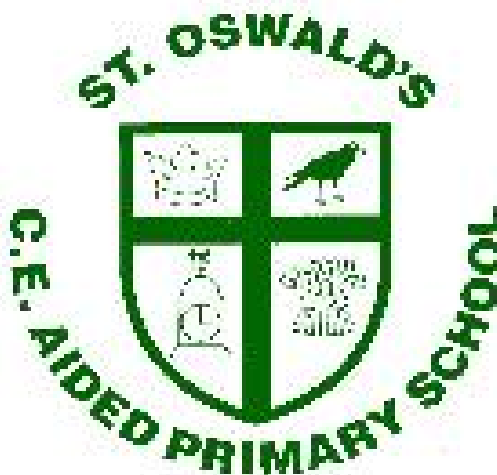




ST OSWALD'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY

2026/27



Approved by	Date	Review Schedule	Date of next review
Trust Board	18 December 2024	Annually	Autumn Term 2025

As an Anglican Church Aided School, RE, collective worship and the whole ethos of the school are based on the teachings of the Church of England. Parents who would object to this are advised to apply to another school.

Decisions about admission to the school are made by the admissions authority, not the Local Education Authority or the Headteacher. The Local Authority publish a brochure to help parents decide on their preference for their child's school and to give other important information about the school. Please look at this carefully before applying for the admission.

If your child is due to start school during the next academic year, it is important that you apply for a place for September. If your child's fifth birthday is between the months of September and December, then, if you wish, admission may be deferred until January; if it is between January and April, then admission may be deferred until the start of the summer term though it is likely to be in your child's interest to start no later than January. Parents can also request that their child attends on a part time basis until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Applications to the school should be made on-line via the Local Authority Website by using the common application form and also on the School's Supplementary form if applying under criteria 4, 5, 6 & 7. It is not normally possible to change the order of your preferences for schools after the closing date.

Letters informing parents of whether or not their child has been allocated a place will be sent out by the Local Authority as published in the Local Authority's co-ordinating scheme. Parents of children not admitted will be informed of the reason and offered an alternative place by the Authority.

The school will admit up to 20 pupils into the Reception year-group. By law, no infant class may contain more than thirty children. If there are more than 20 applications places will be allocated according to the following criteria. They are stated in order of priority:

1. Looked after children

Looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) 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) at the time of making an application to a school. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of, or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

2. Children resident in the parish of St. Oswald's, Backford. A map showing the parish is available from the school and on its website.

3. Children who have a sibling in St Oswald's school who will be attending St Oswald's the following year. "Siblings are defined as brothers or sisters, step - brothers or step - sisters, half-brothers or half-sisters, adopted brothers or sisters living together as part of one household."

4. Children whose families are faithful and regular worshippers in St Oswald's Parish Church. By "faithful and regular" we mean attendance at a minimum of one main Sunday service per month for the twelve months prior to the closing date for applications." A supplementary form signed by a minister or other church officer will be required as evidence under this criteria. This form has been amended to reflect the issues surrounding the Covid-19 situation and its impact on places of worship. Family members in this context include parents and siblings, as defined above. A parent is any person who has parental responsibility or care of the child. Where admission arrangements refer to 'parent's attendance at church' it is sufficient for just one parent to attend.
5. Children with special medical or social circumstances. Supporting letters from Social Worker, or Medical Specialist, explaining why this school is the most appropriate is required and should be included, in a sealed envelope, with the application form and supplementary form.
6. Children whose families are faithful and regular worshippers in a neighbouring Church of England parish church for whom this is the nearest Church of England Aided School. By "faithful and regular" we mean attendance at a minimum of one main Sunday service per month for the twelve months prior to the closing date for applications." supplementary form signed by a minister or other church officer will be required as evidence under this criteria. Family members in this context include parents and siblings only. A parent is any person who has parental responsibility or care of the child. Where admission arrangements refer to 'parent's attendance at church' it is sufficient for just one parent to attend. Distance is measured "as the crow flies" using the Ordnance Survey Address-Point seed of the pupil's house to the GIU Shapefile.
7. Children whose families are faithful and regular worshippers of another Christian denomination, as recognised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and for whom this is the closest Church of England school. By "faithful and regular" we mean attendance at a minimum of one main Sunday service per month for the twelve months prior to the closing date for applications."
8. Children who live nearest to the school

Distances are measured using Ordnance Survey mapping in conjunction with Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) to identify each property and each school. A straight line measurement in miles is taken from the place of residence to the preferred school to calculate the distance.' If there are not enough places to admit all applicants meeting any one criterion, the school will apply the subsequent criteria, in order of priority to all these applicants.

Children with statements of Special Educational Needs / Children with EHC Plans

Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 requires the governing bodies of all maintained schools to admit a child with a Statement of Special Education Needs or EHC plan that names their school.

Right of Appeal

Parents who are not offered a place for their child have the right of appeal to an independent panel. Parents wishing to appeal should write to the school within 21 days from the date of notification of decision. Should an appeal be unsuccessful, the Governing Body will not consider further applications from the parents within the same academic year unless there have been significant and material changes in their own or the school's circumstances.

Non-routine Admissions

It sometimes happens that a child needs to change school other than at the "normal" time; such admissions are known as non-routine admissions. Parents wishing their child to attend St Oswald's should contact the school in the first instance to determine if there are spaces available in the relevant year. Parents will be asked to complete an application form and supplementary form. If a place is available the school will arrange for admission and inform the Local Authority once the place has been accepted. Parents who have been unsuccessful in securing a place will have the right to appeal and could be placed on a waiting list. Where more than one application is received the oversubscription criteria will be used to rank the applications. Fraudulent application

Fraudulent Applications

Where the Governing Body discovers that a child has been awarded a place as the result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent (eg a false claim to residence in the catchment area or of involvement in a place of worship) which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, then the Governing Body is required to withdraw the offer of the place. The application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused

Children from Multiple Births

In relation to children of multiple births, exceptionally it may be possible to offer places over the published admission number. This is to ensure that, as far as possible, siblings (i.e. twins, triplets or children from other multiple births) can attend the same school.

Armed Services Personnel

Places can be allocated in advance of the family arriving into the area for children of UK service personnel, if imminent arrival is confirmed, in writing by an official government letter. The School Admissions code allows governors to admit a forces child as a permitted exception in relation to infant class size legislation if it is possible to do so in the current organisation of the school. The information is published by the Governors of St. Oswald's Church of England Aided Primary School in accordance with the relevant sections of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Admission criteria may change from one year to the next