



ADMISSIONS POLICY 2023

Date 12/09/2023

Aims

At Scott Primary School we aim to ensure that children, irrespective of age, ability, disability, gender, race and social circumstances have access to the benefits of high quality child centred education.

Admission Arrangements

Parents wishing to send their child to Scott Primary School are warmly welcomed to visit the school to see our children at work, meet the staff and ask any questions they may have. Visits can be arranged by telephoning the school office on (01234 352630).

Our admission number for 2023/2024 is 60.

Once you have applied to the Local Authority for your child's place at Scott Primary and your child has been offered a place at our school, you will be invited to visit the school along with your child and meet the other children who will also be in your child's class. Your child's class teacher will also make a home visit before your child starts school. This visit enables your child to meet their teacher in the security of their own home; it also gives parents the opportunity to ask any questions they might have.

Your child becomes statutory school age the term after his/her 5th birthday. All children may attend school full-time from the start of the academic year, in which they turn 5 years of age.

We also run a Nursery at Scott Primary; the school organises admission to the Nursery itself. In order to apply for a place at our Nursery, parents need to apply directly to the school for a place. We offer 30 hours of funded childcare.

Your child can attend our Nursery the term after their 3rd birthday.

It is important to note that admission to our Nursery does not automatically guarantee a place in Reception and parents MUST apply to the Local Authority for their child's place in Reception.

The school has an agreed admission number of 60 for entry to the Reception year.

Local Authority

The Local Authority will apply the following criteria (in the rank order shown) to decide the order in which places will be allocated when there are more requests from parents/carers than the number of places available:

- All 'looked after' children or children who were previously 'looked after' (see definitions);
- Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school (see definition of sibling);
- Other pupils living in the catchment area.
- Other siblings (see definition);
- Any other children

Notes

If applying these criteria results in there being more children with an equal right to admission to the school than the number of available places, the tie break will be the distance the pupil lives from the school, measured in a straight line, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. The Local Authority will measure the distance from the address point of the pupil's home to a point on the school site agreed with the governing body of the school. The Local Authority will not give priority within each criterion to children who meet other criteria.

The Local Authority will normally offer a place at the catchment area school if parents apply for a place at that school during the normal admissions round. However, a place at the catchment area school cannot be guaranteed. If a pupil moves into the catchment area outside the normal admissions round (or after the allocation process has begun) it may be more difficult to offer a place at the catchment area school if this would mean exceeding the admission number at the school. In this case, a place will normally be offered at the next nearest school or academy which caters for pupils of the same age and has places available.

Pupils who have an Education Health Care Plan are required to be admitted to the school which is named on the Education Health Care Plan, even if the school is full. Pupils identified for admission through the Fair Access Protocol will also be admitted even if the school is full.

Definitions

'Looked after' children

A 'looked after' child is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

Previously 'looked after' children

A previously 'looked after' child is one who immediately after being 'looked after' became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. An 'adoption order' is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

Sibling

A sibling refers to a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister or the child of the parent/carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living at the same address. The sibling must be in the school at the time of application and be likely to remain in the school at the proposed date of admission.

Home Address

A pupil's home address will be regarded as the address of the parent/carer with parental responsibility with whom the child normally lives. This will not usually include grandparents, aunts or uncles. Where a child spends time with parents/carers at more than one address, the address used to allocate a school place will be the one at which the pupil is ordinarily resident and where the child spends the majority of the school week (Mondays to Fridays) including nights. If there is any query on the home address this will be checked against official documentation e.g. council tax bill, a recent utility bill (gas, electricity or water), a rental agreement, child benefit annual statement or family tax credit information.

Admissions above the published admission number

The Bedford Borough Admissions Forum has agreed the following exceptions which may result in the admission number for a school being exceeded.

For the normal admissions round:

The admission of catchment area pupils, where the parent has expressed a preference (whether first, second or third), for the catchment school as part of the normal admissions round and in accordance with the published admissions arrangements. This is not, however, a guarantee of a place.

For in-year admissions:

The admission of pupils who have an Education Health Care Plan which names the school, when that pupil has either been assessed or moved into the area outside the normal admissions round

The admissions of pupils in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol

The admission of pupils who have moved into the area, where there is no other suitable school within a reasonable travelling distance, or where the admission of an additional catchment area child would not prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources. Before admitting children under this exception, governing bodies that are their own admission authority should consult their Local Authority who will be able to advise whether the first of these conditions applies.

The admission of a looked after child outside of the normal admissions round

The admission of a twin or children from multiple births.

The admission of a child in very exceptional circumstances in which the Local Authority and the Head Teacher are in agreement that not to agree to admit the child would be perverse

Admission Appeals – Oversubscription Criteria

In the event of there being more applications than places available, the Governors will apply the following criteria in the priority order of the categories listed.

1. All 'looked after children' and previously 'looked after children'. (see definition)
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school (see definition)
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds (see definition)
5. Other siblings (see definition)
6. Any other children

If applying these criteria results in there being more children with an equal right to admission to the school than the number of places available, the tie break will be the distance the pupil lives from the school, measured in a straight line, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

If a pupil moves into the catchment area outside the normal admissions round (or after the allocation process has begun) it may be more difficult to offer a place at the catchment area school if this would mean exceeding the admission number at the school. In this case, a place will normally be offered at the next nearest school or academy which caters for pupils of the same age and has places available.

Pupils who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) are required to be admitted to the school which is named on the EHCP, even if the school is full. Pupils identified for admission through the Fair Access Protocol will also be admitted even if the school is full.

Admission Appeals

If we do not offer a child a place at this school, it is because to do so would prejudice the education of other children by allowing the numbers of children in school to increase too much. If parents wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry, they can do so by applying to the LA. An independent appeals panel then meets to consider all appeals by parents who have been refused a place at our school and who wish to appeal against this

decision. An appeals panel's decision is binding for all parties concerned. If the appeals panel decides that we should admit a child to our school, then we will accept this and continue to do all we can to provide the best education for all the children in our school.

Details of appeal arrangements are set out in the Code of Practice on Schools Admission Appeals, which came into force in September 1999 and more information can be found

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/schools-education-and-childcare/schools-and-colleges/school-admissions/appeal-against-school-place>

Equal Opportunities

Scott Primary School is committed to working towards equality of opportunity for all children regardless of age, ability, gender, race and social circumstances. All pupils are of equal value and have the same right to take part in the varied activities and opportunities wherever possible. All opportunities for learning should be offered in a way which allows all children access and the ability to progress at their stage of understanding.

Disability Discrimination

Scott Primary School is committed to having due regard to the following

The Equality act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities, including schools, when carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

Promote equality of opportunity between disabled persons and other persons

Eliminate discrimination that is unlawful under the Act

Eliminate harassment of disabled persons that is related to their disabilities

Promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons

Encourage participation by disabled persons in public life

Take steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled persons more favourably than other persons.

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