

Mereside C of E Primary Academy



Admissions Policy 2023-2024

Admissions Policy

For admissions to the 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 (or the next working day) 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 and also for details of the admission arrangements.

Admissions Criteria:

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education and Health Care Plan which names Mereside C of E Primary Academy will be allocated places, after which places are allocated up to the Published Admission Number of 60 according to an agreed set of criteria in strict order of priority as shown below.

1a. Children who are looked after and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order. ¹

1b. Children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. ²

1. *A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions.*
2. *A child is regarded as having been in a state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society*

2. Children with a medical need that can only be met by attending this school and cannot be met by any other school. (Evidence will be required from a relevant medical professional).

3. 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:

- 3a. 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.
- 3b. After that, priority will be given to other children who live within the catchment area.

*The designated catchment area can be viewed through 'Local View' on the Shropshire Council website www.shropshire.gov.uk.

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. Children of staff working at the school and of LAC members on the day they are due to start school
- 4c. All other children

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 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/friends 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.

Residence in catchment area can only be considered 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.

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 as part of the Academy's SLA 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.

For the first term of Reception Year Shropshire Council will continue to maintain a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants as part of the Academy's SLA. 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. To apply for a place other than the start of Reception Year, parents should apply directly to Mereside CE primary Academy. 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 then the Headteacher will meet with the Chair of the LAC 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 the academy

Other than the first term of Reception Year, the academy 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.

For Reception pupils a waiting list will be held by Shropshire Council. At the end of the first term of the academic year of admission for Reception age pupils, the waiting list will transfer from Shropshire Council to the Academy.