

Chipping Hill Primary School



Admissions Policy

Head teacher: Mrs N.Robson
Chair of Governors: Ms K. Butler

Admissions Policy

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Senior staff member responsible: Mrs Natasha Robson (HT).

This policy was formulated through drafting by Head teacher then analysed discussed and agreed by the Chair of Governors and teachers.

**THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR
CHIPPING HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

There is no guarantee of a place for children living in the priority admission area (Maltings Lane Development). In the event of oversubscription places will be allocated using the following criteria in the order given:

1. Looked After Children (as defined below);
2. children with a sibling attending the school;
3. children living in the school's priority admission area*;
4. remaining applications.

In the event of oversubscription within any of the above criteria, priority will be determined by straight line distance from home to school, those living closest being given highest priority.

**A map showing the school's priority admission area and the Witham priority admission area is available from School Planning and Admissions, Essex County Council.*

Agreement for children living in the priority admission area

The LA may offer places above the published admission number in the following exceptional circumstances:

1. for infant classes at the class size limit: if, outside the normal admission round, the next nearest school with a space is not within a reasonable distance of the home address; or
2. for junior classes or where the admission would not breach the infant class size limit: if the journey to the next nearest school with a space is not reasonable in terms of distance, accessibility or cost.

Where entry is deferred, the school will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child. The parent would not however be able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted.

Parents can also request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. Any parents interested in taking up a part-time place initially should contact the school for further details as to what this would entail.

Where parents choose to defer entry, the school may reasonably expect that the child would start at the beginning of a new school term/half term.

Where a parent of a 'summer-born' child (13 April – 31 August) wishes their child to start school in the autumn term following their fifth birthday, they will need to apply for a place at the correct time for the normal admission round for the following academic year. Supporting evidence from relevant professionals working with the child and family stating why the child must be placed outside their normal age appropriate cohort must be submitted. The County Council will decide whether the application for a Reception place will be accepted or whether it will be treated as an application for a Year 1 place, the child's normal age appropriate cohort. If the application for a Reception place is not accepted this does not constitute a refusal of the place and there is no right to an independent statutory appeal.

Applying for a school place

The application process is in accordance with the co-ordinated scheme for primary admissions and involves completion of the Common Application Form – either online or by paper. Offers of places will be sent in **April**.

Closing date for applications

The closing date for applications is in **January**. This also applies to admissions to junior schools, including transfers from infant schools.

Home address

Applications will normally be processed on the basis of the home address for the child at the time of application and determination, unless, where there is a new home address, proof of an exchange of contracts or copy of a tenancy agreement can be provided by February 2020. The home address is considered to be the address at which the child resides on a permanent basis or is 'ordinarily resident'. This is generally the address of the parent/carer. In some cases, children may be 'ordinarily resident' for the majority of the school week, including overnight, with another relative or carer, such as a grandparent. Where this is the case, the application may be processed on the basis of that address and proof of address and residence arrangement will be required with the application. The child must be living with the relative or carer 24 hours per day, for the majority of the school week. Arrangements where parents can leave and collect children from another relative or carer on a daily basis will be regarded as childcare arrangements, and the child will not be deemed to be 'ordinarily resident' with that person. In all cases we expect that the adult with whom the child is 'ordinarily resident' receives the child benefit for the child (where eligible).

Distance tie breaker

All straight line distances are calculated electronically by the LA using data provided jointly by the Post Office and Ordnance Survey. The data plots the co-ordinates of each property and provides the address-point between which straight line distance is measured and reported to three decimal places. In the unlikely event of two applicants with an identical distance competing for a single place at a school the place will be offered to one applicant on the basis of lots drawn by an officer of the County Council not involved in admissions.

Address checking

Where residency is relevant to an application for a school place, the LA will ask a random sample of applicants to provide proof of their home address. This must be a copy of one of the following:

- UK driving licence;
- council tax notification;
- two utility bills dated within the last 6 months (gas, electricity, water or landline phone)

Where there is reasonable doubt as to the validity of a home address, the LA reserves the right to take additional checking measures including, in some cases, unannounced home visits. If a school place is secured through false information regarding a home address, the LA may withdraw the place offered.

Admission of children from overseas

All children of compulsory school age (5 to 16 years) in the UK have a right of access to education. However, where a child is in the UK for a short period only, for example less than half a term, it may be reasonable to refuse admission to a school.

Children who hold full British Citizen passports (not British Dependent Territories or British Overseas passports), have a passport endorsed to show a right of abode in the UK or are European Economic Area nationals normally have unrestricted entry to the UK. An application for a school place will be accepted for such children even though they may not be resident in the UK at the time of application. The application may however be processed on the basis of the overseas address.

If an applicant meeting the above criteria owns a property in Essex but is not living in it, perhaps because they are working abroad at the time of application but they intend to take up residency at the Essex home before the start of the autumn term, the application will be processed using the Essex address. Any offer of a school place will then be conditional upon receipt of evidence of taking up residency at that property in Essex.

Other children from overseas do not generally have automatic right of entry to the UK. An application for a school place will not therefore be accepted until they are resident in the UK. Proof of residency such as an endorsed passport or entry visa will be required with the application.

Siblings

For applications made in the normal admission round a relevant sibling is a child who has a brother, sister, adopted brother or sister or stepbrother or stepsister living in the same family unit in the same family household and address who attends the preferred school or partner school in any year group excluding the final year. Biological siblings who attend the preferred school in any year group excluding the final year will also be treated as siblings irrespective of place of residence. Children residing in the same household as part of an extended family, such as cousins, will not be treated as siblings. For mid-year applications a sibling is a child who has a brother, sister, adopted brother or sister or stepbrother or stepsister living in the same family unit in the same family household and address as a child who attends or has been offered a place at the preferred school or partner school at the time of application and determination and with a reasonable expectation that the sibling will be attending at the time of admission.

Priority Admission Areas

There is no guarantee of a place to children living in the priority admission area of a particular school. Details, including maps of priority admission areas are available on request from School Planning and Admissions.

Twins, Triplets etc.

For applications made in the normal admission round, if the last child to be offered a place is a twin and their sibling cannot be offered initially, the LA will ensure both twins are offered a place. In the case of triplets or other multiple births, if the majority of children can be offered a place initially, the LA will offer places to the remaining children. For example, if two triplets can be offered a place, the remaining child will also receive an offer of a place. For mid-year applications, where a family moves into an area necessitating a change of school for their twins (or triplets etc) and the majority can be offered a place then a place will be offered for the remaining child(ren). However, where the family does not move but wishes to transfer the children to another local school where there are insufficient places for all of them then a place would not normally be offered for all.

Medical circumstances

Under the Equality Act 2010, the expectation is that all schools will make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the needs of individual children with disabilities or medical needs. Admission authorities are not permitted to refuse a child a place at a school on the basis of medical circumstances.

The law does not require the oversubscription criteria for a school to give a level of priority based upon the medical circumstances of the child or parents. Admission authorities may choose to do so if they wish and the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Essex have done so for several years.

Evidence from recent years shows that of those applications submitted citing medical reasons for seeking a place at a particular school, very few cases are actually agreed (less than 3% in the past 3 admission rounds).

Given the obligation on schools to make reasonable adjustments as referred to above, and for decisions on admissions to be made on the basis of objective information and evidence, there is a strong case to suggest that an exceptional medical criterion is both unnecessary and problematic within the admission arrangements.

Moreover, having such a criterion can and does unhelpfully raise parental expectations of a place at a school because they or their child has a particular medical condition, but when considered on the basis of the evidence, there is no overriding case as to why the child should or must be admitted to the school in question, ahead of another applicant, for example a child who lives closer to the school. Parents can be left unnecessarily disappointed, having submitted an application on medical grounds and gathered information in support, because this was not, upon consideration, sufficient to show that the child must attend the chosen school to the extent of overriding other applications for the school.

Where a parent is not offered a place for their child at a preferred school, they have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. If there are specific medical circumstances in the parents' view as to why their child should be admitted to that school, they can submit their case as part of an appeal process. An appeal panel has the power, in law, to award a place at a school outside of the published admission arrangements, if it determines that in the circumstances of an individual case this is appropriate or that the decision to refuse a place at the school was unreasonable. Thus, not having an exceptional medical criterion does not remove the opportunity for parents to have their case considered and given suitable regard as part of the overall admission process.

Withdrawal of an offer

If a school place has been secured through false information or has been offered in error, the offer of the place may be withdrawn.

Waiting lists

School Admissions will hold waiting lists for all oversubscribed schools until the end of the autumn term and continue to allocate places from these lists if spaces become available. Applicants will be ranked on these waiting lists in priority order, according to the school's admission criteria. The Local Authority will not maintain waiting lists beyond the end of the first term, however parents will have the opportunity to register their continued interest in a place.

Late Applications

Applications received after the published closing date will be treated as late applications unless there is evidence to show that the application or amendment could not reasonably have been made on time. No application received **after 15th January 2023** will be treated as on time. A new on time preference will not be accepted after the closing date unless the circumstances are deemed to be exceptional. No change to the rank order of existing preferences will be accepted after the closing date except for changes of address and no such changes will be permitted **after 15th January 2023**. Late applications will be given a lower priority and will be dealt with after all on time applications in the first round of offers. Where a school is oversubscribed late applications will be refused and ranked according to the admission criteria on any waiting list held for the particular school. All late applications will be considered by the LA to ascertain whether exceptional circumstances for late submission exist. Where that is deemed to be the case the application will be treated as 'on time'. Where a school is oversubscribed late applications received after the first round of offers will be refused and ranked according to the admission criteria on any waiting list held for the particular school.

Changing primary schools

The opportunity to transfer depends on places being available at the preferred school. If approved, a place is usually made available at the start of the following term. If no places are available the application will be refused and the right of appeal will be given and an application form for return to School Planning and Admissions to help secure a school place elsewhere. Applications for transfer will not be dealt with until the half term prior to the requested admission date. In cases where a child moves into a district area (proof of address required) and, as a result of the move the child would be without a school place, the application will be dealt with immediately. A child should not be withdrawn from the current school until a place has been secured elsewhere. Mid-year a

school may admit a child over the admission number and outside the admission criteria where they have been excluded from another school or are being placed as a move supported by all agencies.

Applications made after the start of the autumn term

On receipt of an application after the start of the autumn term the LA will contact the school in writing for the up-to-date numbers. If there are spaces in the year group an offer will be made or if not a refusal will be sent and the right of appeal given if it was a first application for the year group. Unless there is a significant and material change in circumstances a second application received in the same academic year does not have to be determined by the LA and no second right of appeal will be given. When there are more applications, received on the same day, than the number of places available the school's admission criteria will be used to determine any offers that can be made. There is a process in place that considers parents continued interest in a place at an oversubscribed school. Details of the process will be available to parents who have applied and been refused a place after the start of the autumn term.

Appeals against admission decisions

Parents have the right to appeal against admission decisions to an Independent Appeal Panel. Information about how to appeal against a refusal of a school place will be sent with the offer pack. Notice of appeal should be sent to the Clerk to the Independent Appeal Panel, PO Box 11, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX.