

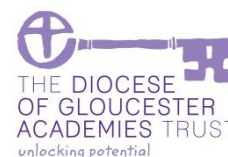


Admissions Policy 2023-24

Version 1.7

DURSLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2023/24



Dursley Church of England Primary Academy is sponsored by the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust. It has a Christian foundation, which it seeks to promote by providing high quality educational opportunities to all members of the Academy community. It encourages this through religious education, collective worship and the values and ethos of a curriculum which seeks to offer opportunities and experiences to promote pupils' spiritual and moral development and to provide a basis for their life-long learning.

We see ourselves as a community Academy for children living in the Dursley area. The Trust is responsible for admissions to this school and have agreed with the Local Authority an indicated admission number of 45 pupils. These arrangements and the admissions criteria are reviewed annually.

This policy and criteria should be read in conjunction with the Guide for Parents and Carers sent to you by the County Council. If you have not received this Guide you should contact the Coordinated Admissions Team, Shire Hall, Gloucester, GL1 2TP and arrange for one to be sent to you. Further information is available from the website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

In the event that there are more applications than there are places available, the Trust will admit pupils according to the following criteria, which are listed in order of priority. Please note that all received preferences for this school will be given equal consideration, using the criteria below.

1. A 'looked after child' (1) or a child who was previously looked after including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (2). Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so after becoming subject to an adoption (3) child arrangements order (residency order) (4) or special guardianship order (5).

(1) A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. In Gloucestershire, such children are referred to as Children in Care.

(2) 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 provide of care whose sole of main purpose is to benefit society.

(3) This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Childrens Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).

(4) Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

(5) 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).

2. Children who have siblings attending the Academy at the time the applicant child is admitted. (NB We define siblings as 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, and in every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address)

3. Children for whom only one particular school is appropriate due to an exceptional medical condition. Applications under this criterion will only be considered if they are supported by a written statement from the child's doctor, which has to be submitted with the application. This must demonstrate that there is a very specific connection between the medical need and the facilities or resources of the school concerned.

4. Children whose permanent home address lies within the boundary of Dursley Civil Parish. A copy of the definitive map can be found on the Academy's website. A copy is also available for inspection in the Academy office. In the event of there being more applications than available places then children with the strongest geographical claim will be given priority. Distances will be measured in a straight line from the ordnance survey address point of the child's home address (including flats) to the ordnance survey address point of the Academy, using the local Authority's computerised measuring system on behalf of the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust (Admission Authority).

5. Children whose permanent home address lies outside the boundary of Dursley Civil Parish will be allocated on the basis of strongest geographical claim as detailed in 4 above.

In the event of oversubscription and in the event of a tie break situation, where two or more children live an identical distance from the Academy, a lottery will take place to allocate any remaining places

In the event of a child being refused a place, there is a right to appeal to an independent appeal process. Please contact the school for an appeal application.

Appeals Procedure:

If the Governors are unable to offer your child a place because of over subscription you as a parent have a right of appeal. You should notify the Clerk to the Governors of Dursley Church of England Primary Academy within 20 days of receiving the letter which will give the grounds for refusing a place. As a parent you will have an opportunity to submit your case to an independent appeals panel. You must set out your grounds for the appeal in writing. You will normally receive at least 10 days' notice of the time and venue for the appeal hearing where you will be able to present your case in person. Decision letters will be sent within 5 school days of the hearing wherever possible.

Waiting Lists

If the Academy is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held for the first full school term (ie until the end of December). The waiting list will be prioritised according to the school's oversubscription criteria. Waiting lists are kept throughout the Academy where needed and are reviewed on a termly basis.

Pre Appeal Process

Dursley Church of England Primary Academy will act within the Schools Admission Code 2021 to ensure that it follows a fair, consistent and transparent method of offering places to children, but it does support the county-wide principle of allowing children to access a local school place. The Schools Standards & Framework Act 1998, Section 86, requires admission authorities to only refuse admission of pupils where it may compromise education to do so and therefore the School Admission Code 2021 does make provision for admission authorities to admit above their admission number during the admissions process to meet parental demand. The Governing Body will consider all applications for a school place in line with the schools admission policy, taking individual cases into account in line with its exceeding PAN protocol – which sets out how the school will implement such flexibility in a transparent manner whilst ensuring sustainability of the whole school system.

Admission of Summer Born Children for Reception Entry

The Governing Body of Dursley Church of England Primary Academy acknowledges the updated advice from the Department of Education that, parents/carers of “Summer born” children (born between 1 April and 31 August) may request to start the Reception Class of a school a whole academic year later. The Governing Body will make a decision on behalf of Dursley Church of England Primary Academy. We follow the Local Authority process which states that parents can only apply for a Reception place at a school once and must apply for a place during the standard application process timeline for their chronological year group, stating their reasons for requesting deferred entry to the following year. The Governing Body will decide whether the deferred entry can be approved for the school.

Deferred entry for infants

Parents offered a place for their child have a right to defer entry, or to take a place up part time, until the start of the term beginning immediately after their child has reached compulsory school age of 4. However, places cannot be deferred until the next academic year.

Children with Special Educational Needs

Children who have an Education Health Care Plan are placed in schools through the arrangements set out in the SEN Code of Practice and not through any admission criteria. Governing bodies are required by Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 to admit a child with an Education Health Care Plan that names that particular school. Parents of children an Education Health Care Plan should contact their child’s casework officer for any further information. Children who have an Education Health Care Plan naming a school/academy will be allocated a place even if that school is full.

Fair Access Protocols

The Academy has signed up to the In-Year Fair Access Protocols held by the Local Authority. Should a vulnerable child within these Protocols require a place at the Academy, they will take precedent over any child on the waiting list.

In Year Admissions

Any applications for a school place made outside the normal year of entry to the school must be made directly to the Admitting authority which is the Academies Trust via the Governing Body.

School Transport

School Transport is not available at this Academy.