

'They will soar on wings like eagles ...'
' Isaiah 40:31

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Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust (Aquila)

Proposed variation to admissions arrangements for September 2023 intake

Eastchurch Church of England Primary School

Eastchurch Church of England Primary School is an academy within Aquila (the Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust) and operates on two sites. There is provision for 210 children aged 4 to 11 on each site and a nursery class with 52 places on the Eastchurch site. Aquila and the school's governors are currently consulting parents, staff and wider stakeholders on a proposal to create a separate school on each of the current sites:

Eastchurch CE Primary School on the site at Warden Road, Eastchurch, Kent, ME12 4EJ; and

St Clement's CE Primary School on the site at Leysdown Road, Leysdown, Kent, ME12 4AB

If consultation supports the proposal it will then be submitted for approval to the Department for Education; and if approved will take effect on 1 September 2022. The proposed change to admissions arrangements set out below will take effect for admission to the separate schools from the September 2023 intake onwards only if the proposal to create separate schools is approved by the Department for Education.

No change is proposed to the arrangements for entry to the nursery class on the Eastchurch site.

The school's current oversubscription criteria for entry to the school from YR upwards are as follows:

- Children in Local Authority care or previously in Local Authority care
- Children of staff
- Children with a current family connection
- Children with health, social or special access reasons for attending the school
- Nearness of children's home to the school

Distance is measured as a straight line between the child's permanent home address and a point equidistant between the Eastchurch and St Clement's sites. The school decides which site each child is placed at on distance grounds.

These arrangements will remain in place for the September 2022 intake.

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If the proposed separation of the two sites is approved, there will be two schools for which parents can express a preference and distance from the home address will be measured from the preferred school. Children already on roll will be registered at the school whose site they attend in the school year ending in July 2022. Any application made under the family connection criteria will apply to the separate schools from admission in September 2023. Anyone claiming the family connection can apply it only to the school which siblings – as defined in the criteria – attend at the time of admission.

From September 2023 any application for support with transport to and from school will consider Eastchurch CE Primary School and St Clement's CE Primary School separately when determining the nearest suitable school.

Therefore if the change goes ahead, oversubscription criteria for each school will be as attached, the only difference from current criteria being that distance is measured from the child's home to the school for which they have expressed a preference, not to a point between the existing sites.

Consultation on this proposed change will run from 15 November 2021 until 15 January 2022. Responses should be made to enquiries@diocant-aquila.org

If you would like a paper copy of this document please contact enquiries@diocant-aquila.org or 01303 297020.

Responses will be considered by the local governing body of Eastchurch CE Primary School and by the Trustees of the Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust (Aquila) together with the outcome of DfE consideration of the proposal to establish separate schools so that admissions arrangements can be determined by 15 May 2022.

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Eastchurch CE Primary School, Warden Road, Eastchurch, Kent, ME12 4EJ

Oversubscription criteria for entry in September 2023.

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

The school has an admission number of 30 for entry to the Reception class.

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

Any child with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) that names the school will be allocated a place before any others are offered.

If the school has more applications than the number of spaces it has available places will be allocated in the following priority order, until all places are filled.

1. Children in Local Authority Care or previously in Local Authority Care

Highest priority will be given to looked after children and all previously looked after children who apply for a place at the school.

Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children – 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. A previously looked after child means such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and those children who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. 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 provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

2. Children of staff in either or both of the following circumstances:

- i) where the member of staff 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
- ii) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post in the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage for the requirements of the post.

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3. Current family association

Children with siblings attending the school at the time they are admitted. Siblings include step siblings, foster siblings, adopted siblings and other children living permanently at the same address.

This priority will not be given to children with siblings who are former pupils of the school or who will have left the school by the time the child is admitted.

4. 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 a particular 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 a particular 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 the particular school.

5. Nearness of children's homes to school

Distance is measured in a straight line using National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point data for the home address and the school. Children will be ranked in order of shortest distance first.

Tie break

In the case of 2 or more applications that cannot be separated by the oversubscription criteria outlined above, the school will use random allocation as a tie breaker to decide between applicants. This process will be independently verified.

6. Requests for admission outside of the normal age group

In special circumstances, and in accordance with the Department for Education's School Admissions Code, parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group - for example, if the child is gifted and talented, or has experienced problems such as ill health. Such requests should be discussed with the Headteacher as early as possible in the admissions round associated with that child's date of birth. This will allow the Academy sufficient time to make a decision regarding the request before the closing date for applications and national offer day. Decisions to admit a pupil outside of their normal age group will be based on the circumstances of each case and based on what is in the best interests of the child concerned. We may request supporting professional evidence to assist in the decision-making. There is no legal requirement for this medical or educational evidence to be secured from an appropriate professional. However, failure to provide this may impede our ability to make an informed decision.

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If the request is agreed, the application will be considered for the year group sought and ranked alongside any and all other applications. There is no guarantee that a place will be offered at this stage. Parents should complete an application for the usual point of entry at the same time, in case their request is declined, or they do not receive a place in the year group requested. This application can be cancelled if the academy agrees to accept an application for entry into a different year group.

Applications must be made via paper Common Application Form to the Local Authority, with written confirmation from the Academy attached. Deferred applications will be processed in the same way as all applications for the cohort in the following admissions round, and offers will be made in accordance with the oversubscription criteria specified for that round.

Where a child has been educated out of their normal age group, it is important for the parent to consider that this is not binding when they transfer to secondary or any other school/academy. It will be for the admission authority of that school/academy to decide whether to admit the child out of their normal age group.



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St Clement's CE Primary School, Leysdown Road, Leysdown, Kent, ME12 4AB

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

The school has an admission number of 30 for entry to the Reception class.

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

Any child with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) that names the school will be allocated a place before any others are offered.

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- i) where the member of staff 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
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