



Madresfield C.E. Primary School

Admissions Policy (2026-27)

Policy LAB Approval: February 2025

Date of last review: December 2023

Date of next review: Autumn Term 2025

Policy Owner: Executive Headteacher/Head of School

Our Vision

Ignite Illuminate Inspire

At Madresfield we are a caring inclusive school, where everyone is welcome as Jesus welcomed all. We work closely with all stakeholders to support our children in achieving their God given potential. Inspired by *Psalm 119:105 "God's word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path"*.

As a school we aim to:

Ignite: to cultivate a love for learning and awe and respect for God's world.

Illuminate: to trust in God to guide us and develop our wisdom and compassion as we journey through school.

Inspire: to help our children to shine as we celebrate their successes and help them to develop into beacons of hope for others within our school and wider communities.

In order for children to achieve their potential we have in place and follow the following school rules:

Be kind- being kind to others.

Be ready- being ready to learn.

Be respectful- being respectful to all.

Be safe- being safe around school.

Equality and Diversity Statement

At Madresfield CE Primary 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.

This policy has been reviewed; to the best of our knowledge we do not feel it impacts negatively on any specific group or individual within our school community.

Madresfield Church of England Primary School is an academy within the Diocese of Worcester Multi-Academy Trust (DoWMAT).

The Local Academy Board (LAB) is the Admissions Authority however the admissions process is administered on behalf of the Local Academy Board by the Local Authority (LA).

All parents must apply through the Worcestershire County Council website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions. The LA, on behalf of the Governors, will notify parents of the outcome of their application for a place in the intake year from September. **The closing date for receipt of completed applications for the academic year 2026-27 is 15th January 2026.**

Class Size

Our Published Admission Number (PAN), set by the Local Academy Board, is 15 per year group (Reception to Year 6) giving a total of 105 overall for the whole school. The LAB retain the right to amend the PAN for future years. NB: The PAN only applies to the relevant age group. This means that the admission authorities may not refuse admission to other age groups on the grounds that they have already reached PAN. They may, however, refuse admission where the admission of another child would prejudice the provision of efficient education or efficient use of resources.

Admission criteria

When there are more applications than places, children are admitted in the following order of priority:

1. *'Looked after' children.
*'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 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 school, the sibling must already be attending the school 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 school. To find the catchment school for a postcode, you can visit the following website;

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schoolsearch>

In the event of a school 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 the school, (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 school. Copies of catchment area maps, if required are available from the LA, or can be viewed in the school. To find the catchment school for a postcode, you can visit the website, noted above.

*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 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 (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 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. 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 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 Academy. The LA 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 that names Madresfield C.E. Primary School will be offered a place at the school.

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 school 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 2026 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 School 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

If an application for admission is not successful, it will automatically be added to the schools waiting list, which will be kept until 31st December 2026.

Fair Access Protocol

As part of the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol, the school 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 LA. 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 gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child 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 rather than Year 1.

Applications should be made in writing to the Head of School by 31st December 2025 using the *Delayed and Accelerated Transfer Form* available on the Worcestershire County Council website. The school follows the process as outlined in the Worcestershire County Council Policy on Delayed and Accelerated Transfer which can be found on their website.

The Head of School, in collaboration with the Trust, will make the decision based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. The Head of School and Trust will 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 school and be taught permanently behind or ahead of their chronological age group. The reasons for the decision will be clearly set out.

If a child transfers in-year, permission will need to be sought from the admission authority to continue to be taught outside of their normal age group.

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.