St. Margaret’s C of E Primary School

Admissions Policy 2021/2022

Ratified by Governors – December 2019

V 1.0 October 2019
St. Margaret’s Church of England Primary School, Hollinwood is a voluntary aided school. The Governing Body is the admission authority for the school, and the school is required to act in accordance with the School Admissions Code. The admissions process is co-ordinated by Oldham Council (the Local Authority) and the school liaises with the Local Authority and with Manchester Diocese on admissions issues.

The aims of this policy are to ensure fairness in the allocation of Reception Class places and to ensure all potential parents are aware of St Margaret’s oversubscription criteria for admissions if the school is oversubscribed.

Admission arrangements

The school’s published admission number (PAN) for the admission of children to the Reception Year in September 2021 is 45. If no more than 45 applications are received for admission to the Reception Year, all applicants will be offered places.

In line with the School Admissions Code of December 2014, the school will admit all children having a statement of special educational needs, or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where the school is named on the statement or EHCP.

Oversubscription criteria
When the number of applications received is greater than the number of remaining places available (after the admission of any children with a statement or EHCP naming the school), the decision on which children to be admitted will be based on the following criteria, which will be applied in the order of priority shown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Looked After Children (LAC) and children who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). <strong>(See note 1)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Children whose medical or social circumstances mean that their needs can only be met at this school (professional supporting evidence is essential).</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Children whose parent/guardian is in regular attendance at worship at St Margaret’s Church. <strong>(See note 2)</strong></td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Children who will have an older ‘brother or sister’ attending the school at the time of the admission of the younger child. Brother or sister includes – full, step, half, foster and adopted sibling living at the same address.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Children whose parent/guardian is in regular attendance at worship at any of the churches listed in supplementary notes B. <strong>(See note 2)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Any other children ranked by geographical distance from school, with those living closest to the school having priority. <strong>(See note 3)</strong></td>
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Notes

1. A “looked after child” is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions at the time of making an application to a school. Children looked after previously are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).

2. Regular attendance at worship is defined as a minimum of fortnightly attendance at church at public worship for at least 2 years prior to 1st September in the year before admission to the school. Evidence of regular attendance must be provided by a member of the clergy or other designated church officer (on the supplementary form A attached). This form should be provided to school at the same time as the online application is completed.

3. The geographical distance from school will be determined by the nearest, safest walking route from the front door of the child’s home to the main entrance door of the school. This will be digitally measured using the LA system. Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of the week, the ‘home address’ will be determined as being where the child resides for the majority of the school week.

Tie-breakers

Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category, the distance from the front door of the child’s home to the main entrance door of the school, measured using the LA system, will be used as the tie-breaker, nearer addresses having priority. If the distance from home to school does not distinguish between two or more applicants with equal priority for the remaining place, random allocation will be used as the final tie-breaker. This will be supervised by someone independent of the school.

Waiting list

Children who have not been offered a place will have their name placed on a waiting list. The names on this waiting list will be in the order resulting from the application of the admissions oversubscription criteria. Since the date of application cannot be a criterion for the order of names on the waiting list, late applicants for the school will be slotted into the order according to the extent to which they meet the criteria. Thus, it is possible that a child who moves into the area later to have a higher priority than one who has been on the waiting list for some time. If a place becomes available within the admission number, the child whose name is at the top of the list will be offered a place. This is not dependant on whether an appeal has been submitted. The waiting list will operate until 31 December at the end of the Autumn Term only.

Appeals

If you have been refused admission and wish to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel for a school place for your child, you should complete a School Admission Appeal Form available from www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/file/3226/appealing_for_a_school_place. You will be asked to set out clearly why your child should go to your preferred school and return it to the School Admission Appeals team. Any written evidence that you wish to use to support your case should be submitted to the Appeals Panel. It is important that you tell the Independent Appeals panel all the reasons why you want your child to attend the school(s)
of your preference. If you have any documented evidence to support your appeal, please send a copy with your form.

The date of the appeal will be arranged by an officer from Business Support Services. The appeals are usually heard in the Council Offices at the Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham OL1 1UL. You will be given 10 school days’ notice of the date and time of the hearing. If you are unable to attend and the date for the hearing cannot be rescheduled due to timetabling constraints, or you do not wish to attend, the appeal will be decided in your absence upon the information provided, including all the written information you have sent.

Applying for places

All applications must be made on the Local Authority’s on-line application system. Details of all the applications made will be forwarded to the school by the Local Authority.

Applicants seeking admission under criteria 3 or 5 will also need to complete and return Supplementary Form A

Applicants seeking places under criterion 2 must provide professional supporting evidence (e.g. from a doctor, psychologist or social worker) setting out the particular reasons why the school is the most suitable for the child and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school.

Deferred Admissions

Children are entitled to a full time place in school in the September following their fourth birthday. Once they have been offered a place at the school, the child’s parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the application was made. Where parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age.

Requests for admission outside a child’s 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. Any parent who is considering requesting delayed entry to school should refer to Oldham LA’s policy available on the Oldham Council website (www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions).

Further information regarding Oldham admission procedures and policies, to which St. Margaret’s C E Primary adheres, can be found online at: http://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200327/admissions.