



# Admissions Policy

## Oak Meadow Primary School

2025-26

*Dates within this document (for example, application deadlines) are subject to change e.g. in the event of bank holidays.*


_____ CEO SIGNATURE

_____ CHAIR OF TRUST BOARD SIGNATURE
01/02/2024
_____ DATE
Annual review with consultation at least every 7 years (last consultation: December 2023)
_____ NEXT REVIEW DATE



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## Introduction

St Bartholomew's is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and the Directors of the Trust are its own admission authority.

As of October 2023, the schools in the MAT are:

- St Bartholomew's CE Primary School, Penn, Wolverhampton
- St Benedict Biscop CE Primary School, Wombourne, Staffordshire
- Woodfield Primary School, Penn, Wolverhampton
- All Saints' CE Primary School, Trysull, Staffordshire
- Gnosall St Lawrence CE Primary Academy, Stafford
- Houghton St Giles CE Primary Academy, Stafford
- Woodseaves CE Primary Academy, Stafford
- Oak Meadow Primary School, Wolverhampton
- Fairhaven Primary School, Dudley

The MAT and its schools will comply with the provisions within the School Admissions Code and the School Appeals Code, which is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academy-admissions>

The City of Wolverhampton Council will administer the admissions arrangements on behalf of the school.

St Bartholomew's CE MAT ensures that all of its schools are inclusive. We welcome children from all backgrounds, faiths and abilities. The only restriction for entry to any of our schools is on number. If the number of applications received exceeds the places available, allocations are made in accordance with the respective oversubscription criteria.

This document relates to admission to Oak Meadow Primary School.

## Published Admission Numbers (PANs)

Our PAN for Reception Year 2025/26 is: **60**

## Reception Admissions

The admission arrangements outlined in this section apply to children starting Reception for the first time in 2025/2026. The admissions process for Oak Meadow Primary School is part of the Wolverhampton Local Authority co-ordinated admissions scheme.

The closing date for admissions will be 23:59 on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Allocation results will be notified on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 by the applicants' home Local Authority (LA).



Parents/carers who would like their child to be admitted during the year their child is five should ensure they complete all the necessary application forms.

## **Admission Criteria for the school for Reception 2025**

A child with an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the school will be admitted. Remaining places are allocated as detailed below.

Where there are fewer applicants than the PAN, all children will be admitted. In the event the school is oversubscribed, the admission authority will apply the following oversubscription criteria in order of priority:

### **1. Children and Young People in Care and previous Children and Young People in Care**

Children and young people in care are children who are:

- a) in the care of the local authority, or
- b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of the social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time the application is made to school.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a Child Arrangements Order or Special Guardianship Order) immediately following having been looked after and 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.

#### ***Supporting Evidence***

If the child is in the care of a Local Authority or provided with accommodation by that authority this must be indicated on the common application form and evidence (e.g. evidence of child in care from the placement authority) to support this claim must be submitted with the common application form.

If the child has previously been in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them and has subsequently been adopted, or is subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order, this must be indicated on the common application form and evidence (e.g. adoption certificate/copy of court order) to support this claim must be submitted with the common application form.

For children in state care outside of England who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted, the relevant legal document(s) must be supplied.



## 2. Medical/Social

Whether there are specific medical or social circumstances that can be met only by the child's attendance at the preferred school.

### ***Supporting Evidence***

If parents/carers believe there are specific reasons, medical or social, for claiming priority for their child to attend a particular school these special factors must be indicated on the application form and evidence (e.g., a letter from a registered health professional such as a doctor or a social worker) to support this claim **must be submitted to the Local Authority with the application**. The information submitted must clearly state the effects of the condition/illness and why the preferred school is the **only** school that can meet the child's needs.

## 3. Children with a sibling already attending the school at the time of application and admission

For admission purposes, a sibling is a child who resides permanently at the same address as the child for whom a place is being requested, and is one of the following: -

- brother/sister
- half-brother/sister (i.e., share one common parent)
- or stepbrother/sister (i.e., related by a parent's marriage)
- any other child for whom it can be demonstrated that they are residing permanently at the same address (e.g. under the terms of a Child Arrangement Order)

The sibling connection only applies where the child concerned has a sibling attending the school at the time of the application as well as at the time of admission, (i.e., for normal year of entry applications siblings are expected to be attending the same school in September 2025). The sibling connection will not be applied to the application until that sibling is on roll at the school applied for.

## 4. Children whose parent/carer is a member of staff employed at the school

This applies where the parent/carer has been employed by the school for two or more years at the time at which the application of admission to the school is made, and/or where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage. This criterion applies to all permanent staff members, and excludes staff employed on a casual/temporary contract.



### ***Supporting Evidence***

Parents/carers must complete the school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and return it to City of Wolverhampton Council's School Admissions Team.

## **5. Distance - children who live closest to the school**

How close the child lives to the school requested with those living closest to the school getting the highest priority. The distance from the applicant's home address is taken in a straight line between the mid-point of the respective school's address and the child's home address. The distance is measured using the Local Authority's software.

If there are a limited number of spaces available and we cannot distinguish between applicants using the above criteria, children who live in the same block of flats will be offered the available spaces randomly selected by drawing lots.

### ***Child's Home Address***

Parents are asked to provide their child's home address, i.e. the usual place of residence on weekdays and nights.

Please note that childminder's addresses will not be accepted. This applies to both formal childminders and relatives or friends acting in a childminding capacity.

The home address of a pupil is considered to be the **permanent residence** of a child in a residential property when the place is offered. Documentary evidence relating to house moves taking place between National Offer Days (1 March 2025 and 16 April 2025 respectively) and the start of the academic year in September 2025 will be considered. The address must be the child's only or main residence and is either:

- Owned by the child's parent(s), carer(s) or guardian(s)
- Leased to or rented by the child's parent(s), carer(s) or guardian(s) under lease or written rental agreement.

Documentary evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required together with proof of actual permanent residence at the property concerned.

### **Acceptable proof of address includes:**

- A copy of a council tax bill;
- A copy of a recent utility bill (gas, electric or water, dated within the last six months);
- A solicitor's letter stating that contracts have been exchanged and specifying a completion date;
- Evidence of entitlement to a government benefit (including housing benefit, council tax benefit, tax credits, state pension);
- A signed and dated tenancy agreement.



Where parents have shared responsibility for a child and the child lives with both parents for part of the week, then the **main residence will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week.**

If the child equally shares living with both parents, the parents must inform the City of Wolverhampton Council (and the home Local Authority if this is not the same) which address should be used for admission purposes and which parent will make the application. Parents may be requested to supply documentary evidence to support the address used for the application.

**In the event that the family moves between the application and date of allocation, it is the parent's responsibility to inform the City of Wolverhampton Council School Admissions Team (and the home Local Authority if this is not the same) as soon as possible of these circumstances.**

## **Late Applications**

Applications received after the closing date will be treated as late. This includes a change of preference for the school, a change in order of preference for the school or the addition of the school as a preference. Changes should be sent to the home LA of the parent/carer.

Applications received after the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and before the final date for late submissions 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 with approved written evidence will only be incorporated into the initial allocation process if the late submission is for a good and valid reason i.e., parents/carers can demonstrate a material change of circumstances.

When submitting late applications parents must give reasons in writing for the late submission. The admission authority will give consideration to the reasons, following which the application will be either:

1. Incorporated into the initial allocation and assessed against the oversubscription criteria.
2. Considered only after all other applications.

Late applications without written reasons for the late application or those received after the final date for late submissions 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 will only be considered after all other applications and the decision may be sent shortly after national offer day.

## **Material Changes of Circumstance**

In claiming a material change of circumstance the applicant, at the time of application, must supply documentary evidence to confirm the changes. An example of material changes of circumstances is a house move that necessitates a change of preferences. This would need to be validated by documentary evidence such as a solicitor's letter confirming the completion of a



house purchase or rent book confirming tenancy. An impending change of circumstances should not delay the submission of the preference form.

If applicants' circumstances change during the course of making the application that relate to any of the published criteria, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide evidence to the City of Wolverhampton Council's Admissions and Appeals Team as this may affect the outcome of the application.

### **Waiting lists**

The Local Authority will maintain the waiting lists until 31 December 2025.

The waiting list will be ranked in admission criteria order. As soon as places become vacant the Local Authority on behalf of the admitting authority will re-allocate those places from the waiting list.

A child's position on a waiting list is not fixed. This means that a child's position on the waiting list could go up or down during the time that it is on the list. Any late applications accepted will be added to the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

### **In Year Fair Access Protocol**

The Directors of St Bartholomew's CE MAT are committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols.

Children who are the subject of a direction by the Local Authority to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol take precedence over those on a waiting list.

### **Fraudulent or Misleading Applications**

Any allegations received by the admission authority of people providing false accommodation addresses when applying for school places shall be fully investigated and, if found to be true, allocated places may be withdrawn, as appropriate.

### **Multiple Births**

Where multiple births (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family are tied for the final place for Reception we will admit them all, as permitted by infant class size legislation, in accordance with the School Admissions Code (2021).





## **Tie-Breaker for Oversubscription**

If there are an insufficient number of places to accommodate all children of a particular criterion, the next criterion will be used to assess the applications concerned in order to prioritise applications.

## **Applications for admitted outside of their normal age group**

Parents who wish for their child to be considered for admission to a class outside of their normal age group must make an application for the normal age group in the first instance by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. This will include parents of a “summer born child” that may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to Reception in September 2026 rather than Year 1.

**Any parent wishing to make such a request must put the request in writing to the City of Wolverhampton Council’s Admissions and Appeals Team by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

This request should be in the form of a written letter of application outlining the reasons why they wish for their child to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group and enclosing any supportive evidence and documentation that they wish to be taken into account as part of that request.

Requests will be considered on an individual basis and decisions will be reached by taking account of the parent’s 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; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The view of the Headteacher at the school concerned will also be sought as part of the decision-making process.

If the request is agreed and the year group for which the parents have requested a place is for a future year group, i.e., Reception in September 2026, then the original application is withdrawn, and the parents must submit a fresh application for a school place in September 2026 when applications open in the autumn term of 2025.

**Please note that parents only have the right to defer their application and re-apply for a place.**

Where the decision is to agree the request for an application in Reception the following year, that application is considered alongside all other applications received and parents will be advised of the outcome of that application on national offer day. **No place is reserved or held for the child in advance.**



Parents should be aware that if the request is agreed and the child is admitted outside of their normal age group in September 2026, the child will remain with their adopted cohort and be educated outside of their normal age group for the remainder of their education at the school. However, should a request be made to transfer from the allocated school to an alternative school, parents will need to apply to the admission authority of the new school to request that the child continues to be educated outside of their normal age group.

Before any application is submitted it is strongly recommended that parents/carers also read the DfE guidance which can be found at: [Summer born children: advice for parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/summer-born-children-advice-for-parents).

## Deferred Entry

A child's parents/carers can request to defer the date at which their child, below compulsory school age, is admitted to the school, until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the first day of the summer term 2026.

A child may take up a part-time place until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which the child reached compulsory school age. Upon receipt of the offer of a place a parent/carer should notify the school, as soon as possible, that they wish to either defer their child's entry to the school or take up a part-time place.

## In-Year Admissions

An in-year admission is any entry to school other than at the normal point in Reception, for example, transferring school due to a move of house or personal reasons. Requests for places in Reception after the normal round of admissions or request for places in other year groups should be made directly to the City of Wolverhampton Council.

With the exception of a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), applications should be made at [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/admissions) following The City of Wolverhampton Council's co-ordinated in-year admissions in conjunction with St Bartholomew's CE MAT Schools Admission Policy.

For In-Year Admissions all applicants must:

1. Complete the In-Year Application Form and return to the City of Wolverhampton Council.
2. In addition, **where relevant** (as detailed in the oversubscription criteria) applicants must complete the Supplementary Information Form and return it direct to the School Admissions Team, City of Wolverhampton Council.

Forms available at: <http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/2547/Changing-schools>



## **Admission Appeals**

In the event that an applicant is denied a place at the School, the parent/carer will have the right to appeal to an Independent appeal panel.

Parents are only entitled to one appeal per year group, per school, per academic year unless there is a material change of circumstances. Further information can be found at:

[School admission appeals | City Of Wolverhampton Council](#)

## **Financial Implications**

There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to St Bartholomew's CE Multi Academy Trust.