



Pluckley Church of England Primary School

Admissions Arrangements for 2024/25

Pluckley Church of England Primary School is a rural faith school in the Kent countryside. At the heart of everything we do are our REFLECT values; respect, enjoyment, friendship, leadership, endeavour, cooperation and trust. These are promoted in all aspects of school life and as a church school our faith is precious and central to every part of our lives.

This policy was updated in July 2021 to be compliant with the Admissions Code which came into force in September 2021, to expand upon the criteria giving priority to previously looked after children.

Admission Number

The school has an admission number of 15 for entry in reception year. The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number for the relevant year group are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at the school to those who have applied.

Oversubscription Criteria

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan or a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order (please note that the school's waiting list will be re-ranked, in line with our oversubscription criteria, each time a child is added to the list):

1. Children in public care (LAC), and those who have been in care and have been subsequently adopted or have been made subject of a residence order or special guardianship (PLAC), including 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 (IAPLAC), a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order.
2. Priority will next be given to children based on their exceptional medical or social needs or those of their parents. Each application must include evidence, from a medical specialist or social worker of the child's/parent's need and why they must attend this school rather than any other, based on those needs. If evidence is not

submitted to the LA with the application, a child's or parent's medical or social needs cannot be considered.

3. Children of current staff at school - a) 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; b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

4. Siblings at the school where the family continues to live at the same address or has moved to a new property that falls within 2 miles of the school. We use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight-line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG). Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody.

5. Distance from the school. We use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for the school, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody.

Tie break

If in categories 2-5 above a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, random allocation undertaken by the local authority (or another body unconnected with the Academy Trust) will be used as a tie-break to decide who will be admitted.

Random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family tied for the final place. We will admit them all, as permitted by the infant class size rules and exceed our PAN.

Admission of children outside their year group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission out of normal year group is being requested and the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place.

When such a request is made, the academy trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code.

Further information

When a place has been allocated for your child at Pluckley Church of England Primary School, you will be contacted by the school so that arrangements can be made to introduce you and your child to the school. When this happens at the end of one school year in preparation for a September admission, there will be specific open days when new children are invited to attend. In-year admissions are subject to less formal arrangements and will be subject to individual negotiation.

When a child joins the school in Year R in September we begin with a short spell of mornings, quickly increasing to include a lunchtime and then full-time education. We find that this helps children get used to the new, long and tiring, school day. If any parents have concerns about these arrangements, then this can be discussed with the Head Teacher.

Where an offer has been made, the school will provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can choose to defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year, but not beyond the start of the term after their child reaches compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year. Where parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year, but not beyond the start of the term after their child reaches compulsory school age.

Notes

Home address:

The home address is where a child normally lives. Where a child lives with parents with shared parental responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child's residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which residential address should be used for the purpose of admission to school. If no joint declaration is received where the residence is split equally by the closing date for applications, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor. If the residence is not split equally between both parents, then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week.

Sibling:

'Sibling' means a natural brother or sister, a half brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, a step brother or sister or other child living in the same household as part of the same family who, in any of these cases, will be living at the same address at the date of their application for a place.

Medical and Social Need:

'Social need' does not include a parent's wish that a child attends the school because of a child's aptitude or ability or because their friends attend the school.
'Medical need' does not include mild medical conditions.