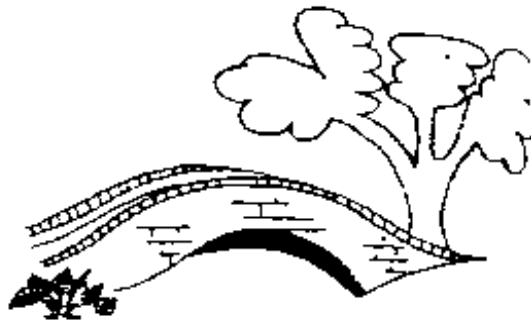


Fields Multi Academy Trust

Whixall CE Primary School

Admissions Policy 2026 - 2027



Written: December 2016

Agreed by Trustees and Local Governing Bodies: February 2017

Reviewed: September 2024

To be reviewed: September 2025

“Fields Multi Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at all times and expects everybody working with us to share this commitment.”

Whixall CE Primary School and Nursery Admissions Policy 2026-2027

Fields Multi Academy Trust schools are academies and therefore an admission authority which allows the Trust Board and Local Governing Bodies to determine our own school admissions policy.

Admissions to Reception Year

For admissions to Reception Year application must be made through Shropshire Council [Synergy - Homepage \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](http://shropshire.gov.uk) by 15th January in the academic year prior to which your child is due to start school. All applications received by this date will be considered and parents will be informed by Shropshire Council on 16th April if they have been allocated a place for their child.

Whixall CE Primary School has a published admissions number of 20.

Admissions Criteria

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education and Health Care Plan which names our school will be allocated places, after which places are allocated up to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of our school according to an agreed set of criteria in strict order of priority as shown below.

Fields Multi Academy Trust School criteria:

1. Looked after children¹ or children who were previously 'looked after' but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order² including those who appear [to the admission authority (Shropshire Council)] to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children living inside the designated catchment area will then have priority of admission. If there are not enough places for all the children in the catchment area, then the following criteria for admission will apply in order:
 - 2a. Priority will be given to children living within the catchment area who will have an older sibling at the school on the day they are due to start school.
 - 2b. After that, priority will be given to other children who live within the catchment area.
3. If there are spaces still available after the above criteria have been applied, children living outside the designated catchment area will be offered places according to the following criteria:

¹ 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).

² An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders).

³ A 'child arrangements 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 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. 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).

3a. Children who will have an older sibling at the school on the day they are due to start school.

3b. All other children.

Each category will be rank ordered according to the distance from home to school as straight-line measurement.

For admissions purposes all distances are measured as a straight-line distance on a computerised mapping system between the home address and the nearest entrance gate of the relevant school by pinpointing their eastings and northings. The shortest distance being given highest priority. Where two addresses are within the same block of flats, the lowest number of flat nearest the ground floor will be deemed to be the nearest in distance.

In the event that two applications are exactly the same after all other criteria have been taken into account a tie breaker will be used. This will be by random allocation and overseen by an independent party not connected with the admissions process.

If unsuccessful on allocation day, Shropshire Council will offer a review when the waiting list will be formed from those parents who advise the Admissions Team that they wish to pursue a place at the school. At the end of the review period, parents who have still not been successful in securing a place have the right to appeal against the decision. Parents may remain on the waiting list from the review period onwards.

Shropshire Council's Admissions Team will continue to maintain waiting lists for unsuccessful applicants in Reception Year. If any vacancies arise, places will be offered to applicants on the waiting list in strict accordance with normal published oversubscription criteria.

Mid-term or In-Year Applications

Mid-term applications will be dealt with using the same admissions criteria given above. Applications must be made via the Shropshire Council online portal (Synergy - Homepage (shropshire.gov.uk)). If there is a space in the relevant year group a place will be offered. A formal letter from Shropshire Council's Admissions Team will be sent to the parent advising them of the offer and the need to contact school directly to arrange a start date. If there are no vacancies in the year group, Shropshire Council's Admission Team will speak to the Headteacher to consider whether additional places can be offered. A decision must be notified to parents within 15 days of making the application. If a place cannot be offered, parents will receive a formal letter and information on how to appeal against the decision from Shropshire Council's School Admissions Team. Shropshire Council will maintain a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants. If any vacancies arise, places will be offered to applicants included on the waiting list in strict accordance with normal published oversubscription criteria. If a place can be offered the applicant will be expected to take up the place within 6 school weeks or by the start of the next half term, whichever is the earliest date, with the exception of Reception children who have deferred entry until later in the same academic year. If an offer of a place is refused, the name will be removed from the waiting list.

Notes:

A sibling connection is defined as a brother or sister, step-brother or stepsister, half-brother or half-sister, living at the same address as part of the same family unit and of compulsory school age (i.e. 5 – 16 years). Adopted siblings are also included. Older siblings must be attending the school on the date the younger sibling is due to start there. However, cousins or other relatives who take up residence in a home in order to establish an 'in catchment area' address will not be given priority under the sibling criterion.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. Appellants should contact Shropshire Council School Admissions Team for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals process is on the website www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Parents must be given at least 10 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to lodge an appeal.

When can my child start school?

Children can attend primary education from the September following their 4th birthday. The law requires that children attend school from the prescribed day⁴ following their 5th birthday. 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 year. They can also request that their child attends part-time until they reach compulsory school age. However, the offer of a place cannot be held over until the next academic year.

NB: Children become of compulsory school age on the first prescribed day following their 5th birthday: 31 August, 31 December or 31 March (or on that day if any of these dates are the child's birthday).

Deferred Transfers

Children born from 1 April to 31 August – known as summer born children – do not need to start school until the September after their fifth birthday, a year after they could first have started school. Most summer born children start at age 4 with no issues.

Parents of summer born children have two options if they feel their child is not ready to start Reception with their natural cohort.

These are outlined below:

Option 1 - Delayed Start

If a parent of a summer born child does start school aged 4, they can, if they wish, agree with the allocated school a pattern of part time attendance or a deferred start until later in that school year for your child. You can discuss this with the school. This will require the parent to apply on-time (by 15 January) using the application process provided by Shropshire Council. Once places are allocated on the 16 April the parent can contact the Headteacher to discuss the delayed start.

Option 2 - Defer for a full year

If a parent decides their summer born child will start school aged 5 and wants their child to start school in reception (not Year 1), they need to make a request to the school's admission authority. This is called requesting admission out of the normal age group – because children born from 1 September in one year to 31 August the following year are normally educated together in one year group.

The parent will need to submit a form requesting a formal deferral and nursery provision (in the case of Reception deferrals) and primary schools (in the case of Secondary deferrals) will need to complete forms and assessments and submit to The School Admissions Team for processing. Deferral requests ideally need to be submitted no later than the deadlines for the respective transfer groups (15 January for Reception). We do appreciate that in extenuating circumstances, submitting such a request before the closing date does present a challenge. Should this occur, the team will do their best to process prior to the end of the academic year, though there is no guarantee of this.

For clarification on the admissions arrangements or anything outlined in the above policy, please contact The School Admissions Team:

Email: school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk

Post: c/o School Admissions Team, Learning & Skills, The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

