

Abbeyfield
School



Admissions policy

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Explain **how to apply** for a place at the school
- Set out the school's **arrangements for allocating places to the pupils** who apply
- Explain **how to appeal** against a decision not to offer your child a place

2. Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [School Admissions Code](#)
- [School Admission Appeals Code](#)

The school is required to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

3. Definitions

The **normal admissions round** is the period during which parents can apply for state-funded school places at the school's normal point of entry, using the common application form provided by their home local authority.

Looked after children are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

- In the care of a local authority, or
- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

- Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or
- Became subject to a child arrangements order, or
- Became subject to a special guardianship order

4. How to apply

For applications in the normal admissions round you should use the application form provided by Wiltshire local authority. You can use this form to express your preference for a minimum of 3 state-funded schools, in rank order.

You will receive an offer for a school place directly from Wiltshire local authority.

5. Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Parents are entitled to request a place for their child outside of their normal age group.

Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, this will include taking account of:

- Parents' views
- Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development

- Where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional
- Whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group
- Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- The headteacher's views

Wherever possible, requests for admission outside a child's normal age group will be processed as part of the main admissions round. They will be considered on the basis of the admission arrangements laid out in this policy, including the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6. Applications will not be treated as a lower priority if parents have made a request for a child to be admitted outside the normal age group.

Parents will always be informed of the reasons for any decision on the year group a child should be admitted to. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

6. Allocation of places

6.1 Admission number

The school has an agreed admission number of 180 pupils for entry in Year7.

6.2 Oversubscription criteria

All children whose statement of special educational needs (SEN) or education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school will be admitted before any other places are allocated.

If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be offered a place.

In the event that the school receives more applications than the number of places it has available, places will be given to those children who meet any of the criteria set out below, in order until all places are filled

1. Highest priority will be given to looked after children and all previously looked after children who apply for a place at the school.
2. Priority will next be given to children of staff at the school, in either of the following circumstances:
 - a) The member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or
 - b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
3. Priority will next be given to children with siblings at the school. Siblings include step siblings, foster siblings, adopted siblings and other children living permanently at the same address. Priority will not be given to children with siblings who are former pupils of the school.

6.3 Tie break

In the case of 2 or more applications that cannot be separated by the oversubscription criteria outlined above, the school will use the distance between the school and a child's home as a tie breaker to decide between applicants. Priority will be given to children who live closest to the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address to the school's front gates Stanley Lane. A child's home address will be considered to be where he/she is resident for the majority of nights in a normal school week.

Where the distance between 2 children's homes and the school is the same, random allocation will be used to decide between them. This process will be independently verified.

7. In-year admissions

You can apply for a place for your child at any time outside the normal admissions round. All applications for children requesting admission outside their normal age group will be processed as outlined in Wiltshire Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme, which has been drafted in line with the School Admissions Code.

As is the case in the normal admissions round, all children whose statement of SEN or EHC plan names the school will be admitted.

Likewise, if there are spaces available in the year group you are applying for, your child will always be offered a place

If there are no spaces available at the time of your application, your child's name will be added to a waiting list for the relevant year group. When a space becomes available it will be filled by one of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6.3 of this policy. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest.

Applications for in-year admissions should be sent to the following address:

Please contact our Transitions Co-ordinator on 01249 464500

7.1 Fair Access Protocol

Abbeyfield School will act in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol which has been adopted to give access to educational provisions for hard to place children and includes those children and young people of compulsory school age in some or all of the following categories:-

A child to be placed under this Protocol will be one who has been referred within five days of the school receiving the application:

- who lives in Wiltshire; and/or
- who seeks a place in Year 7 to 11 at a Wiltshire school

and

who is not on the roll of a mainstream school and who falls under one of the categories a) to m) below:

Any child who:

- a)** children either subject to a Child in Need Plan or a Child Protection Plan¹ or having had a Child in Need Plan or a Child Protection Plan within 12 months at the point of being referred to under the Protocol;
 - b)** children living in a refuge or in other Relevant Accommodation at the point of being referred to under the Protocol;
 - c)** children from the criminal justice system;
 - d)** children in alternative provision who need to be reintegrated into mainstream education or who have been permanently excluded but are deemed suitable for mainstream education;
 - e)** children with special educational needs (but without an Education, Health and Care plan), disabilities or medical conditions;
 - f)** children who are carers;
 - g)** children who are homeless;
 - h)** children in formal kinship care arrangements
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- i) children of, or who are, Gypsies, Roma, Travellers, refugees, and asylum seekers;
- j) children who have been refused a school place on the grounds of their challenging behaviour and referred to the Protocol in accordance with paragraph 3.10 of the Admissions Code;
- k) children for whom a place has not been sought due to exceptional circumstances²
- l) children who have been out of education for four or more weeks where it can be demonstrated that there are no places available at any school within a reasonable distance of their home. This does not include circumstances where a suitable place has been offered to a child and this has not been accepted
- m) previously looked after children for whom the local authority has been unable to promptly secure a school place³.

or

who is on the roll of a mainstream school has applied for a place outside the normal admissions round and the governing body of the school to which an application has been made does not wish to admit the child because of the child's challenging behaviour, even though there are places available

This will normally only be appropriate where a school has a particularly high proportion of children with challenging behaviour or previously excluded children. A child with challenging behaviour is one that has three aspects of behaviour agreed to be a medium risk by the panel, using the risk assessment section of the Pupil Information form.

This provision will not apply to a looked after child, a previously looked after child or a child with an EHCP that names the school in question, as these children must be admitted.

If a child is referred under this category, the Pupil Information Form will be requested from the home school and the Council will determine whether the child meets the criteria for referral.

Admission authorities must not refuse to admit:

a child thought to be potentially disruptive or likely to exhibit challenging behaviour, on the grounds that the child is first to be assessed for special educational needs.

A child in the normal admissions round because of their poor behaviour elsewhere

In the vast majority of cases children and young people requiring a school place will continue to be admitted in accordance with the usual admission procedures rather than through this protocol.

² It is for the Council to decide whether a child qualifies to be placed via the Protocol on this basis, based on the circumstances of the case

³ **The DfE advise that IYFA Protocol should be unnecessary for a previously looked after child in most cases.** They expect the Council to aim to secure a school place particularly promptly for a previously looked after child and for admission authorities to cooperate with this. The Council may consider swift use of their general powers of direction or asking the Secretary of State to consider a direction to be the most suitable course of action if a school place for a previously looked after child cannot be agreed with an admission authority promptly.

8. Appeals

If your child's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, you will be informed why admission was refused and given information about the process for hearing appeals. If you wish to appeal, you must set out the grounds for your appeal in writing and send it to the following address:

Please contact the Clerk to Governors on 01249 464500

9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Full Governing Board every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the governing board will publicly consult on these changes.