Admissions Criteria 2028/2029

Admissions Policy

Our admissions process forms part of the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme. Application procedures are published annually on Solihull Council website. This includes online application at www.solihull.gov.uk/enrol , and closing dates for each stage of admission. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council will notify parents of the outcome of their applications on the published offer day.

The school's admission number is **30**. Where the number of applications is lower than the school's admission number, all applicants will be admitted. If there are more applications than places available then places will be allocated in the following order:

Oversubscription criteria

1. Children looked after by a Local Authority (in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to the school and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a Child Arrangements Order or Special Guardianship Order immediately following having been looked after. From September 2021, this includes 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.

2. Children who would have a brother or sister at the school at the time they start school.

3. All other children.

Notes:

1. Children with an education, health and care plan that names St. Patrick's CE Academy will be offered a place. This is not an oversubscription criterion.

2. Under criteria 2 a brother or sister must live at the same address and may be

   - A brother or sister sharing the same parents;

- A half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one parent; a stepbrother or stepsister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage or civil partnership;
- The separate children of a couple who live together; or
- An adopted or fostered brother or sister.

3. For the purposes of education law, the Department for Education considers a 'parent' to include:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not;
- any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative;
- any person who, although not a biological parent and not having parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person. A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

4. A child's home address is the place where the child is permanently resident with his or her parent(s). When a child lives between two addresses, the address used for offering a school place will be where the child lives for most of the school week (Monday to Friday). If care is split equally, parents/carers can choose which address will be used. (In the event of a dispute between parents who each have parental responsibility, the matter may ultimately need to be resolved by the courts.)

5. If offering places within any one of the criteria would cause the schools admission number to be exceeded, then children living nearest will be offered first. Distances are measured in a straight line from the home address to the school by the Local Authority computerised admissions system. The admissions system uses six-figured grid references provided by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). The grid references provide a unique point on each property. If two or more applicants share the same distance to the school/Academy and only one place is available, the applicant to whom the place will be offered will be determined independently by the Local Authority by random selection (unless this involves multiple births, in which case, all the siblings will be admitted).

6. There is no guarantee of transfer from nursery to reception class. Parents must make an application for a Reception place in the normal admissions round.

7. Applications received after the closing date are late and will be processed in accordance with the Local Authority's co-ordinated admissions scheme.

8. Waiting lists are produced in strict order of priority, against the over-subscription criteria. Waiting lists are kept until the end of December in the year of admission. The Waiting List will be re-ranked each time a child's name is added or removed.

9. In-year applications: Applications for a school place at any time other than the normal time for admission (in-year admission) should be made to the school via the Admissions Team of Solihull MBC which co-ordinates applications on behalf of the school [link]. The application will be notified to the school and considered by the school's Trust Board and parents will be advised in writing of the outcome by the Local Authority within 15 school days (with the aim of 10 school days). If there is a vacancy in the relevant year group, a place will be offered. If the Governing Board decides that a place cannot be offered, the applicant will be placed on the waiting list under the appropriate priority. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified of their right of appeal.

10. The Trust Board recognises its duty to comply with the Local Authority Fair Access Protocol to provide fair access to school for pupils who need a school place because they have missed, or are at risk of missing, education.

11. Parents who wish to appeal against the decision of the Governors to refuse their child a place in the school may apply in writing to the Chair of Governors via the school office. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel.

12. **Deferred Entry, Part-Time Attendance and Admission Outside the Normal Age Group**

Children are normally admitted to Reception in the September following their fourth birthday and are entitled to a full-time place from that September.

Deferred entry and part-time attendance

Parents may defer their child's entry to school until later in the school year for which a place has been offered, but not beyond the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday or the beginning of the final term of that school year,

whichever is sooner. Parents may also choose for their child to attend part-time until they reach compulsory school age.

Admission outside the normal age group, including summer-born children

Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age group. This includes parents of summer-born children (born between 1 April and 31 August) who wish their child to start Reception in the September following their fifth birthday, rather than entering Year 1, and such applications should generally be made during the application period for their child's normal age group.

Requests will be considered by the Governing Board, as the admission authority, on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the child's best interests, taking account of the parents' views, the views of the headteacher and any other relevant information. Parents will be informed in writing of the decision and the reasons for it. Agreement to admission outside the normal age group does not guarantee a place at the school; a separate application must be made and the normal admissions arrangements will apply. A decision made by one admission authority does not bind any other admission authority.

Parents should address any request in writing to the school's Chair of Governors, via the school office.