



Martley C.E. Primary School Admissions Policy 2023 -2024

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Our Christian Values

The 5C's

Our school values, the 5 Cs, underpin all that we do. These values are found in all our classrooms and in key areas around our school. We celebrate these values in collective worship and they are integral part of our vocabulary.

These values are:

Compassion, Creativity, Commitment, Courage and Cooperation

'And I tell you, you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church...' Matthew 16 v18

As a Christian school our vision is that all children will know that everyone is loved by God. "Unlocking Potential" lies at the heart of everything we do at Martley CE Primary School. We are passionate about ensuring that every pupil has every opportunity to be the best that they can be.

We also support and follow the vision of the Diocese of Worcester Multi-Academy Academy Trust (DoWMAT) of which we are a member school:

'To Love, To Learn, To Serve' sums up the DoWMAT's vision for those who come together to create the MAT, enabling all to flourish both as individuals and in community with each other; living life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

Equality and Diversity Statement

At Martley CE Primary School and Pre-School we promote equality of opportunity. We promote positive attitudes and encourage active participation of all stakeholders regardless of race, gender, disability, age, religion, belief and sexuality.

In so doing we strive to eliminate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of any group and where any such harassment is found appropriate action will be taken immediately.

Policy Statement

Note that admission of pupils has, by law, to be in accordance with the Admissions Policy set by the Local Academy Board. Individual decisions have to be made by the whole Local Academy Board acting in accordance with that policy.

The Local Academy Board see Martley C.E. Primary School as a local school which has as a primary aim the policy that local children should be able to attend their local school.

The ethos of Martley C.E. Primary School is Christian and we ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school and the local community.

This does not affect the right of parents who are not of a Christian faith to apply for, and to be considered for, a place at Martley C.E. Primary School.

Admissions Policy

Class Size

Our Published Admission Number (PAN), set by the Trustees/Governors, is 20 per year group, giving a total of 140 overall for the whole school, although the school currently has 155 pupils on roll. The trustees/governors retain the right to amend the PAN for future years. 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.

In any year where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available at the school, the places will be offered according to the following criteria:

Admissions Criteria:

1. *‘Looked after’ and previously *‘Looked after’ children
*‘A “looked after child” has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989, and means any child who is (a) in the care of the local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (eg children with foster parents) at the time of making the application to the school. A “previously looked after child” is a child who immediately moved on from that status after becoming subject to an adoption, child arrangement 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 case 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 Academy 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 or a child of the parent/carers partner. They must also be living at the same home address.

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 the 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 above 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 any member of 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).
7. Those who have an active involvement, parent and/or child, in the work and worship of a community of any established Christian religious faith, i.e. at least monthly attendance at the place of worship for a period of a year prior to application. A leader or representative of the religious community should provide written confirmation. If this information is missing the criterion is not met.
8. Children who the Governors consider have a special reason for admission such as medical, physical or social circumstances. Parents/Carers will be required to produce a relevant medical certificate or appropriate information at the time of application.

In accordance with legislation, a child with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan will be offered a place at the Academy named in the Statement or the Plan.

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

- a. sibling connection
- b. children of staff
- c. 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 28th February 2023 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 31st August 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/downloads/download/1330/co-ordinated_schemes_for_all_worcestershire_schools

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.