



# **Admissions Policy 2026 to 2027**

## **St Paul's Church of England Primary School**

Signed on behalf of the Local Governing Body November 2024

# **St Paul's CE Primary School Admissions Policy 2026-27**

## **Introduction**

St Paul's is a Church of England Primary Academy in RISE multi academies trust. This means that the school Governors are responsible for all admissions. RISE is the admitting authority for all schools in the Trust. The RISE Directors delegate responsibility to the relevant CGC (Local Governing Body) for consultation in regards to Admission Policy, for application decisions and to appeal against Local Authority decisions to admit pupils.

In formulating this admissions policy, the (Local) Governors consulted with Leicester Diocesan Board of Education, local academies, Leicestershire County Council and the required governing bodies of community and voluntary controlled schools for which the Local Authority is the admission authority. This policy is reviewed by the CGC each spring in line with the legal timelines for admissions.

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.

Furthermore, admissions practice in RISE MAT schools reflects the Vision of the Leicester DBE, which states:

Inclusive: Like Jesus himself, our schools are 'scandalously inclusive'. Children and families from all faiths and none are welcomed, respected and cherished. Serving the community in which they are placed, our schools exemplify, 'love your neighbour'.

Department for Education guidance on admissions and appeals is contained in [The School Admissions Code \(2021\)](#) and the [School Admissions Appeals Code \(2012\)](#).

## **Aims**

The school/academy 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 have the right to withdraw their children from the daily Christian act of worship and from Religious Education.

## **Admission**

St Paul's C of E Primary School serves the catchment area shown in the attached Appendix.

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. A non-statutory admissions limit has been set for all other year groups.

Our published admission number (PAN) for 2026 entry onwards is **30** pupils.

Our designated catchment area does not prevent parents who live outside this area from expressing a preference for our school. 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 (1). If a child moves into the school's designated catchment area once allocation decisions have been made, they will not necessarily be offered a place in the school if the published admissions number for that year has been reached.

Applications for places for the reception class need to be registered by completing the on-line Local Authority common application form (available from [www.leics.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.leics.gov.uk/admissions)).

The Local Authority common on-line application form must be completed by 15th January 2024. 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 (2). Late applications will not be offered a place within the school if the infant class has thirty 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 is gifted and talented, 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. Parents should contact the Executive Headteacher to discuss any such requests with all the relevant information to be 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.

Parents of all children in the Reception year may request part-time attendance and a deferred start to their schooling. Children may attend part-time until the start of the term after their fifth birthday and they may also defer starting school until the commencement of the term after their fifth birthday. In addition, the parents of a summer born child (those born from 1st April to 31st August) may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their 5th birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to Reception rather than Year 1. In such cases the following process should be followed in order:

a) Parents should make the request to the Headteacher by 1<sup>st</sup> December of the year before the child turns 4. This will provide time for requests to be processed, and where a request is not agreed, for the family to have adequate time to make an application before the published closing date.

b) Parents should submit to Leicestershire LA their reasons for wishing to defer applying for a school place. This should include confirmation of agreement to the proposal from the Head teacher. On receiving the supporting evidence, and on the recommendation of the Head teacher, Leicestershire LA 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 deferral which include:

- i) Whilst the school has agreed to the deferral, there is no guarantee that the child will be allocated a place at that academy 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 a Reception place, rather than a Year 1 place. However, it may not be possible to do this. Decisions on which year group a child is admitted

to be 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 deferred entry.

iii) Parents will also be made aware that deferring entry will have an impact on their child's score should they sit the 11+ test. This is due to the age standardisation process.

iv) Attention will also be drawn to the fact that when the child moves to a different school (e.g. primary to secondary, or due 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, the parent will receive a letter detailing the reasons why.

d) A copy of the letter sent to the parent will be sent to the Head teacher.

e) The parent may still change their mind regarding deferred 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 defer 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) They can consider deferring the child's start date in Reception until later in the school year;

iii) They can discuss part-time arrangements with the allocated school, as detailed above.

f) A parent who chooses to defer 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 their child's entry to Reception, they should discuss this and other options with the Headteacher. Requests to defer 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 co-ordinated admissions scheme. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at the academy for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they have been offered a place at the academy but it is not in their preferred age group.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan which names the school will be admitted even if this means exceeding the agreed PAN.

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) or those who were previously looked after, including those who appear (to the admissions authority) to have been in state care outside England, but have ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order.

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 has an enforcement role 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 will have an older sibling attending the school at the time of admission. (Older siblings include brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, step brothers or sisters, adopted children, fostered children, and children of partners living together or any other child who permanently resides at the parental home and for whom the parent has parental responsibility).

4. Pupils who live in the catchment (See appendix). The child's place of residence is taken to be the parental home. Where children have parents that are separated/divorced and who live part-time at both homes, the address used is that of the parent who claims child benefit or the home where they live the majority of the time.

5. All other pupils based on distance (living nearest to the school as measured by direct line using the LA's mapping tool Routefinder).

In the event that there are more applications than places available in any of the above criteria, places will be allocated by those that live nearest to the school (living nearest to the school as measured by direct line using the LA's mapping tool Routefinder).

Where the first twin or a multiple birth child is offered the last available place the other twin or multiple birth siblings will be admitted as exceptions to the infant class size rule.

In exceptional cases the school has the right to withdraw an offer of a place where a parent has not responded to an offer within 21 days, or where the place has been obtained by false information, for example an incorrect address or date of birth. This is regardless of numbers in the school and whether or not other requests have been refused.

### **In-year (mid-term) admissions**

For In-Year (mid-term) transfers, parents should apply for school place via the LA. A decision will be made within 10 school days of the application being received. Allocations will be made in line with the criteria for that year of admissions. Please refer to the priority order above. If unsuccessful, appeals may be made to the DBE. The appeal must be in writing on the relevant form, which can be obtained from the Diocesan Board of Education, St. Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 5PZ or downloaded from the DBE website.

### **Waiting Lists**

During the normal admissions round it is always necessary to complete a Local Authority Common Application form 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.

If the school/academy is oversubscribed for children due to start the following September a waiting list will be **maintained**. The position on the list will be determined by applying the published over-subscription 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 each year on 31 December in accordance with statutory requirements. Looked after children and previously looked after children as defined within this policy, 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 will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

**Appeals should be sent to The Clerk to the Appeals Panel, St. Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 5PZ preferably via email to [officedbe@leicesterdbe.org](mailto:officedbe@leicesterdbe.org).**

The appeal must be in writing on the relevant form, which can be obtained from the Diocesan Board of Education, St. Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 5PZ or downloaded from the DBE website.

For first time admissions in September 2026, appeals must be made by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Appeals will be heard during the summer term, within 40 school days of this date.

Any late applications appeal lodged after this deadline, will be heard within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged.

Any mid-year transfer appeals 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. They may submit additional evidence in writing by 12 noon the day before the hearing. Decision letters are sent to the school, RISE and appellant within 5 days of the hearing.

Notes:

*(1) Education (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 1998*

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

*(3) 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.*

*(4) Under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. See Section 46 (adoption orders).*

*(5) Under the terms of the Children and Families Act 2014. See Section 12 which defines a „child arrangement order“ as an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live.*

*(6) See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a „special guardianship order“ as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).*

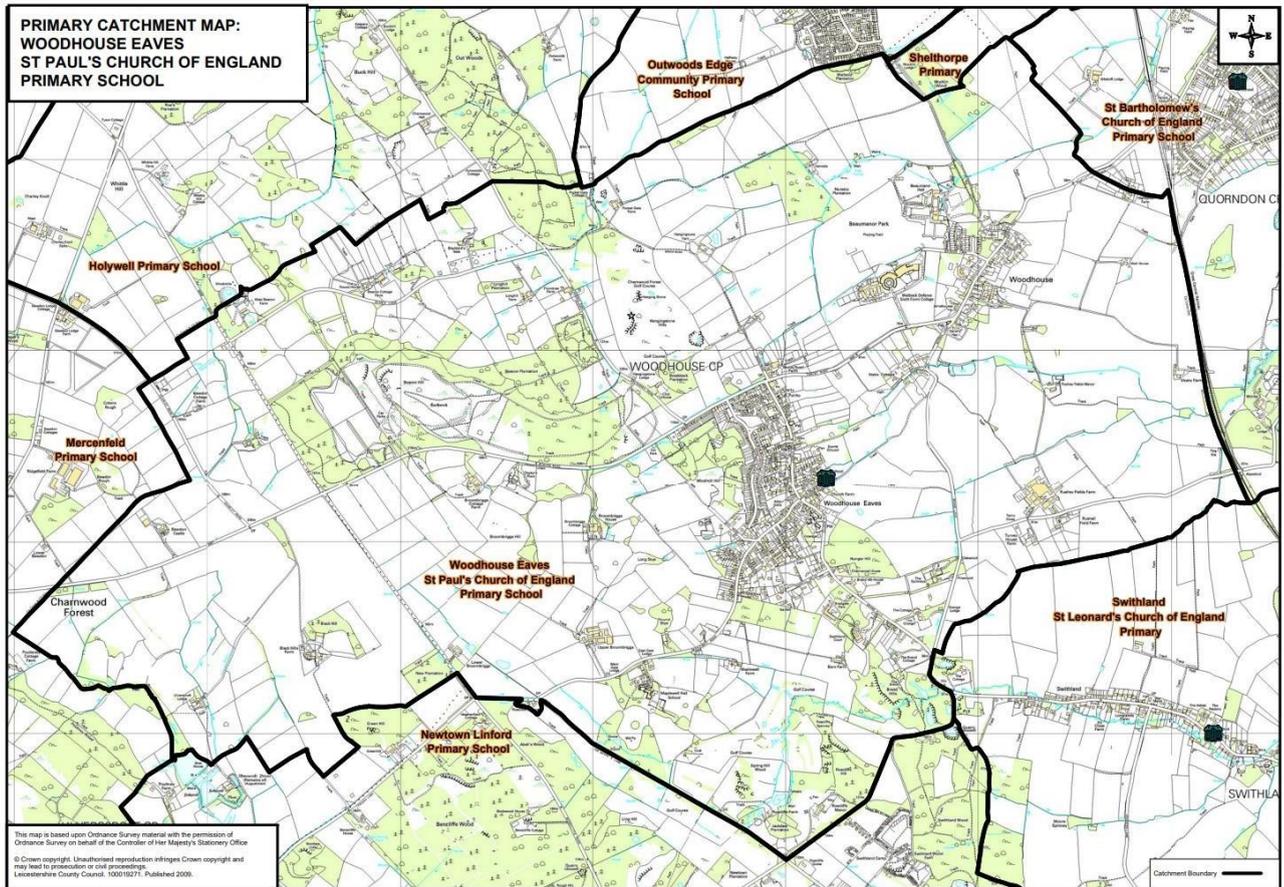
*Full consultation review 2021 or earlier if changes required.*

*(7) The definition of state care is:- a child accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or other provider (i.e. charity group that benefits society) but does not include private fostering. 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"*

*(8) The definition of previously looked after children has been expanded to include children who appear (to the admissions authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted*

## Appendix 1

### St Paul's CE Primary School Catchment Area Map



If you are unsure if your address falls within the catchment area of our school please contact the school office on 01509 890483 or email us [office@stpauls.risemat.co.uk](mailto:office@stpauls.risemat.co.uk)