

## **Applying for a place at William Law CE Primary School**

The Peterborough School Admissions (the local authority) co-ordinates applications for places in this School. In order to submit an application, please refer to the local authority's website – <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/school-admissions>

### **William Law CE Primary School Admissions Policy For academic year September 2024 – August 2025**

William Law CE Primary School is an Academy within Peterborough Diocese Education Trust. The Trust is the Admission Authority and has responsibility for setting the Admission Policy, but the policy is administered by the Academy Governance Committee (AGC). The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the Reception year of entry is 90.

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

#### **Oversubscription criteria**

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

1. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children of members of staff provided that they have been employed for a minimum of two years at the time of admission, and/or are recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.
3. Children who have a sibling who is attending the school at the time of admission (See sibling definition below).
4. Children living within the catchment area of the school (See catchment area below and also residency definition).
5. Children of regular worshipping members of St John's with Emmanuel Church, Werrington (see guidance on the term Worshipping Member).
6. Children of regular worshipping members of Churches together in Great Britain and Ireland, which includes the Church of England (see guidance on the term Worshipping Member).
7. Children whose parents/carers state their preference for their children to receive an education within a Church of England school.
8. Other children.

## **Tiebreaker**

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

## **Notes and Definitions**

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

A ‘looked after child’ is a child who, at the time of making an application to a school, is:

- a) In the care of a local authority, or
- b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989)

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

- a) were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders), or
- b) became subject to a child arrangements order (as defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014), or
- c) became subject to a special guardianship order (see Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a ‘special guardianship order’ as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian (or special guardians).

This includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

## **Catchment Area**

Please see below a list of the catchment streets for William Law Primary School.

Abbotts Grove	Gasgoigne	The Paddocks	Sunnymead
Ash Park	Greenacres	Partridge Grove	Swallowfield
Barbers Hill	Hazel Croft	Pheasant Grove	Tanglewood
Candidus Court	Holgate Lane	Priors Gate	Tarrant
Canonsfield	Kilverstone	Redbridge	Temple Grange
Cardinals Gate	Kingsbridge Court	Rushton Avenue	Wainwright
Chatsfield	Livermore Green	Sapperton	Woodhall Rise
Cranemore	Merelade Grove	Sobrite Way	Wycliffe Grove
David’s Close	Monks Grove	Somerville	
Derwood Grove			

You can also view the Peterborough City Council interactive map below to view the catchment areas of Peterborough Schools:

<https://peterborough.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2bbc31b2dd9b4657a1b46d8fd3e7585e>

## **Distance Measurements**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Children of “worshipping members”**

For parents / carers to be worshipping members, at least one of the parents / carers of the child needs to be regarded by the priest / minister / worship leader as being part of the worshipping community at the church / worship centre. This would not necessarily mean that the parent / carer is a “Member” in the technical sense (e.g. through baptism, confirmation or electoral roll) but would imply a pattern of attendance at worship (on Sunday or at other times) that is more than “occasional” and has been sustained for more than a short, very recent, period of time.

## **SIF A/B**

If parents / carers wish their application to be considered in criterion 5 or 6 they must complete form SIF/A which is available from the School and return it to the School (not the local authority). This must be done by the deadline of 5.00pm on 15 January. The School will submit the completed form SIF/A to the relevant minister with form SIF/B to verify the information. As SIF/B needs to be returned to the School in time for the School to rank admissions, it is very important to submit form SIF/A to the School as soon as possible.

## **Churches together in Great Britain and Ireland**

To find out which denominations are affiliated to Churches together in Great Britain and Ireland, you can visit <https://ctbi.org.uk/> for an up to date list of Churches Together in England. These applications must be accompanied by form SIF/A available from the school. The completed SIF/A will then be sent to the minister with form SIF/B to confirm church allegiance

## **Definition of Sibling**

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

- a brother or sister sharing the same parents;
- a half-brother or half-sister where two children share one common parent;
- a step brother or step sister, where two children are related by a parents' marriage/civil partnership;
- a child who has been adopted or is fostered by parents / carers who have other children.
- children living in the same family unit, even if they are not biological brothers and sisters.

## **Separated parents**

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

## **Children of staff**

Children of staff where the member of staff has been employed by the Trust to work at William Law CE Primary School for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or a member of staff is recruited to fill a vacancy for which there is demonstrable skill shortage. "Children" means any child living at the same address as the member of staff within a family unit. "Living" means where the child sleeps for most for the school week.

## **Late applications**

Late applications are any application forms (known as Common Application Forms (CAFs)/Preference Forms) received by the local authority after its deadline of 5.00pm on 15 January. Late applicants will not receive an offer of a school place by the local authority on offer day (16 April) but their application will be processed in the next round of allocations (for details of when these are, please refer to the local authority's composite prospectus).

## **Continuing Interest List**

All parents who are refused a place at the school at any time may wish to place their child's name on a continuing interest list (NB: This does not affect your right of appeal). Pupils will be placed on the continuing interest list in strict order according to the oversubscription criteria on the Admissions Policy. If a place became available at the Academy, places will be allocated according to criteria and

not on a first come, first served basis. Time on the continuing interest list is not part of the criteria and has no bearing on allocation of places. Details of the in-year process can be found on the William Law website. The Academy will write to everyone on the continuing interest list in the summer term. If no response is received then, they will automatically be removed from the list. If parents wish their child to remain on the continuing interest list they must reapply to the Local Authority and also contact the school on 01733 577600 or by e-mail (office@williamlaw.peterborough.sch.uk).

The Peterborough City Council operates fair access protocol for those children whose applications cannot be dealt with as part of the normal admissions process. The purpose of Fair Access Protocols is to ensure that outside the normal admissions round - unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are found and offered a place quickly. Please note that children who are the subject of a direction by the Local Authority to admit or who are allocated a place in accordance with a Fair Access protocol must take preference over those on the continuing interest list, however are still required to go through the Appeal process.

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

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

#### **Deferred entry:**

Parents/carers can request that entry to the school is deferred until later in the same school year (i.e. a child born in the Autumn term could defer starting school until January and a child born in the Spring or Summer term could defer their start until after Easter). If such a request is made the school is required to *hold the place* for the child; the place cannot be offered to another child but it cannot be kept open beyond the beginning of the summer term. Alternatively, where the parents / carers wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age (the start of the term following their 5th birthday). Any parents/carers considering deferring their child's admission to school or part time attendance are recommended to discuss this with the Headteacher.

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

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

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

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

Parents/carers may seek a place for their child out of their normal age group as stated above. If parents/carers wish to do so, they must contact their preferred school.

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

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

If the AGC does not agree to this request to be admitted out of cohort, there is no right of appeal against that decision.

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

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

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

- the parent's/carer's views;
- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group;

- whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
- the Headteacher's views.

The AGC will inform the parents/carers of its decision on the Year group the child should be admitted to when they have to start school (i.e. Reception or Year 1) and will set out clearly the reasons for their decision.

If the AGC agrees to the parent's/carer's request to defer the application for a Reception place, they will inform the local authority and the parents/carers will then need to make an application for a place in Reception in the normal round of admissions in the following academic year.

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

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

### **Right of appeal**

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

The Clerk to the Appeals Panel

Bouverie Court

6 The Lakes

Bedford Road

Northampton

NN4 7YD

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

**Date agreed by Academy Governance Committee: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**