child in Care but immediately after being in care became subject to an adoption, residence (now known as a child arrangement order⁵), or special guardianship order, under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

5.10 Members of Staff – a member of staff refers to a member of teaching staff employed by the school. Over subscription criterion of a school will determine whether current member of staff or length of service required.

6. INFANT CLASS SIZE

6.1 Infant classes (those where the majority of children will reach the age of 5, 6 or 7 during the school year) must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single school teacher. Additional children may be admitted under very limited exceptional circumstances as "excepted pupils".

6.2 With effect from admissions made from September 2016 these children will remain an "excepted pupil" for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit.

6.3 The exceptional circumstances cover:

- a) children with EHCPs of special educational needs admitted outside the normal admission round;
- b) Children in Care and previously Children in Care admitted outside the normal admission round;
- c) children admitted, after initial allocation of places, because of a procedural error, made by the admission authority or local authority in the original application process;
- d) children admitted after an independent appeals panel upholds an appeal;
- e) children who move into the area outside the normal admission round for whom there is no other available school within a reasonable distance;
- f) children of UK service personnel admitted outside the normal admission round;
- g) twins and children from multiple births when one of the siblings is the 30th child admitted;
- h) children with SEN who are normally taught in an SEN unit attached to the school, or registered at a special school, who attend some infant classes within the mainstream school.

⁵ as amended in S.14 of the Children and Families Act 2014

7. LOCAL PROTOCOL - TREATMENT OF SIBLINGS WHEN A CHILD APPLIES FOR, BUT IS UNSUCCESSFUL IN, SECURING A PLACE AT THEIR CATCHMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 7.1** On occasion, as part of the allocation for on time applications, it is not possible to meet parental preference for a child's catchment primary school, and the child is directed to the next nearest alternative school with a place available. When this situation arises, and after the child has started at the school in September, parents will often wish to place siblings at the same school.
- 7.2** In this situation, once the child has started at the alternative school, applications received for their siblings will be processed as if the siblings were in-catchment siblings provided that the parent has brought this up to the attention of Admission Team and the family still lives at the same address used to determine the original application.

8. LOCAL PROTOCOL ON CLASS SIZES WITHIN KS2 IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- 8.1** As there is no statutory size limits on Key Stage 2 classes (Years 3-6), the LA currently seeks agreement with head teachers of maintained, or academy, primary schools to admit up to 32 children in mixed-age classes and up to 34 children in single year group classes for the admission of catchment children.
- 8.2** Exception to this will be sought, in discussion with the school and its governing body, where twins and children of multiple births apply for a place at a school and one of the siblings would be either the 32nd or 34th to be admitted.

9. 9. ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL AGE GROUP

Accelerated, or Delayed Entry to Reception Year, or Year 7

- 9.1** Parents of summer born, gifted and talented children, or those who have experienced problems or missed part of a year, for example due to ill health, can seek places only in exceptional circumstances – please refer to the LA website for further information.
- 9.2** Where a child is already attending a school a decision will be made based on the individual circumstances of the case and determined by the school following a discussion between the headteacher, professionals and the parent.
- 9.3** When a parent is seeking the delay of a Summer Born Reception, their application should be received by the end of February 2025, in year in which they will reach the age of 4 for review and decision will be made by the LA.
- 9.4** Full details of how to make an application can be found on the Council's website.

Admission to other year groups following in-year admission

- 9.5** All in-year admission offers will be made according to the child's chronological age. When a parent believes that their child should be educated in a higher, or lower, year group, this must be discussed in the first instance with the Headteacher of the school.

Deferred Admission to Reception Year

- 9.6** The School Admission Code requires that all admission authorities **must** provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. This means that where a child is offered a Reception Year place at the school, as part of the normal admissions round:

- 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.

10. WAITING LISTS

- 10.1 The LA will maintain waiting lists for own admission authority schools in accordance with the Service Level Agreement between the governing body and the Admissions Team.
- 10.2 Where a waiting list is maintained by the Admissions Team, children will be automatically placed on the list for a school(s) ranked as higher preferences than the school offered.
- 10.3 Parents will continue to have the right of appeal against any refusal of a place and be able to reapply for a place the following year.
- 10.4 Where a place becomes available and can be offered to a child on a waiting list, the parent will be given up to either 10 days in which to indicate whether they wish to accept the place, whether they have been notified of this place by letter or email. If no response is received within the specified time period and the school has been unable to make contact with the applicant after robust attempts, the offer is void and the child's details will be removed from the waiting list and the place offered to the next child on the waiting list.

11. IN YEAR ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

- 11.1 Full details of the Co-ordinated In-Year Scheme and the Cambridgeshire Fair Access Protocol can be found in separate documents at;

[Annual Consultation 2025-26](#)

12. SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS

- 12.1 Sixth Form Admission Policies are published by the individual schools, as they are all own admission authority schools and should be available from the schools' websites.

13. WHERE TO FIND FULL VERSIONS OF THE DOCUMENTS

- 14.1 Details of all consultation documents can be found at
- 14.2 The Department for Education School Admissions Code can be found at:

[School admissions code 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

15. CONTACT

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