



Admissions Policy 2022/23 Wiltshire

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Admissions Policy - Primary Schools, Wiltshire 2022/23

NB: A revised School Admissions Code is anticipated in the early part of 2021; changes may be required to this policy before or after the date of determination.

Introduction

This policy has been written on behalf of all The White Horse Federation (TWHF) Schools. Applications to attend any TWHF Schools are welcomed from all families. As the Federation is a Multi Academy Trust, the Directors of the trust are responsible for their own Admission Policy and arrangements are in line with the Admissions Code of Practice and the Local Authority's Admissions Schemes.

Timing of Admission

Pupils will normally be admitted at age four in the September of the school year during which they reach their fifth birthday. The School Admissions Code requires school admission authorities to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. However, 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.

In recognition of the fact that some parents will feel their child is simply not ready to start school in the September following their fourth birthday, there is flexibility in the admissions code. Parents can request that their child attends part-time until they reach compulsory school age, or that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the same academic year. In addition, a parent is able to request that their child is admitted outside of their normal age group.

The admissions code requires the admission authority of TWHF schools to make the decision, and is clear that admission authorities must make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case. It would be unlawful for an admission authority to have a blanket policy which says that summer born children who start school in the September after their fifth birthday will be admitted to year 1. TWHF Academy Trust is the admission authority for its academies and free schools.

If a summer born child begins school in the September after their fifth birthday, this is the point at which other children in their age group are moving from the reception class to year 1. A reception class is defined by section 142 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as a class in which education is provided which is suitable for children aged five and any children under or over five who is it is expedient to educate with pupils of that age. In addition, the glossary to the admissions code refers to a reception class as 'an entry class to primary schools'. There are no statutory barriers to admitting a child of 5 years to a reception class.

The law does not prescribe the year group a child should be admitted to. There is no statutory barrier to children being educated outside their normal year group. Special educational needs are just one of a number of reasons why a child may be educated

outside their normal year group. Parents should discuss this as soon as possible with the schools they are interested in applying for within TWHF. Parents should make it clear that they wish to apply for a reception place a year later than the year into which the child could have been admitted.

Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent admission appeal panel. They 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. However, they may make a complaint. All schools have a duty to consider complaints about the school and must have a published complaints procedure in place.

In the case of foundation and voluntary aided schools, academies and free schools, parents should make a complaint under the school's complaints procedure - because the governing body or academy trust is the admission authority.

Timing of Applications

All Primary Schools in Wiltshire are required to participate in the Wiltshire co-ordinated admissions scheme and Wiltshire Local Authority (LA) has set up a standard common application Form for all schools.

Important dates for admission to TWHF SCHOOLS in September 2022:

For Children Born between	1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018
01/09/2021	Applications can be made
15/01/2022	Deadline for on time applications
19/04/2021	Offers made to Wiltshire residents
29/04/2021	Deadline for parents to accept place

Late Applications

Applications received after the closing date given above will be considered as late applications. This means that they will be considered after all on-time applications have been considered.

Religious Character of Seend and Forest & Sandridge Schools (applies to applications to these schools only)

Seend and Forest & Sandridge Schools are designated with a religious character. The Schools' religious authority is the Diocese of Salisbury. The Schools must have regard to its religious authority when setting the terms of its admission arrangements.

Recognising their historic foundations, the Schools will preserve and develop their religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the churches at parish and diocesan level. The Schools aim to support children and their families by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. They encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experience they offer to all their pupils.

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 for the period when the church (or in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship) or alternative premises have been made available for public worship.

Over-Subscriptions Criteria for the White Horse Federation Wiltshire Schools

The Published Admissions Number (PAN) from Reception to Year 6 are as follows:

School Name	PAN
Zouch Academy & Nursery	60
Southbroom Infant School	60
Forest and Sandridge C of E Primary School	60
The Manor C of E Primary School (under consultation)	30
Seend Church of England Primary School	16
St Georges C of E Primary School	15
St Marys Broughton Gifford	15
Bowerhill Primary School	60
Shaw C of E Primary School	30
Larkhill Primary School	60

Primary School Oversubscriptions

In all admissions cases all applications will be agreed until the admission number is reached. Unfortunately, there may be occasions where a year group is over-subscribed and in these circumstances a set procedure will be followed to ensure places are allocated fairly. All applications will be ranked in order of the oversubscription criteria in these cases.

The oversubscription criteria is as follows:

A child who has a statement of special educational need or an Education Health and Care Plan is required to be admitted to the school.

Priority 1.

A looked after child or previously looked after child, and those that have been in state care outside of England.

A looked after child or a child that was previously looked within England and outside of England, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order)

This change will be introduced for children that appear to be looked after outside of England only as a mandatory requirement under a revised School Admissions Code 2021. We anticipate that the Code will be revised in spring 2021. If the revision comes into force before this policy is determined, it will be included. If the revision comes into force after determination, it will be absent from the policy and will be added when it is required.

Priority 2.

Any child who has a sibling attending the same TWHF School at the time he or she is due to be admitted, this does not apply to admission to Melksham Oak or Devizes Secondary School, when a child is moving from Primary to Secondary School. A child who attends a TWHF Primary School does not have an automatic entitlement to attend Melksham Oak or Devizes Secondary School.

Priority 2.1

Forest and Sandridge only. For admissions between September 2020 and July 2027 children who have a sibling who is already on roll at the school by September 2019 and who live in the previous catchment area (as specified on the school website) will be considered under these criteria.

Priority 3.

Any child of a staff member employed by TWHF for at least 2 years can apply for a TWHF school that is within the area of the child's home address. Or a staff member who will meet a clear national skills shortage, for example Maths teacher (please complete Appendix 1 – Supplementary Information)

Priority 4.

Any child living within the school's catchment area (details available from the School and LA)

Priority 4.1

Seend School only. Children living outside the Catchment Area who meet the faith criterion. A child living outside the Catchment Area is eligible for this category where the child is a regular practising Christian at a Recognised Church or Religious Group.

Priority 5.

Any child not living in the school's catchment area.

Decider

If the school is oversubscribed with any of the above categories, the straight-line distance from the child's home address to the school will be used as the determining factor. Distances will be supplied by the LA and these will measure the straight line distance using Ordnance Survey eastings and northings for the child's home

address and the school. Those with the least distance will be given priority. In the event of there being equal distance the priority will be decided by random allocation living closer to the school will be given priority. This will be witnessed by the LA.

Definitions and Details

Children with Special Educational Needs/Education Health and Care Plans

Pupils with a statement of special educational needs or Education Health and Care Plans are required to be admitted to the school named on their statement or plan. Once a statement reaches the formal proposed stage the administration of the admission of the young person becomes the responsibility of Special Educational Needs Assessment Team (SENAT) at which point this policy ceases to apply.

Children Looked After

A "Looked after child" or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in the care as a result of being adopted. A Looked after Child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided 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. If children have ever been Looked After or Adopted or subject to residency or special guardianship order, evidence would need to be provided and the LA reserve the right to ask the parent to provide this.

This change will be introduced for children that appear to be looked after outside of England only as a mandatory requirement under a revised School Admissions Code 2021. We anticipate that the code will be revised in spring 2021. If the revision comes into force before this policy is determined, it will be included. If the revision comes into force after determination, it will be absent from the policy and will be added when we are required to do so.

Sibling

A sibling is defined as a child attending the preferred school at the same time as he or she is due to be admitted, who is 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 where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

Where the sibling of the child making the application is under assessment for a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health and Care Plan, then they will be counted as a sibling from the time that the school is named on the final plan.

Multiple Births

If necessary, the school will admit over its PAN to accommodate siblings born at the same time (e.g. twins, triplets etc.) In such cases the school can admit over its PAN to accommodate such children. In the case of Infant Class Sizes (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) class size must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single school teacher, however, additional children may be admitted in limited exceptional circumstances, and in accordance with the School Admissions Code, twins and children from multiple births are classed as "excepted pupils" to this legislation. Therefore, if one child of a multiple birth is offered the last available space at the school (according to the PAN), the offers will be made to all the children of that particular multiple birth. Those children would remain an exception to infant class size for the entire time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit.

Children of Staff

Staff are defined as employees being on the permanent payroll of The White Horse Federation for two years. The complete of a supplementary form is required for consideration under this oversubscription criteria (priority 3)

Supplementary Information Form

The Local Authority Admission form will be used as the only application form for TWHF Primary Schools. No supplementary information will be required with the exception of information relating to priority 3, see appendix 1.

Children of Serving Armed Forces Personnel

When service families are moving to the area the LA will accept their application and allocate a place for children in advance of the families' arrival. Parents of other children applying for places may then need to be advised that the school is full. Below is the guidance outlined in paragraph 7.28 of the Code of Practice:

7.28- Children of UK Service personnel and other Crown servants (including Diplomats)

These families are subject to frequent movement within the UK and from abroad, often at relatively short notice. LEAs and school admission authorities should ensure that the needs of the children of these families are taken into account. Although they are not allowed to reserve places for blocks of these children, admission authorities may accept applications from parents returning to their area some months in advance and may allocate a school place.

Catchment Area

A catchment area is a geographical zone served by a school. The address that determines a child's designated area is the place where s/he is ordinarily resident with his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Most schools have a catchment area but some addresses fall within areas shared by two or more schools.

Home Address

The home address given on the application form must be the address where the child resides for most of the week with his or her parent or carer. Where a child has a

joint address, then the address where the child Tax Credit / child benefit is paid will be taken as the child's home address. Evidence may be required in this instance.

Nurseries

Where a Nursery provision is in place: children will be admitted to the Nursery Department during the term following their 3rd birthday. The exact age of admission however is determined by the availability of places.

Children may be registered for the Nursery in the year in which they are 3. The number of Nursery places available is as per below:

School Name	Nursery Planned Admissions
Zouch Academy & Nursery	64
Forest and Sandridge C of E Primary School	52
Southbroom Infants & Devizes Pre-School	30

Where applications for admission to Nursery exceed the number of places available, the above criteria for admissions will be applied. In the event of over-subscription when the above criteria have been applied, priority will be given to the eldest applicant.

Please note that the parents whose children go the nursery must complete a Primary Common application form for their Reception application to be valid.

Placement in a Nursery setting does not give your child automatic entry into Reception class. All applications for entry to Reception class will be considered in line with the deadline for entry admissions (see above)

2-Year-Old Provision

A 2-year-old provision, for children who qualify to receive the Early Education Entitlement, is available at the following premises:

School Name	Nursery Planned Admissions
Southbroom Infants & Devizes Pre-School	20

We welcome pupils with special educational needs and disabilities however due to the nature and layouts of the premises and provision of the above schools, every application to the 2-year-old provision will be assessed individually to ensure the medical, physical and emotional needs of the child can be met. All schools will comply with their obligations under the Equality Act 2010

Applications at Other Times of the Year (In-Year Applications)

All applicants for a school place must complete an application form which should be returned to the LA not direct to the school. The applicant may or may not live in Wiltshire.

Where the LA receives an in-year application form expressing a preference for an Academy, Foundation or VA school the application will be forwarded to the school within 5 school days of receipt.

For an Academy, Foundation or VA School, the school's governing body is responsible for deciding the outcome of the application and advising the LA accordingly within 10 school days of the date on which the information was received by the school.

In all cases, a decision letter will be sent out by the local authority within 20 school days of receiving an application form and this will provide information, if appropriate, about the statutory right of appeal.

Waiting Lists

Where a place at a TWHF school cannot be offered, the child will be placed on a waiting list. Where an application is received the child's name will be retained on the waiting list until the end of the academic year. If a place becomes available at the school, the place will be offered in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria and not the length of time a child's name has been on a waiting list. Names will be removed from the lists if requested or if the offer of a place that becomes available is not accepted. Positions on waiting lists may change due to new applications received. Placing a child's name on a waiting list does not affect the parent's right of appeal against an unsuccessful application. However, this does not include an appeal against placing a child out of their year group. Waiting lists will be re-ordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever a child joins or leaves the waiting list.

Appeals Procedure

Parents have a right of appeal to an independent panel against any decision made by the governors regarding the admission of their child. Information about the appeal procedure will be provided where a place at a TWHF school has been refused. Applicants should contact the school concerned for further information.

Objections to these Admission Arrangements

Objections to these admission arrangements can be made to the Schools Adjudicator whose decision is binding and enforceable. Further information on how to make an objection can be obtained from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-schools-adjudicator>

Appendix 1

Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

Applications for Admission to a WHF School

This supplementary information must be completed in addition to the school admission form.

Child's Name:

Home Address:
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.....

Parent/Carers Name & Address (if different to above):
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.....

Ref: Priority 3

Name of TWHF Staff member:

Name of WHF School or Office employed at:
.....

Relationship to child:
.....

Date of commencement of employment with TWHF:
.....

Is the member of staff meeting a clear skills shortage at a TWHF school? Yes / No
If yes, what is the skill being provided?
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