

# CROWLE CE FIRST SCHOOL

## ADMISSIONS POLICY 2024/2025

### Our Values and Vision

**Our aim at Crowle Church of England First School** is to provide an education of the highest quality underpinned by Christian ethos and values, based on the life and teaching of Jesus, to children of all backgrounds and abilities. We offer an education which aims to meet the needs of pupils both academically and in terms of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As a church school we welcome children of all faiths and none but we ask that parents and children support our Christian values and ethos.

We work hard to ensure our children are: "**Caring. Confident and Committed to their learning**" and we have a clear theological underpinning that supports our vision, taken from the Bible. This is what makes our school a unique place of learning, for every child in our care. As a school community we have chosen the following parables as a basis to inspire how we live and work together:

**Caring** - The Good Samaritan (supporting people no matter who they are)

**Confident** - David and Goliath (if God is in your heart, you can have the confidence to do anything)

**Committed to Learning** - House on the Rock (building on firm foundations year on year)

### Class Size

Our Published Admission Number (PAN), set by the Trustees/Governors, is 15 per year group, giving a total of 75 overall for the whole school. The trustees/governors retain the right to amend the PAN for future years. In September 2024, we will have vacancies for 15 children in Reception. NB: The PAN only applies to the relevant age group. This means that admission authorities may not refuse admission to other age groups on the grounds that they have already reached their PAN. They may, however, refuse admission where the admission of another child would prejudice the provision of efficient education or efficient use of resources.

### Admissions Criteria

#### 1. \*'Looked after'

\*'Looked after' means all those currently in the care of a Local Authority or accommodated by a Local Authority under the terms of the Children Act 1989 and children who were previously in the care of or accommodated by a Local Authority but immediately after being looked after, became subject to an adoption, a child arrangements order or special guardianship order and includes those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. By children previously in state care outside of England, we mean children who have been looked after outside of England by a public authority, a religious organisation or another provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. The care may

have been provided in orphanages or other settings. Independent supporting evidence will be required to be provided with the application.

2. Siblings (see below for definition) of pupils attending the school and living within the catchment area of the Academy.

In order to qualify for a place on the grounds of a sibling attending the Academy, the sibling must already be attending the Academy at the time of application and still be attending at the time of admission. Copies of catchment area maps, if required are available from the LA, or can be viewed in the Academy. To find the catchment Academy for a postcode visit Schools Catchment Search. In the event of an Academy catchment area change being approved, pupils who would still have a sibling connection (see below for definition) at the time of admission and who are living at the same address in the previous catchment area for an Academy, (but not within the revised catchment area), at the time the change was approved will be considered as living within the catchment area.

\*A sibling, as well as brother or sister, also includes half-siblings (children who share one birth parent), step-children and legally adopted children. They must also be living at the same home address. Children who are brought together as a family by a civil partnership and who are living at the same address, are also considered to be siblings.

3. Pupil's home address within the catchment area of the Academy. Copies of catchment area maps, if required are available from the LA, or can be viewed in Academy. To find the catchment Academy for a postcode visit Academy Catchment Search or the Academy website.

\*The home address is defined as the only or main permanent residential address, at the closing date for applications, where the child usually resides and which is the usual address of the parent/carer with main responsibility for the child. Where parents/carers have shared responsibility, the child's home address will be considered to be that of the parent/carer with whom the child lives for the majority of the school week (e.g. three or more days out of five Monday to Friday during term-time). Where care is split equally, parent/carers must provide independent supporting documentary evidence to prove that care is equally split. In such cases the address used will be determined by random selection (lottery). Worcestershire County Council who are totally independent of the Trust / School will supervise this process.

4. Pupils living outside of the catchment area but who would still have a sibling connection (see below for definition) at the Academy at the time of admission. In order to qualify for a place on the grounds of a sibling attending the Academy, the sibling must already be attending the Academy at the time of application and still be attending at the time of admission.

5. Children of all staff at the Academy, where that member of staff has been employed for two or more years, and/or is recruited to fill a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

6. Pupils who live nearest to the Academy by the shortest straight line distance. The measurement will be taken using the GeoCode Points for each property and the GeoCode point for the Academy. The Local Authority uses a software package called Arcview GIS to determine distance. Ordnance Survey supplies the co-ordinates that are used to plot an address within this system. (In the event of equi-distance applicants,

any place will be allocated by random selection (lottery). Someone totally independent of Children, Families and Communities will supervise this process).

In accordance with legislation, a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan will be offered a place at the Academy named in the Plan.

Where there are too many applications from within the catchment area, priority will be decided in the following order, i.e.

- sibling connection
- children of staff
- according to distance, each assessed as indicated above.

In the event that one or more but not all children from a multiple birth can be allocated a place(s), all of the children from that multiple birth will be admitted even if this takes the Academy over PAN. These children are exceptions to the Infant Class Size legislation.

### **Late Applications**

The Trust has agreed in its co-ordinated scheme to accept late applications and treat them as being on time, if received by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 only in the following circumstances;

a) where a family have just moved address, (refer to Information for Parents booklet);

b) where it is agreed by the Academy Admissions, that individual circumstances apply and the delay was reasonable given the circumstances of the case;

In each case supporting documentary evidence will be required. In all other circumstances, or if the application is not received until after the date set out in the scheme, late applications will receive a lower priority, and will only be considered after the applications received (or deemed to be) on time.

### **Waiting Lists**

Waiting lists, are maintained by the Academy, and parents need to apply, in order to be included. These waiting lists will be maintained until the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. At that stage parents will need to reapply at the start of the following term if they wish to be included. Only on receipt of an acknowledgement letter from the Academy will that child be on the list.

### **Fair Access Protocol**

As part of the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol, the Academy with Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 classes will exceed the published admission number to admit pupils covered by the Protocol.

### **'In Year' transfer arrangements**

Following full public consultation the Cabinet of the County Council has approved, for Worcestershire Residents, a Scheme for In-Year Admissions, which is applicable for any in-year admissions for September 2020 onwards. Those applications will now be co-ordinated on behalf of all schools by School Admissions, on behalf of the Local Authority.

The Co-ordinated Schemes for all Worcestershire schools can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coordinatedschemes> **Admission of Children outside of their normal age group**

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is significantly performing academically above age expectations or has experienced problems such as ill health, effectively in the year group below or above their chronological age group. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to Academy until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to Reception rather than Year 1.

The Trust must make the decision based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. The Trust will request the head teacher of the Academy to take account of the 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; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely in order to reach a decision as to whether or not it is appropriate for the individual child to delay or accelerate their entry into Academy and be taught permanently behind or ahead of their chronological age group. The reasons for the decision must be clearly set out.

### **Appeals**

Should a place not be offered, parents have a right of appeal against the decision. Any appeal, which must be made on the form available from the school office, must be returned to the school (addressed to the Chair of Governors) within 20 school days of the date of the letter refusing a place.

Appeals will be heard by an Independent Appeals Panel whose decision is binding on all parties. The Panel will be constituted in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the hearing conducted in line with the School Admission Appeals Code 2012 issued by the DfE (or any subsequent legislation or code of practice).

The Independent Appeals Panel will inform parents of the outcome of appeals.