

Swindon Borough Council

Admission Arrangements
(Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools)
2020-21

Admission Arrangements 2020-21 (Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools)

1. Introduction

This policy applies solely to applications for places at Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools in Swindon. Foundation, Voluntary Aided (VA) and Academy Schools are their own admission authorities and therefore the Governing Bodies of the schools are responsible for determining their own admission arrangements and policies.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Co-ordinated Scheme for 2020-21 which applies to all schools within the Swindon LA area.

The closing dates for applications are

Primary, Infant and Junior – 15th January 2020 and offers are made on 16th April 2020
Secondary - 31st October 2019 and offers are made on 2nd March 2020

Applications must be made for children transferring from nursery to infant or primary school and for children transferring from infant to junior school.

2. Oversubscription Criteria

If there are more applications than there are places at the school, then the oversubscription criteria are applied.

The over-subscription criteria for all Swindon Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools are as follows:

A child who has a statement of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is required to be admitted to the school named on the child's statement.

A	A looked after child or previously looked after child. <i>Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order)</i>
B	Any child who has a sibling attending the preferred school at the same time as he or she is due to be admitted;
C	Any child living within the school's catchment area;
D	Any child not living in the school's catchment area.

Decider

For Community and Voluntary Controlled schools distance will be determined from the applicant's home address to the school on the following basis –

The distance between the applicant's home and school is taken as a straight line between the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address point of the applicant's home address and of the school with those living closest to school receiving higher priority.

Children with statements of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care Plan

Pupils with a statement of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care Plan at the time of allocation 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 no longer applies.

Looked After Child

Looked After Child

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.

This also applies to 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. If children have ever been Looked After or Adopted or subject to a residency or special guardianship order evidence would need to be provided and the LA reserve the right to ask the parent to provide this.

A 'previously looked after child' is a child who:

- (a) ceased to be looked after because they were adopted (under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).
- (b) became subject to a child arrangements order (defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.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 - an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians)).

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.

Catchment area

A catchment area is a geographical zone served by a school. The address that determines a child's catchment 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. Children living outside the Borough boundary are treated as if the children live within Swindon but outside the catchment area for the school(s) in question. Maps of each catchment area are held by the LA and can be viewed on request or on the council's website

Distance

In all cases where schools are oversubscribed, distance is as a straight line between the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address point of the applicant's home address and of the school within each oversubscription criteria. If the direct distance measurement does not separate applicants, places will be offered by random allocation.

3. Other definitions

Address

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. The LA will not accept more than one address as the child's home address. The terms of a residency order may clarify the home address. Where necessary to determine which address to recognise and in the absence of a residency order, the LA will consider the home address to be with the parent with primary day to day care and control of the child.

In reaching this decision, evidence may be requested to show the address to which any Child Benefit is paid and from which the child is registered with a medical GP. If the Child Benefit letter is not available, a copy of the most recent bank statement where the Child Benefit is credited may be taken as residency, or the address stated on the NHS Medical Card of the child. Any other evidence provided by parents will also be considered by the Admissions Manager in reaching a decision on the home address for admissions purposes. This may be necessary for instance where parents do not agree on the child's home address. Parents are urged to reach agreement but where they do not, the LA will determine the home address.

Applications

An application for a place at a primary or secondary school for September 2020 must be made online using the Local Authority's online common application form. This is made via the Council's online admission system.

Children of UK Service Personnel

Applications for children of service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area will be considered in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter from the commanding officer that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address. Until a fixed address is provided, the LA will accept the Unit Postal Address or Quartering address as the Home Address for allocation purposes. All

applications must be included in the normal admissions round if possible. The LA will not refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area, and will not reserve blocks of places for these children.

An in-year application will be considered in the normal way and if a reasonable alternative cannot be offered, the child may be admitted as an 'excepted pupil' under the School Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 2012. In circumstances where placing a child at a school that is deemed a reasonable alternative would mean admitting above the PAN, the LA will take into account the organisational structure of the school to determine whether it is the best interests of the child and children already attending the school.

A reasonable alternative is defined as a school which is within the statutory maximum walking distance of 2 miles for a child who is under 8 years old and 3 miles for a child who is over 8 years old.

Late applications

Applications received after the closing date will be considered as late applications. This means that they will be considered after all on-time applications have been considered. This applies to primary applications received after 15th January 2020 and secondary applications received after 31st October 2019.

Multiple births

The LA will endeavour to place siblings born at the same time (e.g. twins, triplets etc.) at the same school, if necessary the school will admit over its PAN to accommodate such children. In the case of Infant Class Sizes (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) class sizes must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single school teacher, however, additional children may only 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), then 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.

Parent/carer

This is defined as a person with parental responsibility (PR) or legal residency of the child. This could include a person who is not a parent but who has a Court Order giving parental responsibility to them.

Shared responsibility

Where two adults have shared responsibility for a child they should agree before submitting an application form which school(s) to name as their preference(s). In cases of dispute, or where two applications from the adult with whom the child is living are received, the LA will ask parents to agree on the school applied for, or if that is not possible the LA will ask the parent to seek a Specific Issues Order through the Courts to gain the authority to make an application.

In the absence of a parental agreement or either of the parents obtaining a Court order determining the issue, the LA will be required to decide which preference(s) to be recorded and this will be done by using the application made by the person who lives at the property where the child is resident at their home address as defined below

(In reaching a decision on the address to use as the 'home address', evidence may be requested to show the address to which any Child Benefit is paid and from which the child is registered with a medical GP. Any other evidence provided by parents will also be considered by the Admissions Manager in reaching a decision on the home address for admissions purposes.)

Applications outside the Normal Age of Admission

Parents of gifted or talented children, or those who have experienced problems or missed part of a year, for example due to ill health, can seek places outside of their normal age group. Admission Authorities must make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case, informing parents of their statutory right to appeal. This right does not apply if they are offered a place in another year group of the school.

Evidence will be required in these circumstances from a Senior Medical Consultant, Educational Psychologist and/or other relevant professionals including the school / settings concerned. Swindon LA will carefully consider applications for children outside the normal age group, but for all year groups the decision will be made between the parents and the primary school based on the individual circumstances of each case.

In the instance that the child has not started school (or is not statutory school age), or it is before the child needs to apply for a school place, the LA may have discretion to decide whether the child would need to be put back an academic year on the circumstances outlined above. Evidence may be required in these circumstances from a Senior Medical Consultant and/or Educational Psychologist. This discretion would only be used in exceptional circumstances where it would have to be proved that it was in the child's interest to be put back an academic year. This may have already been picked up by the Special Educational Needs Assessment Team (SENAT) through the Early Years Panel.

Summer born children

A parent of a child born between 1st April and 31st August defined as "summer born" may request for the child to be admitted to a year group later than that of their natural cohort. The admission authority will take into consideration the individual circumstances of the case to determine whether the request can be granted. This may include but not be limited to include whether they were born prematurely, whether delayed social, emotional or physical development is adversely affecting their readiness for school, the possible impact of attending a year group which is not their natural cohort.

Where the request is granted, a place will not be allocated prior to the normal admissions round for the year of entry and the parent will be required to reapply during the admissions round in order to ensure that they are fairly considered against the admission criteria for the schools they wish to apply for.

Where a parent of a summer born child wishes to admit their child into a year group lower than that of their natural cohort, they should contact the Local Authority and schools concerned as soon as possible, ideally before the places are offered on the 16 April, but no later than June in that year.

Where a Swindon resident wishes to apply for a school outside of Swindon, they must gain agreement from that school / Local Authority that they would accept a deferred application.

Published Admissions Number

A Published Admission Number (PAN) is agreed for each school annually and defines the number of places available for the year of entry. All applications must be agreed until the PAN has been reached.

Waiting lists

Waiting lists will be maintained for all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools from the initial point of entry until the end of that academic year. For the September 2020 intake this will be from the national offer date until 31st August 2021.

For all other year groups (Years 1 – 6 and 8-11) the waiting list will be discarded on 31st August 2020 and new applications will be invited from 1st September 2019.

Placement will be determined by applying the oversubscription criteria published in the Admissions Guide. 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.

Waiting lists for Foundation, Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies are outlined in the individual schools own admission arrangements.

Placing a child's name on a waiting list does not affect the parents' right of appeal against an unsuccessful application.

Parents may only apply and appeal once per school per academic year. The LA may consider a fresh application if there is a significant and material change in circumstances of the parent, child or school since the original application was made. An example of this may be that the family have moved house.

Appeals procedure

Parents have a right of appeal to an independent panel against any decision made by or on behalf of the LA as to the school at which education is to be provided for their child. Information about the appeal procedure will be provided where a place at one or more of the preferred schools has been refused.

For appeals for September 2020 a timetable for hearing appeals will be published by 28th February 2020 and be available on the relevant schools or Local Authority website. Appellants should contact the Admissions Team to obtain an appeal form, which should be returned to Appeals Clerk at Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH.

In-year admissions

- 3.1 If parents/carers decide to transfer their children during the academic year after the normal admissions round, this is referred to as an In Year Transfer.
- 3.2 The LA has a coordinated In Year Admissions Scheme and all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools are part of this scheme for September 2020-21.
- 3.3 Please refer to the In Year Coordinated Admissions Scheme for more information on this.

4. Published Admission Numbers

The following list of schools are community and voluntary controlled which the Local Authority is the admission authority. The Local Authority are consulting upon the admission number for the 2020-21 academic year. The Published Admission number (PAN) applies to the relevant year group for admission in September 2020-21 and these are in the table below.

The LA is also consulting on reducing the PAN for Year 1 at Bridlewood Primary School from September 2019-20 and onwards to 30 due to a decrease in pupil numbers in the area.

School Name	Type of School	Published Admission Number 2019-20	Published Admission Number 2020-21
Beechcroft Infant School	Community	90	90
Bishopstone CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	8	8
Bridlewood Primary School	Community	30	30
Brook Field Primary School	Community	60	60
Catherine Wayte Primary School	Community	60	60
Chiseldon Primary School	Community	30	30
Colebrook Junior School	Community	50	50
Covingham Park Primary School	Community	60	60
East Wichel Community Primary School	Community	60	60
Eldene Primary School	Community	60	60
Even Swindon Primary School	Community	90	90
Greenmeadow Primary School	Community	40	40
Haydonleigh Primary School	Community	90	90
Lainesmead Primary School	Community	60	60
Lawn Primary School	Community	60	60
Liden Primary School	Community	50	60
Nythe Primary School	Community	30	30
Oakhurst Primary School	Community	60	60
Oaktree Primary School	Community	55	55
Orchid Vale Primary School	Community	60	60
Robert Le Kyng Primary School	Community	60	60
Wanborough Primary School	Community	30	30
Westrop Primary School	Community	45	45
Wroughton Infant School	Community	90	90
Wroughton Junior School	Community	90	90