



Fitzjohn's Primary School

Admissions Policy

Community school admissions criteria Reception places will be offered to children on a full-time basis.

In the event of oversubscription, places will be offered in descending order to:

a) Looked-after children (children in public care) or a child who was previously looked-after but immediately after being looked-after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement or special guardianship order (see note 1 on page 26).

b) Children with a sibling* (brother or sister) at the same school who will still be on roll when they join. * Sibling refers to 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 place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as the sibling. A sibling relation does not apply when the older child will leave before the younger one starts. Only pupils in Reception to Year 5 can be considered as siblings for reception coordinated admissions. Nursery pupils cannot be considered as siblings because they are not compulsory school age.

c) Children whom the Council accepts have an exceptional medical or social need for a place at the school. There will have to be a clear link between the child's exceptional need and the school in question. The local authority will also accept recommendations from the SEN exceptional needs panel for an applicant whose needs support a place at a particular school.

d) Children whose parent has been a qualified teacher working at the relevant school for two years or more at the time of application and / or children of a qualified teacher at the relevant school who has been recruited to fill a vacancy for which there is a skill shortage.

e) Other children, with priority given to those living closest to the school measured 'as the crow flies' from the home address to the centre of the school. The address given must be the one in which the child normally resides. Distances are measured using a computerised mapping system..

Notes: 1. In order to be given highest priority for admission, a child has to fall within the definition of 'looked-after' in section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. As this act applies to England and Wales, a child has to be looked-after by an English or Welsh local authority in order to be given highest priority. Paragraph 1.7 of the School Admissions Code gives equal highest priority to 'previously looked-after children'. Given the definition of a looked-after child, a child will have to have been looked-after by an English or Welsh local authority in order to be considered previously looked-after. Under paragraph 1.7 of the Code, a child has to have been looked after immediately before they were adopted or became a subject to a child arrangement or special guardianship order. Proof of looked-after status will be requested from the relevant local authority.

2. Any offer of a place on the grounds of proximity is conditional on the child being resident at the address provided at the closing date for application. A business address, a childminder's

address, or any address other than the child's home will not be accepted. Proof of address will be sought and may be the subject of further investigation.

3. Criterion e) will be used as a 'tie-breaker' should any of the first four criteria be oversubscribed.

4. Children with an education, health and care plan that specifies the placement school will be allocated a place through a separate procedure, in accordance with the special educational needs code of practice.

5. The Council reserves the right to seek verification of the information parents have given on the application form and to withdraw places if false information has been provided.

6. Multiple births: Key Stage 1 – If only one place is available at the school and the next child who qualifies for a place is one of multiple births the school will go over their published admission numbers to support the family. These children will be 'accepted pupils' under the Key Stage 1 class size legislation.

7. Multiple births: Key Stage 2 – If only one place is available at the school and the next child who qualifies for a place is one of multiple births we will go over their published admission number in order to support the family.

8. Where one child of multiple birth has an education, health and care plan that names a specific school, the other children will be treated as having a sibling link for that academic year.

9. In the minority of cases when applicants' distance measurements are exactly the same, in blocks of flats for instance, the computer system will randomly order the priority of applicants.

10. Some schools give priority to children with exceptional social or medical needs. If you state a preference for a particular school because of medical or social needs you must explain how this school meets your child's special circumstances. Along with your application, you should submit supporting evidence which sets out the particular reasons why that school is the most suitable, and the difficulties that could be caused if they were to attend another school. This will normally be in the form of a letter from a suitably qualified professional, such as a doctor or social worker for example. Please note that hospital appointment letters cannot be accepted as proof. If you or your child has mobility issues then you will be expected to accept a place at your nearest community school. Each application under this criterion will be considered by the social medical advisory panel, which includes a consultant paediatrician, admissions officer, senior social worker, educational psychologist and school inclusion officer.

