



Cowbit St Mary's Endowed Church of England Primary School

Governing Body's Admission Policy

2024-2025

1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to outline the policies and procedures used to determine the admission of pupils to Cowbit St Mary's Primary School. Some of these procedures are locally determined; others are informed or enforced by statute or the policy of the Local Authority. The Local Governor Board is the admissions authority for the school and reserve the right to refuse to admit a child in line with the school admissions code.

2. Admission Arrangements

Arrangements for applications for places in Reception will be made in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council's co-ordinated admission arrangements. Parents resident in Lincolnshire can apply online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions, they can also apply by telephone, or ask for a paper application by telephoning (01522 782030). Parents resident in other areas must apply through their home local authority. We adhere to the timescales outlined in the Lincolnshire County Council Co-ordinated admissions scheme available at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions and the relevant Local Authority will make the offer of places on our behalf as required by the School Admissions Code (2021). In year admissions are dealt with in accordance with the in-year section below.

2.2 All children can start school in the September following their fourth birthday. Where we have offered a child a place:

- That child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday.
- The child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year 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 it was made, whichever is the sooner;
- Where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Parents interested in deferring admission or arranging part-time attendance must contact the school to discuss this.

2.3 Allocation of places will take in to account the published admission number (PAN) which is 12. We will not exceed this figure in our new Reception intake each year. The exception to this is where the number of children legally admitted is reached and the last child is a twin or other sibling from a multiple birth - in that situation, the twin or other sibling from a multiple birth will be considered as one application and will be admitted.

2.4 In accordance with legislation the allocation of places for children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (Children and Families Act 2014) naming the school in the plan will take place first. Remaining places will be allocated in accordance with this policy.

3. Children of (UK) Armed Forces

3.1 In order to support the military covenant aimed at removing disadvantage for UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces), and Crown Servants returning from abroad the following arrangements will apply. If an application is supported by an official letter declaring a posting and a relocation date, then an intention to move to a confirmed address or quartering within the UK will be accepted. The new address will be used to consider the application against the oversubscription criteria. A unit postal address can be used if the family do not have a confirmed address at the time of application.

3.2 Where an application is not supported by an official letter or is not being made due to a new posting then the current address will be used to examine the application against the oversubscription criteria until the family are formally resident in the new address. Proof of intended occupation of the residential address such as mortgage statement, exchange of contracts or signed tenancy agreement will be required. For applicants participating in the Future Accommodation Model trial, a letter accepting an address under the scheme will be accepted if a signed tenancy agreement cannot be provided.

3.3 An offer may be withdrawn if a child does not reside at the address listed on the application form if the school is oversubscribed and use of an incorrect address has resulted in a place being denied to another child who would otherwise have been offered the place.

3.4 If a family have provided the required proof of posting, a unit postal address will be accepted for the purposes of operating the oversubscription criteria if parents are unable to provide an address or prefer to use the unit address. This unit will be the base to which the parent has been posted.

3.5 In all cases where an applicant is considered after national offer day of the admitting year and parents can demonstrate that the child is a child of a crown servant returning from abroad or is a child of a serving member of the armed forces, the Local Governor Board will consider whether to offer a place at a school even if the school has reached its official PAN. When making the decision whether to offer over PAN the Local Governor Board will consider the circumstances of each case including: if the applicant would have been offered a place had they applied on time in the admissions round of the year of entry; whether there is any child on the reserve list with higher priority under the oversubscription criteria; whether admission of a further student would prejudice the efficient education and efficient use of resources and this prejudice would be excessive. The Local Governor Board have discretion to admit above the admission number in these circumstances, but they are not obliged to do so. If a place is refused, parents will be informed of their right of appeal.

4. School Admission Criteria

4.1 For entry into Reception in September, places will be allocated to parents who return an application before any parent who has not returned one. The collection of the information pack from school does not mean that parents have to put that school as their first preference.

4.2 Cowbit St Mary's School will use the Lincolnshire County Council's timetable published online for applications and the child's home Local Authority (LA) will make the offer of places as required by the

School Admissions Code. The over-subscription criteria are listed in order. Words marked with a number, for example: 1, 2, 3,4 and 5 are explained separately in the definition and notes section.

4.2 The oversubscription criteria below are listed in the order we apply them. If there are more applicants than places within a particular category, the next criteria will be applied until the tiebreaker is used.

- i.The child is in the care of the Local Authority or has previously been in the care of the Local Authority and has been adopted or become subject to a residence order or special guardianship order including 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 (1)
- ii.There is a brother or sister (2) on roll at the school at the time of application
- iii. A child whose parent is a faithful and regular (3) worshipper at St Mary's Church, Cowbit.
- iv.The school is the nearest one to the home address, as defined in note (5)
- v.The straight-line distance from the home to the school. Priority will be given to the child living nearest the school as calculated by Lincolnshire County Council school admissions team (6).

4.3Tie-Breaker

The oversubscription criteria are listed in the order we apply them. If it is necessary to distinguish between more than one applicant in any criteria, the next criteria will be applied until the tie breaker is used. If two or more children are tied for the last place then a lottery will be drawn by a person independent to the school, not employed by the school or working in the Local Authority of Children's Service's Directorate.

5.0 Definitions and notes:

(1) Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children. 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 5 social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

Previously looked after children 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). This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

(2) Brother or sister

- A full brother or sister, whether or not resident in the same household.

- Another child normally living for the majority of the term time in the same household where an adult in the household has parental responsibility as defined by the Children Act 1989 or any child in the household where an adult in the household is defined as a parent for the purposes of Section 576 of the Education Act 1996.

Twins and other siblings from a multiple birth

In these cases, all the children will be considered together as one application. If twins or multiple birth children are split by operation of the oversubscription criteria, the school will accommodate all children unless this would make the class too large and prejudice the education of the other children. The government's school admissions code makes an exception to the infant class limit in this situation.

Brothers and sisters in the same year group

Where there is only one place available in the school the children will be considered together as one application. The school will admit all the children unless this would make the class too large and prejudice the education of the other children or in cases where infant class regulations prevent this from happening. If this happens, we can only legally offer one place because the government's School Admissions Code makes no exception to the infant class size limit for siblings in the same year group.

(3) By 'faithful and regular' we mean the child's parent attends church at least once a month for at least a year preceding the application. The attendance should be verified by a signed letter from an officiating minister at St Mary's Church, Cowbit. If a family has recently moved to the area and the child's parent has commenced faithful and regular worship at St Mary's Church, Cowbit, the school can also consider an equivalent commitment at a Church of England church from their previous address. Attendance at both places of worship should be verified by a signed letter from an officiating minister. Attendance at St Mary's Church must have commenced, and regular worship between the previous church and St Mary's must be unbroken.

(4) Nearest School

The nearest school is found by measuring the straight line distance from the child's home address to all state funded, mainstream schools admitting children in the relevant year group. Measurements are calculated electronically from the Post Office address point of the home address to the Post Office address point of the school. We measure distance to three decimal places, e.g. 1.256 miles. If you reside in Lincolnshire, you can use the search tool at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/find-nearest-school> to identify which school is your closest school. By home, we mean the address where the child lives for the majority of term time with a parent as defined in section 576 of the Education Act 1996 who has parental responsibility for the child as defined in the Children Act 1989. Where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the home address accepted for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of term time. If a parent can show that their child spends an equal amount of time at two addresses during school term time, they can choose which address to use on the application. If a parent has more than one home, we will accept the address where the parent and child normally live for the majority of the school term time as the home address.

(5) Distance Measurement Straight line distance as calculated electronically to three figures after the decimal point (e.g., 1.543 miles) by Lincolnshire County Council school admissions

team from the Post Office Address Point of the home to the Post Office Address Point of the school.

6 Fraudulent or misleading applications

6.1 As an admission authority, we reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly. As an admission authority, we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about your application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence that you have made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information, for example a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. If a place is withdrawn, the application will be considered afresh and you will be advised of your right of appeal if a place is refused.

7 Admission of Children Outside their Normal Age Group

7.1 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. Parents wishing to make these requests must contact their home local authority for guidance on the procedure to follow. Parents resident in Lincolnshire should call 01522 782030 or email outofcohortadmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk for advice on the procedure to follow. It is important for parents to note that they will have the opportunity and responsibility to provide whatever evidence they wish to support their request. Decisions will be made by the Governors and the school based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of:

- The parent's views;
- Any available 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;
- Any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
- The Headteacher's views

Parents need to be aware of potential implications when a child transfers to secondary school if the child is not in their chronological year group as the receiving school may not admit the child to the preferred cohort.

8 Right of appeal

8.1 Parents who are not offered a place for their child have a right to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. In all cases where a place is refused at a school the applicant will be informed of their right of appeal to an independent panel. The decision of the independent panel is binding on all parties. Details of how to appeal a decision to refuse admission will be communicated to the applicant at the time of the refusal and will also be available on the Lincolnshire County Council website.

9 Fair Access Protocol

9.1 Local Authorities are required to agree Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children, who live in the home local authority, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full. Students allocated under fair access protocols will take precedence over those on a reserve list or awaiting appeal. Cowbit St Mary's Endowed Church of England Primary School will participate in the Fair Access Protocol of Lincolnshire County Council

10 Reserve List

10.1 The Governors of the school will keep a waiting list called a Reserve List. If a child is refused a place at the school, your child is automatically put on the reserve list, unless you have been offered a higher preference place at another school. This list will be in the order of the oversubscription criteria. Names can move up and down the list as someone moves into or out of the area and is higher placed on the oversubscription criteria. The Governors do not take account of the time you have been on the list. For Reception year, this list will be kept by the School Admissions Team until the end of August immediately prior to reception admission. After this, the school will keep the reserve list until the end of the academic year. A reserve list will also be held for Y1-6 and be cleared at the end of the academic school year. If your circumstances change you must let the school know so that they can rank the list accurately and allocate places in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. If you do not wish to be added to the reserve list, you must inform the school. If it is before the 1st September of the admitting year, you should also inform the School Admissions Team.

11 In-Year Admissions

11.1 Parents can apply through the parent portal online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions or call 01522 782030 and request a paper application form. If there are more applications than places for a particular year group, the oversubscription criteria as detailed above will be used to distinguish how the places will be allocated. In all cases where a place is refused at the school, the applicant will be informed of their right of appeal to an independent panel.