



ST. LAWRENCE V. A. LOWER SCHOOL

Admissions Policy 2018-19

St Lawrence VA C of E Lower School
Wymington

Admissions Policy

The Governing Body is responsible for the admission of pupils to St Lawrence VA Church of England Lower School and admits 30 pupils to Reception each September. This admission number has been agreed between the Governing Body and the Local Authority and applies to the year 2018.

The school does not have any specific units or facilities for pupils with particular special needs and there are no specific facilities for pupils with physical disabilities. The school is on a site where there are different levels, and the accommodation ranges from buildings from the 19th Century to a modern 21st Century hall.

The Foundation Stage has one entrance with steps, one with a ramp. As far as possible, the school will ensure that pupils with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as other pupils, and will use classroom accommodation sensibly to ensure this.

The school provides for the admission of all successful applicants who have reached their 4th birthday by the beginning of September 2017. However, please note the following:

- a) These arrangements do not apply to our Nursery intake.
- b) Parents of children currently in our Nursery must re-apply for a place in the Reception class.
- c) Attendance at our Nursery does not guarantee a place in Reception.
- d) Parents offered a place may defer the date of their child's admission until later in the year, or until the child reaches compulsory school age. Summer born children may only have admission deferred until the start of the summer term.
- e) Parents can request part-time attendance until the child reaches compulsory school age.
- f) Where a parent of a 'summer-born' child (15 April – 31 August) wishes their child to start school in the autumn term following their fifth birthday, the Governors will consider the request.

If parents do not take up the offered place before the end of the academic year of entry, then they would have to re-apply for a place in Year 1. Parents should discuss this with the school as soon as possible and this would be treated as an in-year application.

However, if parents wish such a child to be educated "out-of year group" i.e. in the Reception Year rather than Y1 they may request this and should discuss it with the school as soon as possible. Such applications will be considered by the governors on a case by case basis. Each case will be judged on its individual merits but to admit out of year group would require exceptional and extenuating circumstances and professional evidence explaining why the child's needs cannot be met in the chronological year group.

An application would need to be made in the normal admissions round for Reception in the year they wish their child to join where this application will be considered alongside all other applications. Parents do not have the right of appeal against a decision not to accept this request

The Governors are required to admit a pupil with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care plan which names the school. Pupils identified for admission through the Fair Access Protocol will be admitted even if the school is full.

When there are more applications than there are places available, the Governors will admit pupils according to the following criteria in order of priority.

- (i) To all “looked after” children or children who were previously “looked after” but immediately after being “looked after” became subject to an adoption, child arrangement or special guardianship order – see definition.
- (ii) Children who live within the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Lawrence Wymington who will have sibling in the school at the time of admission (siblings as defined by the LA in the booklet ‘Starting School’). The website www.achurchnearyou.com is helpful in verifying parish of residence.
- (iii) Other children who live within the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Lawrence Wymington.
- (iv) Other children who have siblings in the school at the time of admission (siblings as defined by the LA in the booklet – see definition).
- (v) Children living outside the area as defined in (ii) and (iii), one or more of whose parents/guardians, at the time of application, have attended a Christian Church at least once a month for the six months preceding the date of the submission of application to the school. Christian Churches relates to Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and/or the Evangelical Alliance. The signature of the priest or minister is required on the relevant section on the LA application form.
- (vi) Children of staff who work at St Lawrence Lower School – see definition
- (vii) On very exceptional medical grounds – see definition
- (viii) Any other children
In the case of older children who apply to join the school, admission will be on the basis of places being available in the relevant class. If more applications for places are received than places available then the above criteria will apply. Requests for admission into other year groups should be made on the In-Year application form and in accordance with the Local Authority’s co-ordinated scheme for In-Year admissions. The form is available from the school or Local Authority and can also be downloaded from the Local Authority website. The local authority will coordinate this ‘in year admission’ process.

If applying these criteria results in there being more children with an equal right to admission to the school than the number of available places, the tie break will be the distance the pupil lives from the school measured in a straight line using the Local Authority’s computerised mapping system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. The distance will be measured from the address point of the pupil’s home to the door the children enter the school by on Church Lane. Priority will not be given within each criterion to children who meet the other criteria.

Procedures

- Applications for admission to the school are in accordance with the Local Authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements. Parents can apply online to the Local Authority in which they live or obtain an application form from their Local Authority. Application forms for Bedford Borough residents are available from the school.
- The Governors are responsible for admissions. Parents should apply for a place at the school in accordance with the Local Authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements.
- Children are invited to make introductory visits to the school during the term before entrance.
- The Governors rightly expect that parents given a place for their child under the Church Membership category will still satisfy the requirements of that category at the time of admission.
- Parents are reminded that there are occasionally slight changes to admissions policies and should make sure they have the most recent edition.

Appeals

Parents who have been refused a place for their child have a right to appeal to an independent panel. The LA will explain the procedure to you if this situation arises.

Waiting List

In the event of more applications than available places, the governors will maintain a waiting list. These and late applications will go onto this list in a position determined by the criteria. If a place becomes available in the school it will be offered in accordance with the waiting list priority. The governors will maintain the list until the end of the Autumn term 2018. Parents wishing their child to remain on the waiting list until the end of the academic year are requested to inform the governors.

Please note that a repeat application within the same academic year will not be considered (by the Governors) unless there has been a significant change in circumstances.

Twins and Multiple births

Where the last available place is offered to a twin or multiple birth sibling the other twin or sibling will be admitted as an exception to the infant class size rule.

In-Year Admissions

Requests for admission into other year groups should be made on the In-Year application form. The form is available from the school or Local Authority and can also be downloaded from the Local Authority website. The form must then be submitted to the Local Authority.

Definitions

'Looked after' children

A 'looked after' child is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

Previously 'looked after' children

A previously 'looked after' child is one who immediately after being 'looked after' became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. An 'adoption order' is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'child arrangement order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

Sibling

A sibling is defined 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 should be living at the same address. The sibling must be in the school at the time of application and be likely to remain in the school at the proposed date of admission.

Children of staff

The school will admit a child of a member of staff provided that:

- a) The member of staff (defined below) has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
- b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable shortage

For the purposes of satisfying these criteria, a member of staff is defined as a member of the:

- full-time teaching staff, or of the part-time teaching staff with a 50% and above timetable
- full-time support staff (on a 38 week and above contract) or of the part-time associate staff who work 50% and above as determined by their role

'Very Exceptional' Medical Grounds

'Very exceptional' medical grounds refers to cases where there are **exceptional** medical reasons which make it **essential** that a child should attend a particular school and where the preferred school is the **only** school locally that could meet the child's needs. A medical report from the child's doctor or consultant must be submitted with the application form, setting out valid medical reasons why it is essential for the child to be admitted to the school in question and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. The Governors reserve the right to seek further information in order to determine whether it is essential for a child to be admitted to the preferred school on medical grounds. Admission on medical grounds cannot be considered where the medical condition relates to that of a parent, brother or sister or other relative/child-minder.

Determined: October 2016
Signed: Sheila Lewis
Date: 10.10.16