



Policy Document: Policy Statement on Admissions

Policy Statement on Admissions

Learning Together, Learning For Life.

Links to Visionary Statement

We aim to

- keep children’s learning at the heart of our thoughts and actions
- provide the opportunity for all our children to achieve academic excellence within a broad and balanced curriculum
- create an ethos which nurtures creativity, self-belief, independence and a sense of respect for other
- ensure that our schools are happy, safe, supportive and secure places in which to learn
- create a stimulating learning environment
- develop strong and productive partnerships with parents and the wider school community
- have high expectations in all areas of school life
- prepare children for the future

Agreed and Signed on behalf of the Full Governing Body.....

Date:.....

Next Review:.....



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ADMISSION TO PAULTON INFANT SCHOOL

Governing Board Policy Statement

The Governing Board's Admission Policy does not permit sex, race, colour or disability to be used as a criteria for admission. No child will be refused admission on grounds of disability. Our school welcomes all children from our community and makes every effort to ensure needs are met and all children access the curriculum on offer. The re-designed and enlarged entrance area enables easy access for wheelchairs and a disabled toilet has been built in a central part of the school. All classrooms and teaching areas are on the ground floor and are wheelchair accessible. All children are treated as individuals with equal rights to a full and appropriate curriculum regardless of ethnic origin, gender, class, aptitude or disability. Our aim is to give all pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding to lead confident, healthy and independent lives and to contribute to school life.

We follow the Bath and North East Somerset policy for admissions. The Bath and North East Somerset website (www.bathnes.gov.uk) contains a Primary Information Booklet, which you can download online, to help you through the admissions application process. We advise you to read through this information before applying for a school place as well as visiting our school to see us in action.

At Paulton Infant School we admit children using the following criteria:

First Priority: Children in public care (Children Looked After) or a child who was previously looked after but immediately became subject to an adoption, residence, child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

Second Priority: When there are siblings in attendance at the school who will be in attendance on the admission date.

Third Priority: Children for whom the school is the closest Community or Voluntary Controlled School as measured in a direct line.

Fourth Priority: After application of the first three criteria, any remaining places will be allocated to those children living closest to the school and/or furthest from an alternative school. These places will usually be allocated to children who live closest to the school. An exception to this could be where a child does not live closest to the school but would have an unreasonable distance between the home and school as mentioned in a direct line. Priority is given to first preference applications.

Parents/Carers of children eligible to be admitted into the reception group must apply for a place by January 15th in the year before entry is due. Completed application forms must be



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returned to the Local Authority. Applications received by the due date will be considered first. Late applicants might not be allocated their first choice of schools

Parents can defer admission until the term of their child's fifth birthday if they wish. However, most parents take advantage of the offer of an early start to their child's school career and we make strenuous efforts to ensure that these very young children are eased sensitively into school life. During Term 5 teachers make contact with local pre-schools and make initial visits to children to gain an overall picture of the new cohort. Then during Term 6 (June and July) pre-schools are invited to 'Stay and Play' sessions where two formal preliminary visits are planned. At these visits, groups of children are invited to meet their prospective teacher and the classroom. Parents/Carers are invited to spend time with their child during the first session to the new classroom and on the second visit they will be asked to wait in the hall or have some free time for a short while. Also during term 5 and 6, Teachers and Teaching Assistants (TAs) visit Noah's Ark, Footsteps, Acorn and Freerangers to meet the children in a more familiar setting. We also try to visit other settings if timetabling allows or where there is a significant need. During the first week in September, we offer a short visit to your home where you and your child will meet your child's Teacher and TA. Children value this early meeting and this contributes to a confident and happy start. It also provides an opportunity for you to ask questions you or your child may have. If, however, you would prefer the meeting to take place in school, please tell your child's teacher or Headteacher as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made. From the second week in September we operate a staggered part-time start. Children are admitted in either group A or group B before joining together in week 3. A staggered start allows Teachers and TAs to get to know your child well and also ensures your child quickly becomes familiar with routines and procedures. Full-time schooling is usually possible by the end of September. Please be patient during these early weeks and even if your child has been attending nursery or pre-school on a full-time basis, school is very different, and you will initially find that your child is far more tired.

Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Parents are entitled to request a place for their child outside of their normal age group. Please make an appointment to discuss this with the Headteacher.

Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made by the Local Authority, 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



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- 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.

If you are joining us mid-year from another school: We recognise that there are many reasons for children to change schools. We would advise you to contact us to see if we have spare places and to come and look around the school. However, we are not able to offer places; applications must be made to the local authority via the link on our school website. We would also advise you to discuss the move with your child's current Headteacher before making a final decision.

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/schools-colleges-and-learning/admissions-schools>

Julie Hogan
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