

Speldhurst CE (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

Admissions Policy 2017

Speldhurst School was established by St Mary's church in 1858 and the link is still strong today. As a church school, we welcome people of all faiths or none. Nevertheless, the Christian faith is evident in the life of the school in symbols, celebrations and ethos.

Children are admitted into Speldhurst School on completion of a Reception Common Application Form from the Local Education Authority, who administers the admissions procedure.

We admit 20 children each year. All children are offered a place from September. Children are invited into school for afternoon sessions in the term before they are due to start. All children begin by attending school for half days and are then quickly integrated to full day attendance.

Children with a statement of special educational need (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the school will be placed before the oversubscription criteria are applied and the schools published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.

The criteria used to offer places when the school is oversubscribed are, in priority order;

- **Children in Local Authority care.**

A child under the age of 18 years for whom the local authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents/carers (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) or who is the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act. This applies equally to children who immediately after being looked after by the local authority became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. (As defined by Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or Section 8 or 14A of the Children Act 1989)

- **Current Family Association**

A brother or sister in the same school at the time of entry where the family continue to live at the same address as when the sibling was admitted – or – if they have moved – live within 2 miles of the school, or have moved to a property that is nearer to the school than the previous property as defined by the 'Nearness' criterion' (below). In this context brother or sister means children who live as brother and sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters.

- **Health and Special Access reasons.**

Medical, health, social and special access reasons will be applied in accordance with the school's legal obligations, in particular those under the Equality Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend Speldhurst CE (Voluntary Aided) Primary School. Equally this priority will apply to children whose parents'/guardians' physical or mental health or social needs mean that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend Speldhurst CE (Voluntary Aided) Primary School. Such claims will need to be supported by written evidence from a suitably qualified medical or other practitioner who can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and Speldhurst CE (Voluntary Aided) Primary School.

- **Nearness of child's homes.**

The distance is measured between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using Ordnance Survey address point data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by Ordnance Survey. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. The school uses measurements provided by the LA and further information on how distances are calculated is available in the Admissions Booklets provided by the LA.

A child's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only or main residence (not an address at which the child may sometimes stay or sleep) and which is either owned by the child's parent, parents or guardian or leased or rented to them under a lease or written rental agreement. Where partners live apart but share responsibility for the child, and the child lives at two different addresses during the week, we will regard the home address as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of week days.

In the event of a tie breaker situation, when more than one applicant has the same distance from home to school (as measured by the local authority), then lots will be drawn as the decider.

After a place has been offered the school reserves the right to withdraw the place in the following circumstances:

- When a parent has failed to respond to an offer by the designated deadline in the offer letter; or
- If the admission authority offered the place on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from the parent.

The school's Waiting List will be re-ranked, in line with the published oversubscription criteria, every time a child is added.

Parents of Reception age children have a right to defer entry or to take the place up part-time, until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age.

Any request for admission outside of the normal age group should be made to the Governing Body.

To be reviewed by Governing Body October 2016