



KING CHARLES I SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY

FOR ENTRY TO YEAR 7 IN SEPTEMBER 2026

DATE OF APPROVAL	03.02.2025
DATE POLICY WILL BE REVIEWED	Spring 2026
MEMBER OF STAFF WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR REVIEW	Headteacher

Key Definitions

All policies incorporate the following schools or organisations within The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust ('the Trust'):

- Haybridge High School
- King Charles I School
- TDMS (The De Montfort School)
- Teaching School Hub
- Haybridge SCITT
- Any other schools or organisations that may join the Trust from time to time as not listed above.

The terms Academy, School, Organisation and Trust are considered interchangeable in the context of all Trust policies.

Where appropriate, in this policy the term:

“Executive Team” means the Executive Team and the School Improvement Team as listed on the Trust website.

“Headteacher” includes the appropriate School Headteacher.

“Trustees or Trust Board” are appointed trustees who oversee the business of The Four Stones MAT, agreeing the overarching strategic direction and ensuring robust governance.

“Local Academy Boards (LAB)” includes appointed members at a local Academy level and support each schools Leadership Teams to implement policies and improvement plan priorities.

“Chair” heads the Board of Trustees or LAB, provides leadership to the Trust’s Executive Team and/or relevant Headteachers and leads the charge on key Board decisions.

“Head of Governance” provides an administrative resource for the Trust and LAB Boards and ensures the smooth running of its functions, processes, and meetings.

“Stakeholders” are any individuals or companies who are invested in the welfare and success of the Trust and/or School and its students, including staff members, students, parents, community members, LAB or Trust members, trade unions, local business leaders etc.

Please note that separate arrangements exist for entry to the Sixth Form and these are published on our website at www.kingcharlesschool.co.uk/join-us/sixth-form or may be obtained from the school.

The Policy should be read in conjunction with the Information for Parents: Admissions and Transfers to Schools 2026-27 information published by Worcestershire County Council.

Introduction

King Charles I School is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive serving Kidderminster and the surrounding area. Our DfE number is 885 4501.

King Charles I School is part of The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust (the Trust). The Trust Board is the admissions authority for all schools within Trust and approves the admissions policies on an annual basis. The Trust Board delegates the responsibility in applying the oversubscription criteria to an Admissions Committee.

The main principle of admission to King Charles I School is to maintain the character of the school as a comprehensive school, providing for the needs of young people within the 11-18 age range who live in our catchment area. King Charles I School will endeavour to provide places for children who live outside the catchment area whose parents/carers wish them to attend the school, provided that they can be accommodated within the published admission limits.

Students will be admitted at the age of 11+ without reference to ability or aptitude using the criteria below. The Published Admission Number for entry in Year 7 in September 2026 will be 224 unless changed in accordance with statutory procedures.

Admission to King Charles I School is not dependent on any “voluntary” contribution.

PLEASE NOTE:

- On 1 November 2025, the Four Stones Multi-Academy Trust is merging with Shropshire Gateway Education Trust to form a new Trust 'Four Stones Gateway Trust' (FSGT).
- The Trust Board of 'Four Stones Gateway Trust' will be the new admissions authority from 1 November 2025

Admissions Process

Entry to the school at the normal time of transfer (Year 7)

King Charles I School participates in the Local Authority co-ordinated admissions scheme for entry to the school at the normal time of transfer and all applicants should keep to deadlines within that scheme. Full information is contained in the Information for Parents document published by Worcestershire Local Authority. The co-ordinated admissions schemes can be viewed at <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coordinatedschemes>. If you do not live in Worcestershire, you need to follow the procedure published by your home Local Authority (LA).

Transfer information is by your Local Authority in the Autumn term to parents/carers of students in Year 6 at maintained Local Authority primary schools. If your child does not attend a maintained school, you should contact your Local Authority for information. Applications for all school places must be made on the Common Application Form (CAF) provided by your home Local Authority, with the opportunity to nominate schools, ranked in order of preference. For residents living in Worcestershire, transfer information and the CAF are also available on-line at <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>. Your completed application must be received by your home Local Authority by their deadline.

The parents/carers of students resident outside Worcestershire, but who wish to apply for a place at any Worcestershire school, must complete an application form provided by the home Local Authority (the home Local Authority is defined as the Local Authority relevant to the child's home address). The home Local Authority will ensure that the application details are passed onto Worcestershire Local Authority for consideration in the allocation of school places.

Parents/carers are strongly recommended to check all the information they have given on application forms. The Admissions Committee cannot be held responsible for any places offered or refused according to ranking of applications based on incorrect or incomplete information received by the school.

There is no requirement to complete a supplementary application form.

Education, Health, and Care (EHC) Plans

Children for whom an Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plan has been agreed naming King Charles I School on the EHC: where places required by students with an EHC plan are known before the Admissions Committee meets, the number of students with EHC plans naming this school will be deducted from the 224 places available to be offered. Such students are automatically offered places at the school and the Headteacher and the Admissions Committee will consider each application for a student with an EHC plan individually.

If parents/carers are considering whether King Charles I School should be named on their child's EHC plan, King Charles I School should be involved in the appropriate review. A response of concern may be raised if the school considers that provision will be inadequate for the child's needs or if there is evidence that to admit the applicant would have a detrimental impact on the learning of other students.

Please note that if your child has an EHC plan and this names King Charles I School, you must also submit an application in the usual way via your home Local Authority under the co-ordinated scheme

Applying for Places

King Charles I School welcomes applications from all parents/carers who wish their children to attend the school. Students and their parents/carers who are considering applying are warmly invited to visit the school on our Open Evening for Year 6 students and their parents/carers in the September of the year prior to intended admission. Details will be published in the transfer packs (where they are provided by Worcestershire Local Authority) local newspapers and on our website.

Procedure

The following procedure for applications is designed to ensure that the Admissions Policy is applied as fairly and consistently as possible.

All applications submitted to the home Local Authority naming King Charles I School in any position of preference will be forwarded to the school. The Admissions Committee will rank all applications against the published Oversubscription Criteria according to the information given by parents/carers on application forms. With only 224 places available, this number will be reached at varying levels each year, depending on the number and nature of applications received.

The deadline for receipt of applications published by the Local Authority must be adhered to and applications received after this date will be at a disadvantage in the event of oversubscription.

Late Applications

Applications made after the closing date as published in the local authority's co-ordinated admissions scheme are classed as late and will be dealt with in accordance with this policy but will receive a lower priority than those applications received on time.

The Admissions Committee may consider a late application (between 1 November and 31 January) as "on-time" only in the following circumstances: where a family has moved home between 1 November and 31 January; or where it is agreed by governors that individual circumstances apply, and the delay was reasonable given the circumstances of the case. If requested, you must provide acceptable documentary evidence to the Admissions Committee by their deadline including, if applicable, evidence that you have permanently relinquished ownership or tenancy of your old home.

Offers of Places

The Admissions Committee will rank all applications received by the deadline in order of priority as described in the 'Oversubscription Criteria.' The names of applicants to whom places could be offered will then be provided to the Local Authority who will make offers on our behalf. This will be a single offer to the parent/carer of a place at the school for which their child ranks highest, where a place is available. If it is possible to make a potential offer at more than one school, the final offer will be for the school identified as higher preference. If King Charles I School is notified that you will be offered a higher preference school, we cannot offer you a place. If parents/carers have named King Charles I School as their first preference school but have not been offered a place, they will be advised of their right to appeal by the Local Authority.

Offers of Year 7 places will not be made directly by King Charles I School and you should contact your Local Authority if you have not received notification of an offer. Parents/carers must reply to the Local Authority's offer as soon as possible, indicating whether they are accepting the place. If you withdraw your application or wish to decline an offer of a place at King Charles I School you must inform the Headteacher and Pupil Admissions and Transfers at your home Local Authority immediately in writing. You must also notify any change of the student's home address, contact details or school immediately in writing to the Headteacher and to Pupil Admissions and Transfers at your home Local Authority.

The Admissions Committee have the right to withdraw an offer of a place where it is found that:

- the offer of a place has been obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application, for example, the use of an inappropriate home address; or
- the parent/carer has not responded to the offer within a reasonable period of time of the offer being made and after a reminder has been issued.

If you knowingly give false information in order to obtain a school place you could be guilty of an offence under the Perjury Act 1911.

Waiting Lists

If your child does not receive an offer of a place at King Charles I in the normal round of applications, and only if you were allocated a school which was a lower preference than King Charles I, your child will automatically be placed on our waiting list. If you wish, you may contact us in writing to confirm this.

If you did not name King Charles I as one of your preferences in your original application, you must contact your Local Authority to make an application to King Charles I. We can only process an application when a

fully completed valid application has been received. If you were allocated a school which was a higher preference than King Charles I, we will not automatically place your child's name on our waiting list; if you subsequently wish to name King Charles I as your first preference you must contact your Local Authority to make a late change of preference.

If a place becomes available, it will be allocated from the waiting list according to the oversubscription criteria listed below, after the deadline for the return of acceptances. There is no priority for children who have been on the list longer than others. This waiting list is maintained until the end of December 2026. If you wish your child's name to remain on the waiting list for Year 7 after the end of December 2026 you must write to the Headteacher at King Charles I High School at the start of each new term confirming this. After December, the waiting list will be held for one term at a time.

In-Year Admissions for all Year Groups

Generally, students only transfer from one school to another when there has been a change of home address. Parents/carers are recommended to read the information provided by their Local Authority. If you feel that there are problems with your child's current school, you should attempt to resolve these with the Headteacher of that school before applying to transfer.

Worcestershire County Council co-ordinate all in-year transfer applications to Worcestershire schools. The coordinated admissions schemes can be viewed at <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/school-admissions-policies>. All schools in the Trust take part in the Local Authority's coordinated scheme for in-year admissions.

King Charles I School intends to hold waiting lists for any oversubscribed year group after 1 September. Each term the waiting lists for each year group are re-compiled. Parents/carers must write to the Headteacher at King Charles I School at the start of each new term confirming that they wish their child's name to remain on the list. If a place should become available, applications currently on the waiting list will be ranked according to our Oversubscription Criteria as described below and an offer will be made to the child who ranks highest at that time. If you wish your application to carry forward to a new academic year in September, you must submit a fresh in-year transfer application no earlier than the summer half term.

Applications for in-year transfer may be made within half a term of the date that the place is required. For example, if you require a place at the start of the September term, you may apply after the summer half term break.

All schools in the Trust have signed up to the local Fair Access Protocol. We have to admit any student who is the subject of a direction by the Secretary of State or allocated to us according to the Worcestershire Fair Access Protocol. In such cases we may exceed our Published Admission Number, and these students take precedence over those on the waiting list.

Applications for places outside of the normal age group

Parents/carers can also request that their child be admitted outside of their normal age group, effectively in the year group below or above their chronological age group. King Charles I School will make the decision based on the circumstances of each case after completing an educational assessment to determine whether or not it is appropriate for the individual child to delay or accelerate their entry into school and be taught outside of their chronological age group.

Parental responsibility

Should more than one parent have parental responsibility for a child, both parents should be in agreement over the preferences expressed prior to the application being submitted. Where more than one parent submits an application for a child, or where there is a parent not in agreement with the preferences, the Admissions Committee, legally has to comply with the preferences expressed. If this is not the same, then parents will have to seek resolution and if necessary legal resolution. It may be necessary for the courts to determine which parent can make the final decision on schooling. Failure to ensure agreement prior to submission, may result in a delay in any application being processed.

When submitting your application, as part of the terms and conditions, you will be required to confirm that parents are in agreement with the preferences expressed, this will also apply if you wish to transfer in year. If it is subsequently determined that agreement was not made prior to the application being submitted, it could result in the withdrawal of the offer of a place, if it is determined that the information supplied was intentionally misleading or fraudulent.

Appeals

The parents/carers of children who are unsuccessful in gaining a place at King Charles I School may appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. The Independent Appeal Panel's procedures are in accordance with the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the School Admission Appeals Code effective from 1 October 2022.

If you wish to appeal you should write, setting out your grounds for appeal, to the clerk to the Local Academy Board of King Charles I School within 20 school days of receipt of notification that your application was unsuccessful. You will receive at least 10 school days' notice of the date of the appeal hearing but in exceptional circumstances you have the right to waive this notice. You will usually be told of the outcome of the appeal within five school days of the hearing.

Any additional evidence which you wish to submit after lodging an appeal must be in writing and must be received by the school at least five school days before the hearing to allow for efficient administration of the appeal hearing. If you submit information or evidence after this deadline it might not be considered at the appeal, or the appeal hearing might need to be postponed.

For on-time applications for Year 7 entry, appeals will be heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals.

For late applications, appeals will be heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals where possible or within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged.

For in-year transfer applications, appeals will be heard within 30 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals.

Appeals lodged after the deadline for lodging appeals will be heard as soon as is reasonably practical.

Parents/carers are invited to attend the hearing of their appeal and make their case to the panel, although if this invitation is declined the appeal may be heard on the basis of written evidence only. You may be represented by or accompanied by a friend. You must inform the school in advance if you wish to call any witnesses or be represented at the hearing.

Only one appeal is permitted in respect of the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, a second application has been accepted because of significant and material changes in circumstances (e.g. a change which puts the applicant in a higher oversubscription category). The statutory right to appeal does not apply if a place has been offered at the school in the usual year group for the child's age, but this is not the year group preferred.

Oversubscription Criteria

The purpose of the published oversubscription criteria is to give everyone a fair opportunity to apply for a place at the school in accordance with our main principle of admission as defined above in the Introduction. The Admissions Committee takes considerable time and the utmost care to ensure that the system is applied fairly.

Where there are more applications than places students will be offered places in the following order of priority (for definitions of the words in bold, see the section below on 'Definitions'):

- 1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.** Including **Children previously in state care outside of England** and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

2. **Siblings** of students attending the school **and** living **within the catchment** area of the school. In order to qualify for a place on the grounds of a sibling attending the school, the sibling must already be attending the school at the time of application and still be attending at the time of admission. In the event of a school catchment area change being approved, students who would still have a **sibling connection** at the time of admission and who are living at the same address in the previous catchment area for a school, (but not within the revised catchment area), at the time the change was approved will be considered as living within the **catchment area**.
3. Students living within the **catchment** area of the school.
4. Students living **outside of the catchment** area but who would still have a **sibling connection** at school at the time of admission. In order to qualify for a place on the grounds of a sibling attending the school, the sibling must already be attending the school at the time of application and still be attending at the time of admission.
5. Students who were attending a **feeder school** at the time of application.
6. Students who live **nearest** to the school by the shortest straight-line distance. The measurement will be taken using the Geocode Points for each property and the Geocode point for the school. The Admissions Committee will utilise the Local Authority software package called ArcView GIS to determine distance. Ordnance Survey supply 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 independent of the Admissions Committee will supervise this process.

Where there are too many applications from within the first category, applications will be given priority if they meet the conditions of the second category. If any places then still remain, applications will be given priority according to the third category, and so on.

Definitions

Looked after Children and previously Children Looked after, including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

'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.

Catchment Area

Our catchment area is defined on the map which may be viewed at the school on request, and which is available on the school website or from School Admissions at Worcestershire County Council. Proof of residence may be required. The offer of a place may be withdrawn if acceptable proof of residence is not provided when requested.

If you wish to check whether your address falls within the catchment area for King Charles I School, you may also visit <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolsearch> and use the on-line postcode catchment area checker.

While there is no guarantee of a place for children living in our catchment area, it has been the case in the last few years that places have been offered to most or all applicants resident in catchment. This cannot be relied upon for the future as demographic and other changes may make it less likely.

Sibling

Applicants who have a sibling on roll at King Charles I School at the time of application who would still be on roll at the time of admission may claim a sibling connection. Siblings are defined as brothers or sisters who share at least one birth or legally adoptive parent, or who have birth or legally adoptive parents living at the same **home** address as partners. 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. In order to claim a sibling connection, applicants must live at the same **home** address as the sibling.

The Admissions Committee will endeavour to treat applicants who are twins or children of other multiple births with consideration when considering their ranking in the event of oversubscription but cannot guarantee that a place can be offered to every child of a multiple birth if insufficient places are available. In the event of a multiple birth where not all children from that multiple birth can be allocated a place, any place(s) will be allocated by random selection (lottery). Someone independent of the Admissions Committee will supervise this process.

Feeder Schools

Our feeder primary schools are:

- Chaddesley Corbett Endowed Primary
- Comberton Primary
- Heronswood Primary
- Offmore Primary
- St George's CE Primary
- Cutnall Green C of E Primary

Applicants must be on roll at one of these schools at the time of application to qualify under this category. There is no guarantee of a place at King Charles I School for applicants attending a feeder primary school.

Home

Home is defined as the only or main residential address at the closing date of application where the child normally resides, and which is the address of the parent/carer with main responsibility for the child.

Where parents/carers have shared responsibility, the child's home address will usually 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. Someone independent of the Admissions Committee will supervise this process.

It may be necessary for the school to carry out checks to confirm that information given in relation to a child's home address is genuine. Parents/carers may be asked to produce documentary evidence of the address given. If you knowingly give false information in order to obtain a school place you could be guilty of an offence under the Perjury Act 1911.

Places cannot be offered on the basis of a possible future address. If you have already applied but notify us that you have moved home after the closing date for applications, we will deal with this as a late application.

For children of UK Armed Forces personnel or Crown Servants, we will not refuse to process an application solely because the family does not yet have an intended address. We will accept a future home address in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by evidence of the intended address. We will also accept a Unit or quartering address as the home address upon request.

Useful contact details

King Charles I School

Tel: 01562 512880

Web: www.kingcharlesschool.co.uk

Email: office@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Ruth Allen

Worcestershire School Admissions

Tel: 01905 822700

Email: schooladmissions@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Web: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning>

Postcode catchment area on-line check

Web: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/find-school>

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service. SENDIASS (formerly the Parent Partnership Service)

Email: sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sendiass>

Transport Assistance

Free transport to school may be provided by the Local Authority in certain circumstances. Full details are available from your Local Authority. The contact details for Worcestershire are:

Tel: 01905 765765

Web: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning>

The information contained in this policy is correct at the time of going to press but minor amendments may be made without notice, for example to comply with new statutory requirements or due to circumstances beyond the control of the Trust Board of The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust including information published by Worcestershire County Council.

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