



Earsham CE VA Primary School

*We aim to provide a happy, purposeful, Christian environment, in which each child feels secure and develops self-confidence, enabling them to flourish and reach their full potential.
Children's learning journeys are enhanced by working together with the wider community.*

Admissions 2018-19

Introduction

The school's admission number is 15

Pupils will be admitted to school at the beginning of the academic year that they become five.

Underpinning the reasons why the governors have taken this decision are:

1. There is an expectation, even a demand, from the community that children commence their (formal) education as early as possible.
2. With Statutory Assessment Tests at seven, some teachers favour the early admission of children into primary classes.
3. We offer a good quality, child-centred education which is appropriate for Reception children in the Foundation Stage. Children entering Reception in September therefore have three terms of appropriate education in preparation for Key Stage 1 programmes of study which start in Year One.

Policy Principles

The school's admissions policy is intended to meet the best interests of each child admitted without impinging on the service given to those already on roll.

The admissions policy will need to be reviewed annually in the light of the number of leavers and the number of new admissions.

The Governors will only continue with an admissions policy if, under that policy:

- (i) The emotional, social, intellectual and physical needs of these young children can be met through the provision of an appropriate curriculum, school ethos and environment.
- (ii) The needs of older children of statutory age are also being met. This will include, for example, their entitlement under the national curriculum.
- (iii) The school meets its statutory obligations to children with special educational needs, and provides a suitably rich and differentiated curriculum for **all** pupils.
- (iv) Early admission does not impose undue pressure on teachers and other staff, or on the school resources.
- (v) There is a close liaison structure already in place.

Policy into Practice

The admissions policy shall be reviewed annually in consultation with the headteacher who, with reference to the anticipated numbers on roll, will establish the practice for each year. The school aims to fill 15 Reception places each year.

By law, children must start statutory education full time at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. Parents will be offered a full time place from September of the school year in which they have their fifth birthday. They are entitled to defer their child's admission or request that their child attend on a part time basis, however the child must start school on a full time basis during the academic year and no later than the beginning of the term after their fifth birthday.

All children will be admitted during the first two weeks of term after new Reception children have benefited from a Home Visit from school staff.

If a parent chooses part time education for their child/ren (usually mornings only) those children will normally attend full-time after one term has been completed (after the Christmas holiday).

Children of pre-statutory age are admitted by agreement between the school and the child's family. If agreement is not reached the child's admission will be deferred.

If, after a trial period of part-time schooling, either party believes the child is not benefiting from school the child will be withdrawn for an agreed period. This will be rare because liaison between parents and the school should ensure only those children who are ready for school are admitted.

Pre-School Liaison

During the term leading up to Admission children will be invited into school on a number of special occasions, e.g. Sports Day, Summer Fayre, Art/craft activity session, Church services.

During the Summer Term the following liaison procedures will operate:

- Parents/carers are given a 'Welcome to School' pack of information, which includes a registration form and information about activities which take place off site, Data Protection, photographing school activities, use of the Internet, PTA, Home School Agreements, school uniform, term dates, school meals and information about school attendance.
- Parents and children visit school for various activity sessions on three occasions.
- "New Parents' Information" evening is held, with the headteacher, class one teacher and teaching assistant. Information is given about behaviour expectations, school procedures and curriculum content. Literacy and numeracy is covered extensively, resources demonstrated and opportunities for parents to support learning at home is explained.

During the Autumn Term

- The Reception teacher and TA will visit the homes of new children to talk about the school and discuss any issues with the parent and child in a private meeting.
- Children will attend school after the Home Visit – beginning at first with a morning session, followed by a morning session plus lunch – progressing to a full day.
- Part-time children attend half days only.

See the Induction and Transfer Policy in school for further details.

Over-subscription (Applies to any year group)

If parental preferences exceed the admission limit for any year group, the Governors will agree the criteria to be used in allocating places. These criteria will be published annually as part of the arrangements for parents to express their preferences. The criteria for Earsham CE VA Primary School in order of priority are:

- (i) Children for whom their Statement of Special Educational Needs/Educational health care Plan names this school.
- (ii) Looked after Children.
- (iii) Children living within the Earsham catchment area.
- (iv) Children with brothers or sisters already at the school at the time of admission.
- (v) Children from families involved in Christian Worship that can provide confirmation from an ordained minister that they attend a Christian Church at least once a month.
- (vi) Geographical issues: the shortest direct line distance.

If parents are dissatisfied with the outcome of their preferences, they can make representations to the Governors and efforts will be made to resolve the dissatisfaction. However, if Governors are unable to do so the parents still have the right of appeal to an independent Appeals Committee which is constituted by the Diocesan Authorities and whose decision will be binding on the Governors and parents.

Final Comment

This policy has been agreed by the Teaching Staff and approved by the Governing Body.