



Idsall Admissions Policy 2023/24

Sponsorship & Review

1. Sponsor

Ms M King

2. Written & Approved

November 2021

3. Next Review Date

November 2022

Idsall School Admissions Policy 2023/24

Idsall School is an academy and therefore an admission authority which allows the board of trustees to determine our own school admissions policy. From 2017/18 our admission policy has been amended to include a category for children of staff employed by the school.

For admissions to Year 7, application must be made through Shropshire Council by 31st October in the academic year prior to which your child is due to start school. Non-Shropshire residents should apply through their own Local Authority. All applications received by this date will be considered and parents will be informed by Shropshire Council on 1st March if they have been allocated a place for their child.

Please see the Parents' Guide to Education booklet on the website shropshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/ which includes details of the admission arrangements.

Admissions Criteria:

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names Idsall School will be allocated places, after which places are allocated up to the Published Admission Number of 216 according to an agreed set of criteria in strict order of priority, as shown below:

1. 'Looked after children' or children who were previously 'looked after' but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order¹ including those who appear [to the admission authority Idsall School] to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

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).

¹ 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).

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).

2. Children living inside the designated catchment area will have priority of admission. If there are not enough places for all the children in the catchment area, 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. Children of members of staff employed by Idsall School on a permanent contract for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or a member of staff who is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. When this element is oversubscribed, consideration is given to length of service and finally to proximity to the school.

4. 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:

4a. Children who will have an older sibling at the school on the day they are due to start school.

4b. Secondly, priority will be given to children living outside the catchment area without an older sibling at the school, but who have attended a state funded primary school that lies within the secondary school's catchment area, for more than a whole academic year immediately prior to transfer.

Idsall feeder primary schools are: Albrighton Primary School; Albrighton St Mary's C of E Primary School; Beckbury Primary School; Sheriffhales Primary School; Shifnal Primary School; Shifnal St Andrews Primary School.

4c All other children.

Apart from category 3, each category will be rank ordered according to the distance from home to school as a straight-line measurement.

Notes:

A sibling connection is defined as a brother or sister, step-brother or step-sister, 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 and fostered 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.

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. We employ Shropshire Council to carry out our appeals and as such, we follow their timetable for organising and hearing admission appeals. Parents may remain on the waiting list from the review period onwards.

For the first term of Year 7, Shropshire Council will continue to maintain a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants. If any vacancies arise, places will be offered to applicants on the waiting list in strict accordance with normal published oversubscription criteria. Any year 7 applications for children to be taught out of cohort will be coordinated by Shropshire Council. An official application for a deferred transfer at the primary to secondary phase should be sent to the Council. When considering these applications, the school will take into account the following:

- a. the parents' views;
- b. information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- c. where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- d. whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and
- e. whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the school will clearly state the reasons for their decision.

Mid-term or In-year Applications

Mid-term applications will be dealt with using the same admissions criteria given above. To apply for a place other than at the start of Year 7, parents should apply directly to the school on a mid-term application form available from the Shropshire Council website www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions or from school. If there is a space in the relevant year group, a place will be granted. If the application is for a place in an over-subscribed year group, the Headteacher will meet with a designated member of staff to consider whether additional places can be offered above the published admission number.

If a place cannot be offered, parents will receive a formal letter and information on how to appeal against the decision from Shropshire Council Admissions Team. We employ Shropshire Council to carry out our appeals and as such, we follow their timetable for organising and hearing admission appeals.

The local authority will maintain the waiting list for the first term of entry into Year 7 only. 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 six school weeks or by the start of the next half term, whichever is the earliest date. If an offer of a place is refused, the name will be removed from the waiting list.

For all other year groups and for the second and third term of Year 7, a waiting list is maintained by the school. The students on the waiting list are ranked in order of the admissions criteria stated in this policy. 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 given 48 hours to consider the offer and respond. If an offer of a place is refused, the name will be removed from the waiting list. If no reply is received, it will be assumed that applicants no longer wish to be on the waiting list and the name will be removed from the list. The school will keep the list until the end of the academic year, and then write to parents to ask them if they wish to remain on the list for the following academic year.

Allocation of places for children moving into the academy's designated catchment area can only be considered when formal confirmation of the address has been received. An example of formal confirmation of address would be a signed tenancy agreement when no property is owned, or exchange of contracts document or confirmation that the child is registered with a local GP.

All applicants are required to give correct information about the genuine residential address of the child. Where any information regarding a home address is found to be fraudulent or misleading, a school place may be withdrawn even if the child has been admitted to the school.

Idsall School Catchment Area

