



Sharnford C of E Primary School **Admissions Policy for the school year 2026/2027**

Sharnford C of E Primary School is a member of Inspiring Primaries Academy Trust (IPAT). This means that the Trust is the admissions authority and is responsible for all admissions. The Trust delegates admission decisions to each of its school's local governing body.

In formulating this admissions policy, the Governors consulted with the trustees of IPAT, Leicester Diocesan Board of Education, local academies, Leicestershire County Council and the governing bodies of local community and voluntary controlled schools for which the Local Authority is the admission authority.

This policy is reviewed by the Local Governing Board each year in line with the legal timelines for admissions. The School Admissions Code (2021) and the School Admissions Appeals Code (2022) can be found below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6335a0c88fa8f506931f6d44/School_Admission_Appeals_Code_2022.pdf

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the churches at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Parents ⁽¹⁾ have the right to withdraw their children from the daily Christian act of worship and from Religious Education.

Sharnford C of E Primary School serves the catchment area shown in the attached map
- Appendix A. Sharnford C of E catchment area is the parishes of Sharnford and Wigston Parva.

The admissions authority will set a Published Admissions Number (PAN) which indicates the number of places available within the year(s) of entry. This information will explain how places will be allocated until the PAN is reached. The decision will be to refuse all applications that would lead to admission of pupils above PAN.

Our Published Admissions Number (PAN) for this policy year is fifteen pupils.

Our designated catchment area does not prevent parents who live outside this area from expressing a preference for our school. In the event of insufficient places being available, places within a particular year group will be allocated in line with the criteria listed as 1-6 below. Entitlement to a place in the school is dependent on the parents applying at the appropriate time and (for infant submissions) on compliance with infant class size regulations ⁽²⁾. If a child moves into the school's designated catchment area once allocation decisions have been made, they will not be offered a place in the school if the published admission number for that year has been reached but will have the right to appeal.

Applications for places for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) class need to be registered by completing the on-line Local Authority common application form, this is the best way to apply. The link can be found below:

<http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-admissions/applying-for-a-school-place>

The Local Authority common online application form must be completed and submitted by 15th January.

The National Offer date is 16th April.

The decision of the school's Admissions Committee will be notified to parents by the Local Authority. The closing date for Local Authority applications and the notification of the decision are in accordance with the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme ⁽³⁾. Late applications will not be offered a place within the school if the infant class has fifteen pupils, regardless of distance to the next nearest available school. Any application received after the closing date will be treated as a mid-term application and places will be allocated according to the school's admissions criteria and Published Admissions Number (PAN) for that year.

Parents may seek a place for their child outside their normal age group, for example, if the child has experienced problems such as ill health or if they are moving from overseas and their child has not been educated in the English school system. This only applies to summer-born children as children must start school in the term after which the child had reached statutory school age. Parents should contact the Head of School to discuss any such requests with all the relevant information taken into account. Parents may also wish to submit other information in support of their request; for example, from professionals who have worked with their child. Each request will be looked at on an individual basis with any decisions taken according to what is considered to be in the child's best interests. This would be called a delayed start.

For delayed entry the following process should be followed in order:

- a) Parents should make the request to the Head of School and the local governing body as the admitting authority by 15th January stating their request in their application for the chronological year group. This will provide time for requests to be processed, and where a request is not agreed, for the family to be assured their chronological application will be processed as a normal on time application.
- b) Parents should submit to the admitting authority their reasons for wishing to delay

applying for a school place. This should include confirmation of agreement to the proposal from the Head of School. On receiving the supporting evidence, and on the recommendation of the Head of School, the School will write to the parent to agree that the application can be processed for the following year. However, the letter will highlight the potential risks / impact of this delay which include:

- i) Whilst the school has agreed to the delay, there is no guarantee that the child will be allocated a place at that school the following year;
 - ii) Should it not be possible to allocate a place at the school the following year, the Local Authority will make every effort to allocate an EYFS place, rather than a Year 1 place. However, it may not be possible to do this.
 - iii) Decisions on which year group a child is admitted to are taken by a school's admission authority; this is not always the local authority and the admission authority of alternative schools may not be in agreement with delayed entry.
 - iv) Parents will also be made aware that delayed entry will have an impact on their child's score should they sit the 11+ test. This is due to the age standardisation process.
 - v) Attention will also be drawn to the fact that when the child moves to a different school (eg primary to secondary, or to a different school due to a house move) that the admission authority of the new school will be responsible for deciding which year group the child will be placed in. This could result in a child being required to 'skip' a year.
- c) If the request is not agreed by the school, the parent will receive a letter detailing the reasons why.
- d) A copy of the letter sent to the parent will also be sent to the Local Authority.
- e) The parent may still change their mind regarding delayed entry by a whole school year, and submit an application in the normal way. If an application is received, then the parent's previous request to delay until the following year would no longer apply. This will offer the following options to the parent:
- i) Their child starts school in the September following their 4th birthday;
 - ii) If allocated a place they can consider deferring the child's start date in EYFS until later in the school year;
 - iii) They can discuss part-time arrangements with the allocated school.
- f) A parent who chooses to delay entry by a whole school year will need to apply for a school place in the admissions round for the following year in the normal way. Their application will then be considered in exactly the same way as all others submitted during that application year.

If a parent who has applied by the closing date given by the Local Authority later changes their mind and wishes to defer/delay their child's entry to EYFS, they should discuss this and other options with the Head of School. Requests to defer/delay will not be agreed if the only reason is that a place has not been offered at one of the preferred schools.

These applications for admission outside normal age group will be considered alongside all other applications in accordance with the Local Authority coordinated admissions scheme. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at the school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they have been offered a place at the school but it is not in

their preferred age group.

In addition, parents of all children in reception year have the right to choose not to send their child to school until they are of compulsory school age. Entry can be deferred until the start of the term after the child reaches statutory school age. Parents also have the option of requesting part-time attendance but the child needs to be in full time attendance by the start of the term after which the child reached statutory school age. Parents should discuss this with the Head of School. This is called a deferred entry start.

UK service personnel (armed forces) and Crown servants

You can apply for a school place for your child(ren) once you have an official letter that has been issued by the relevant government department confirming your relocation date, with as much information as possible about where you will be living.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school will be admitted even if this means exceeding the agreed PAN.

Oversubscription Criteria.

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

If there are fewer applications than places, then no application is refused. If there are too many requests, priority will be given to children whose parents applied on time, in the following order:

1. Children who are in public care (looked after children LAC) or those who were previously looked after (PLAC), including those who appear (to the admissions authority) to have been in state care outside of England, but have ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order. By children previously in state care outside of England, we mean children who have been looked after outside of England by a public authority, a religious organisation, or another provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. The care may have been provided in orphanages or other settings. Where Governors are unsure about the validity of the application, advice will be sought from the Local Authority's "Virtual School Head"
2. Pupils who have a serious medical condition or exceptional social or domestic needs (professional documentation accompanying the application will be required). Examples of exceptional needs include:
 - A child whose parent's occupation which may bring the parent into conflict with parents of children attending their local school and therefore needs to attend the alternative school.
 - A child whose parent has recently died or is suffering from a serious illness.
 - A child who has suffered severe bullying which is recognised by the present or most recent school as an ongoing problem and which is having significant effect on the child's health.
 - A child with a serious medical condition which would make the preferred school particularly suitable.
 - A child who has been abused and placed on the child protection register and who needs to attend an alternative school to avoid the abuser.

This list is not exhaustive, and each case will be considered on its individual merits.

3. Pupils who live in the designated catchment (See map at appendix A). For admission purposes, the home address is the child's permanent address, where the child usually lives with their parent or carer. You must not use any other address on your application, including using the address of a childminder or relative or renting a property for a short period of time as this could be considered as using a fraudulent address. Only one address can be used on your application for a school place. Where shared care arrangements are in place, both parents must agree which address will be used on the application, and this should be the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week. If no joint declaration is received by the closing date for applications, the address where the child spends the majority of the school week will be used. In instances where the child spends equal time with each parent, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor.
4. Pupils who have a sibling (this could include step siblings, foster siblings, adopted siblings) attending the school where the pupil and sibling permanently reside in the same household, at the time of allocation. Where the last available place is offered to a twin or multiple birth child the other twin or multiple birth sibling(s) will also be admitted.
5. Children of serving staff at the school where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time of application.
6. The distance pupils live 'as the crow flies' from a centre point of the home address to Sharnford C E Primary School's main gate, using a geo-coded digital mapping system.

In the event that there are more applications than places available in any of the above criteria, places will be allocated by a method of random selection (drawing lots) that will be observed by an independent witness who is not a Governor or employee of the school.

The school has the right to withdraw an offer of a place where:

1. A parent has not responded to an offer within 21 working days.
2. Where the place has been obtained by false information, for example a fraudulent address or date of birth.
3. A child was offered a place and the family moves out of catchment before admission takes place.

This is regardless of numbers in the school and whether or not other requests have been refused.

Waiting Lists for EYFS

During the normal admissions round it is always necessary to complete a Local Authority Common Application to apply for a school place. Registering interest with the school on a 'waiting list' before the admissions round guarantees neither a place nor priority within the priority criteria.

Offers of places will be made by the Local Authority on the school's behalf.

A waiting list will be **maintained by the school** if the school is oversubscribed for children due to start in the admissions year stated on the front of this policy. The position on the list will be determined by applying the published priority criteria and not by date of receipt. Each name added will require the list to be re-ranked. The existence of a waiting list does not remove the right of appeal against any refusal of a place from any unsuccessful applicant.

Names will only be removed from the list if a written request is received, or if the offer of a place that becomes available is declined. The waiting list will shut down on 31 December in the policy

year in accordance with statutory requirements.

Mid-Term applications

To apply for a mid-term place it is always necessary to complete an application form to the Local Governing Body for admission to Sharnford C E Primary School. Application forms are available from the school office or via the link below:

<https://www.sharnfordprimaryschool.com/admissions/>

All mid-term applications will be processed within 15 school days.

Waiting Lists for Mid-Term Admissions

Registering interest with the school on a 'waiting list' before the admissions round guarantees neither a place nor priority within the priority criteria.

Offers of places will be made by the Governing Body on the school's behalf.

Mid-term admission waiting lists will be for the academic year of application only and it will be necessary to reapply the following or subsequent years if applicants wish to remain on the list.

Looked after children and previously looked after children as defined within this policy, are children who are the subject of a direction by a local authority or who are allocated to a school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol and they will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

If the school is unable to offer a place the parents/carers have the right to appeal.

The appeal must be in writing on the relevant form and by the relevant date, which can be found on the DBE website: <https://www.leicesterdbe.org/schools/admissions-and-appeals/> alternatively they can be obtained from the **Clerk to the Appeals Panel, Diocesan Board of Education, St. Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 5PZ or contact 0116 2615350.**

Appeals will be heard during the summer term, dates can be found on the DBE website: <https://www.leicesterdbe.org/schools/admissions-and-appeals/>

Appeals lodged after the deadline, like appeals for in-year admissions, will be heard within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged. In all cases, appellants will receive at least 10 days' written notice of the appeal hearing. Applicants may submit additional evidence in writing by 12 noon the day before the hearing. Decision letters are sent to the school and appellant within 5 days of the hearing.

On 1 October 2022 the School Admissions Appeals Code 2022 came into force. The changes provide flexibility in how appeals are heard i.e either at a physical hearing, remotely or by a combination of the two. Where appeal hearings are held remotely, admission authorities must be satisfied that:

- The appeal is capable of being heard fairly and transparently
- The parties will be able to present their cases fully
- Each participant has access to video or telephone facilities allowing them to engage in the hearing at all times (presumption is telephone hearings only to be used as a back-up option where there are accessibility or connectivity issues).

Recent Ombudsman decisions have confirmed that even where a service provider is engaged,

the admission authority remains responsible for compliance with the Code's requirements.

Sharnford C of E Primary School complies with the Leicestershire Fair Access Policy.

Any person or body who considers that the arrangements in this policy are unlawful under the Admissions Code may make an application to the Schools Adjudicator. All objections must be referred to the adjudicator by 15th May in the determination year.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-schools-adjudicator>

Notes:

(1) The term parent is used to include: parent/guardian/carer

(2) Education (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 1998

(3) The Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme is available for inspection through Allocations, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire. LE3 8RF

Full consultation being carried out Autumn 2024.

Full consultation review will take place during Autumn 2031 or earlier if changes are required.

