

Astley St. Stephen's CE Primary School

Admissions Policy

Admissions to an Aided school are the responsibility of the Governors, and the following agreement between the Governors and the Local Authority lays down the criteria for admissions and procedures to be followed, which is in line with the Manchester Diocesan Board of Education policy.

- St. Stephen's is a one form entry school with a maximum intake of 30 pupils in each new school year.
- Responsibility for admissions is delegated to a committee, including the Headteacher.
- The governors will not place restrictions on admissions to Reception year unless they are advised that applications are likely to exceed the published admissions number
- The governors will admit all children having a statement of special educational needs or education health and care plan naming the school
- In the event of over-subscription the governors will allocate places using the following criteria which are listed in priority order:-

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children (evidence required, see note 1)
2. Children with brothers and sisters in school at the date of the child's admission (see note 2).
3. Attendance for worship at St. Stephen's Church by a parent/guardian (evidence required, see note 3)
4. Attendance for worship at another Christian church in St. Stephen's Parish by a parent/guardian (evidence required, see notes 3 and 4).
5. Attendance for worship at any other Christian Church by a parent/guardian (evidence required, see note 3)
6. Children or parents who have compelling medical or social needs and who live in St. Stephen's Parish. (evidence required from a professional person with knowledge of the child's/parent's needs e.g. doctor, social worker) This evidence needs to show why the child ought to attend St. Stephen's rather than another school.
7. Children who live in St. Stephen's Parish (see note 4).
8. Children who live within the United Benefice of Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common boundary (see note 4).
9. All other children

Deferred Entry

Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to the school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year. Where entry is deferred, the place will be held open and not offered to another child. Parents cannot defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the application was accepted.

Part Time Attendance

Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Tie Breaker

If a tie breaker is required those living nearest to school will be given priority. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the school's main entrance to the child's home address as measured by the Local Authority using Wigan Council's measuring system.

In cases where there are two or more children with the same distance measurement (for example if more than one child lives in a block of flats), where to admit another child would breach the infant class size regulations, a system will be used to randomly pick who will be offered a place. Please contact the school if you would like more information about this.

If we offer the last place available to one of twins (or triplets and so on) we will admit the other twin or triplet too.

Child's home address

You must give the correct permanent home address. This is where the child and parent, or the person who has care of the child or parental responsibility, normally live.

If you are separated and your child spends time at each parent's address, the address we use for admission to school is that of the main carer. We use the address of the parent who gets the child benefit for this.

Admission applications must be in by the date established by the LA in order to be considered, particularly when there is greater demand for places than are available.

Admissions Guidance Notes

Note 1 Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order). Applications for previously looked after children must be supported with appropriate evidence i.e. a copy of the adoption order, residence order or special guardianship order.

Note 2 A sibling is defined as a brother or sister, or step-brother and step-sister, half-brother and half-sister, foster brother and foster sister living at the same address as part of the same family unit for whom application is being made. Sibling priority will not be given where the brother/sister or step-brother/step-sister half-brother/half-sister, foster brother/foster sister lives at a different address to the child for whom application is being made. No sibling priority is given to cousins, regardless of their address.

Note 3 Attendance for 48 or more times for the previous 2 years prior to application. Anyone wanting to offer evidence of a parent/guardian involvement must obtain a signature from their parish clergy/minister/other church on the school's Supplementary Information Form available from the school.

Note 4 Maps of the parish boundaries may be accessed at the school office. A map of the United Benefice is available from the vicar at St Stephen's church.

Late applications

Late applications (those received after the closing date) will only be considered after those received by the closing date. The only exception to this is applications for looked after children that are received by 15 February will be included with on time applications.

This policy provides criteria for initial entry into school and mid-term admissions.

Appeals

Where the governors are unable to offer a place because the school is over subscribed, parents/guardians have the right to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, as amended by the Education Act, 2002. Parents/guardians should notify the clerk to the governors at the school within 14 days of receiving the letter refusing a place. Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to submit their case to the panel in writing and also to attend in order to present their case. You will normally receive 14 days' notice of the place and time of the hearing. Letters of appeal should be sent to: The Clerk to the Governors, St. Stephen's CE Primary school.

Waiting Lists

Places may become available at St. Stephen's CE Primary School after the offer date has passed. To decide which child will be given a place, we will:

- put all children who have been refused a place and would still like to be offered a place on the school's waiting list;
- keep the list in priority order, decided by the oversubscription criteria for the school only;
- offer places that become available to the next child on the waiting list; and
- keep the waiting list until the end of the autumn term

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, to a higher year group if the child is gifted and talented or to a lower year group if the child has experienced problems such as ill health.

The parents of a summer born child (born between 1 April and 30 August) may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.

A decision is made on the basis of the circumstances of each case.

The process is as follows:

Stage 1 – request

Parents make a formal request to the Local Authority School Organisation Team in writing with any supporting evidence they wish to be considered.

- A request for early entry into Year 7 should be made before 31 October in the previous academic year in order to give sufficient time for the case to be considered prior to the offer of school places on 1 March.
- A request for delayed entry to reception class should be made at the same time as applying for a place for normal entry (i.e. by the closing date of 15 January) in order to give sufficient time for the case to be considered prior to the offer of school places on 16 April.
- A request for in year admission outside of the normal age group should be made on the normal in year transfer form.

We do not accept requests for early entry to reception class for children who will not be of statutory school age.

Stage 2 – decision

Requests for voluntary-aided, foundation and academy schools will be referred to the school to be considered.

Requests for community and voluntary controlled schools will be considered by the local authority. We will look at the following factors but these are not exhaustive:

- Parent's views
- The needs of the child and the possible impact on them of being educated out of year group
- The child's medical history and views of medical professionals if appropriate
- In the case of children born prematurely the fact that they may have naturally fallen into the lower age group if they had been born on their expected date of birth
- Whether delayed academic, social, emotional or physical development is adversely affecting their readiness for school;
- Any other information which the parent requests the local authority to consider.

Stage 3 – outcome

Parents are notified of the decision in writing by the School Organisation Team.

Request agreed:

If the request is agreed the application will be considered for the year group requested and ranked alongside any other applications. **There is no guarantee that a place will be offered at the preferred school.** Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

Where a child has been educated out of their normal age group, the parent may again request admission out of the normal age group when they transfer to secondary school. It will be for the admission authority of that school to decide whether to admit the child out of their normal age group.

Request refused:

There is no statutory right of appeal against the refusal of a request for admission outside the normal age group. However, if the parents are dissatisfied they have the right to complain through the Council's complaints procedure for decisions made by the local authority or under the school's complaints procedure where the decision has been made by the school.