



Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School

Admissions Policy

2026-27

Date	Detail
15.10.2019	Approved by Board of Trustees
10.10.2019.	Adopted by Local Governing Body
July 2021	Changes to first priority on oversubscription criterion



Admissions Policy 2026-27

Empower Trust schools are academies and therefore an admission authority which allows the Trust Board and 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 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.

Please see the Parents Guide to Education booklet on the website

www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions for further details of the admission arrangements.

Applicants in other parts of England should apply through their home local authority for Reception places.

Admissions Criteria

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education and Health Care Plan which names the Trust school will be allocated places, after which places are allocated up to the Published Admission Number of the Trust school (90 for Market Drayton Infant School) according to an agreed set of criteria in strict order of priority as shown below.

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.

Empower Trust Infant School criteria:

'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 Shropshire Council to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.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).

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 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. Priority will then be given to children living within the catchment area who will have an older sibling at Market Drayton Junior School on the day they are due to start school.

2c. 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:

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

3b. Priority will then be given to children living outside the catchment area who will have an older sibling at Market Drayton Junior School on the day they are due to start school.

3c. All other children. Each category will be rank ordered according to the distance from home to school as a straight line measurement.

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Notes:

- 1. 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.*
- 2. The partner schools are Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School and Market Drayton Junior School.*

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 maintain the waiting lists for applicants. 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.

For the first term of Reception year, 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.

Mid-term or In-Year applications

Mid-term applications will be dealt with using the same admissions criteria given above.

Empower Trust is the admission authority but has delegated the processing of all applications to Shropshire Local Authority. 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 on our behalf 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.

Applicants will only be considered as resident in area when formal confirmation (e.g. signed tenancy agreement when no property is owned, or exchange of contracts) of the address has been received.

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.

Deferred transfer process or appeals

Children can attend primary education from the September following their fourth birthday. The law requires that children attend school from the prescribed day of or following their fifth birthday (the prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August).

Most children do start school in the September after they turn four. However, a child doesn't need to start school until they reach compulsory school age.

Summer-born children

Children born from 1 April to 31 August are known as summer-born children. They don't need to start school until the September after their fifth birthday, a year after they could first have started school. This is when summer born children reach compulsory school age.

Parents of summer-born children have two options if they feel their child isn't ready to start reception in September with their natural cohort:

Option 1 - delayed start

A parent of a summer-born child starting school aged 4 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 (but not later than the beginning of the summer term). 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 your local authority. 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 that their summer-born child will start school aged five and wants that child to start school in reception (not year 1), they need to make a request to the local 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.

This means that you'll need to decide whether or not you want to request admission out of the normal age group in the autumn following your child's third birthday. Remember that your child will do lots of growing and developing before they reach the point at which they could start school.

This information doesn't apply to children with education, health and care (EHC) plans. If your child has an EHC plan and you wish them to start school in reception (not year 1) when they're five, you should [contact the SEN team](#). Having special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) doesn't

necessarily mean a child should delay starting school. It may be better for them to start school before compulsory school age so that they can access the support available there.

If you decide that you want to defer for a full year

You should still apply for a school place as normal by 15 January - as if your child was going to start school at age four - even if you want to delay their start until age five.

You should also submit a request for admission out of the normal age group ideally by 15 January. Shropshire residents can email school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk to request this. The admission authority decides whether children who start school at compulsory school age should be admitted to reception or year 1. They must make this decision in the child's best interests.

If you decide to delay your child starting school until the September following their fifth birthday but don't request admission out of their normal age group at this time, your child will start school in year 1. You'll need to make an in-year application for a school place for your child, and we can advise you on when it would be best to make such an application. Please note that some schools are likely to be full at this point and unable to offer you a place. Schools are unable to hold a place for your child from the previous year.

Please be advised that should a summer-born child defer for a year, it's currently a requirement to make another request to defer their entry to the next phase of their education. When a child of year 6 age is being taught in year 5, an application for secondary school and a request to defer their entry to secondary school will need to be made. Another point to be aware of is a summer-born child deferred for a year will reach school leaving age at the end of year 10, rather than year 11. The school won't ask them to leave, but they'll no longer be required by law to attend school, and the school may not be able to enforce their attendance. Children usually take their GCSEs in year 11.

Please visit the Gov.UK website for further [information on summer-born children starting school](#).

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. Empower Trust is the admission authority, but has delegated the coordination of the appeals to the Admissions Team at Shropshire Council.

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 20 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to lodge an appeal.

Applications for children to attend out of cohort

Parents have the right to defer until reaching statutory school age, to request part-time attendance and, in the case of summer born children, the option to request their child starts Reception a year later, a year behind their natural cohort. Parents must make a request to defer Reception to another academic year at the same time as they make application, and before the closing date of 15 January.

Forces Applicants

Each academy will consider Forces applicants to ensure they are not disadvantaged.

Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School Admissions Catchment Area

