

Consultation on Admission arrangements for Guildford Grove Primary School - 2020

Guildford Grove Primary School is a co-educational school for children aged 3-11 years old situated in West Guildford. We are a two form entry school with a Published Admission Number of 60. We are a member of the Guildford Education Partnership Academy Trust.

Applications for admission at the normal intake will be managed in accordance with Surrey's coordinated scheme for primary admission.

Children with a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other children are considered. In this way, the number of places available will be reduced by the number of children with a statement or education, health and care plan that names the school.

Where the school is over-subscribed for any year group, applications for entry will be ranked in the following order:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children (see Note 1)
2. Exceptional social/medical need (see Note 2)
3. Siblings (See Note 3)
- 4. Children of staff on a permanent GEP contract**
5. Children for whom the school is the nearest to their home address (see Notes 4 & 5)
6. Any other children (see Note 5)

If within any category there are more children than places available, any remaining places will be offered to children who meet that criterion on the basis of proximity of the child's home address to the school. The distance will be measured in a straight line from the address point of the child's home address, as set by Ordnance Survey to the nearest official school gate for pupils to use. This is calculated using the admissions team's Geographical Information System.

Notes

1. Looked after and previously looked after children

Looked after and previously looked after children will receive the top priority for a place. Looked after and previously looked after children will be considered to be:

- children who are registered as being in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a), e.g. fostered or living in a children's home, at the time an application for a school is made; and
- children who have previously been in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a) and who have left that care through adoption, a child arrangements order (in accordance with Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) or special guardianship order (in accordance with Section 14A of the Children Act 1989).

Places will be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at a school and the local authority may also ask schools to admit over their published admission number at other times under this criterion.

2. Exceptional social/medical need

Occasionally there will be a very small number of children for whom exceptional social or medical circumstances apply which will warrant a placement at this particular school. The exceptional social or medical circumstances might relate to either the child or the parent/carer. Supporting evidence from a professional is required such as a doctor and/or consultant for medical cases or a social worker, health visitor, housing officer, the police or probation officer for other social circumstances. This evidence must confirm the circumstances of the case and must set out why the child should attend this school and why no other school could meet the child's needs.

Providing evidence does not guarantee that a child will be given priority at this school and in each case a decision will be made based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at this school above any other.

Common medical conditions and allergies can usually be supported in all mainstream schools, therefore priority under the school's exceptional medical criterion would not normally be given for these. Priority under the school's exceptional social or medical criterion would also not normally be agreed for a mainstream place on the basis of a specialist unit being attached to the school.

In addition, routine child minding arrangements would not normally be considered to be an exceptional social reason for placement at this school.

We reserve the right to refer medical evidence to the local authority's designated medical officer, where necessary, to assist us in making a decision about medical priority for a school place.

Children who were previously in state care outside of England, and have ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted, may be considered under this criterion. A child will be regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Evidence will need to be provided to demonstrate that this child was in a state care abroad and left that care as a result of being adopted.

Places may be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at the school and the local authority may also ask the school to admit over its published admission number at other times under this criterion.

3. Siblings

A sibling will be considered to be a brother or sister (that is, another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), a half-brother or half-sister or a step-brother or step-sister or an adoptive or foster sibling, living as part of the same family unit at the same address.

A child will be given sibling priority if they have a sibling on roll at the school and that sibling is still expected to be on roll at the school at the time of the child's admission.

4. Nearest school

For the normal intake to the school, the nearest school will be defined as the school closest to the home address with a published admission number for children of the appropriate age-range, as measured by a straight line and which has admitted children without regard to faith or boarding in the initial allocation of places in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Exceptions to this would be:

- where a faith school has changed its admission arrangements and that change has meant that they would be expected to offer places to children who do not demonstrate a commitment to faith in future; and where a new school has opened or an existing school has opened a new phase of education since 2014 and that school does not admit all children with regard to faith.

The nearest school may be inside or outside the county boundary.

Any applicant remaining on the waiting list after 1 September 2019 will be considered to be an application for in year admission. After this date, when assessing nearest school, all schools with the appropriate year group will be taken in to account.

5. Home address

The child's home address excludes any business, relative's or childminder's address and must be the child's normal place of residence. Where the child is subject to a child arrangements order and that order stipulates that the child will live with one parent/carer more than the other, the address to be used will be the one where the child is expected to live for the majority of the time. For other children, the address to be used will be the address where the child lives the majority of the time. In other cases, where the child spends an equal time between their parents/carers, it will be up to the parent/carers to agree which address to use. Where a child spends their time equally between their parents/carers and they cannot agree on who should make the application, we will accept an application from the parent/carer who is registered for child benefit. If neither parent is registered for child benefit we will accept the application from the parent/carer whose address is registered with the child's current school or nursery.

We will not generally accept a temporary address if the main carer of the child still possesses a property that has previously been used as a home address, nor will we accept a temporary address if we believe it has been used solely or mainly to obtain a school place when an alternative address is still available to that child. All distances will be measured by the computerised Geographical Information System maintained by Surrey's admissions team.

The address to be used for the initial allocation of places to Reception will be the child's address at the closing date for application. Changes of address may be considered in accordance with Surrey's coordinated scheme if there are exceptional reasons behind the change, such as if a family has just moved to the area. The address to be used for waiting lists, after the initial allocation, will be the child's current address. Any offer of a place on the basis of address is conditional upon the child living at the appropriate address on the relevant date. Applicants have a responsibility to notify the school and Surrey County Council of any change of address.

6. Tie breaker and the admission of twins, triplets, other multiple births or siblings born in the same academic year

Where two or more children share a priority for a place, e.g. where two children live equidistant from a school, random allocation will be used to determine which child should be given priority.

In the case of multiple births, where children have equal priority for a place, random allocation will be used to determine which child should be given priority. If after the allocation one or more places can be offered but there are not sufficient places for all of them, wherever it is logistically possible, each child will be offered a place. Where it is not logistically possible to offer each child a place the child(ren) ranked the highest will retain their offer and the applicant will be advised of their right of appeal and informed about waiting lists.

7. Waiting lists

Where there are more children than places available, waiting lists will operate for each year group according to the oversubscription criteria for the school without regard to the date the application was received or when a child's name was added to the waiting list.

Waiting lists for the initial intake will be maintained until the last day of the Summer term 2020 when they will be cancelled. Applicants who wish a child to remain on the waiting list after this date must write to the school by 27 July 2020, stating their wish and providing their child's name, date of birth and the name of their child's current school. After 27 July 2020, applicants whose children are not already on the waiting list but who wish them to be so must apply for in-year admission. Waiting lists for all year groups will be cancelled at the end of each academic year.

8. In-year admissions

The following applications will be treated as in-year admissions during 2019/20:

- applications for admission to Reception which are received after 1 September 2019;
- all other applications for admission to Years 1 to 6.

Where there are more applications than places available, each application will be ranked in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria for the school.

9. Starting school

There is a single intake into Reception. All children whose date of birth falls between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 will be eligible to apply for a full time place in Reception at the school for September 2019. After a staggered start, all children will be full time by the end of September.

Applicants can defer their child's entry to Reception until later in the school year, but this will not be agreed beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the beginning of the final term of the academic year for which the offer was made. Applicants may also arrange for their child to start part time until their child reaches statutory school age.

10. The admission of children outside of their chronological year group

Applicants may choose to seek a place outside their child's chronological (correct) year group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and what is in the best interests of the child concerned.

- Applicants who are applying for their child to have a decelerated entry to school, i.e. to start later than other children in their chronological age group, should initially apply for a school place in accordance with the deadlines that apply for their child's chronological age. If, in liaison with the headteacher, governors agree for the child to have a decelerated entry the place cannot be deferred and instead the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the decelerated cohort

- Applicants who are applying for their child to have an accelerated entry to school, i.e. to start earlier than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place at the same time that other families are applying for that cohort. If, in liaison with the headteacher, governors agree for the child to have an accelerated entry, the application will be processed. If it is not agreed for the child to have an accelerated entry, the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the correct cohort

Applicants must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interest and provide what evidence they have to support this. More information on educating children out of their chronological year group and the process for making such requests is available at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.

11. Home to school transport

Surrey County Council has a Home to School Transport policy that sets out the circumstances that children might qualify for free home to school transport.

Generally, transport will only be considered if a child is under 8 years old and is travelling more than two miles or is over 8 years old and travelling more than three miles to the nearest school with a place. Transport will not generally be provided to a school that is further away if a child would have been offered a place at a nearer school had it been named as a preference on the application form, although exceptions may apply to secondary aged children whose families are on a low income if they are travelling to one of their three nearest schools and to children whose nearest school is out of County but over the statutory walking distance.

Eligibility to transport is not linked to the admission criteria of a school. Some schools give priority to children who are attending a feeder school, but attending a feeder school does not confer an automatic right to transport to a linked school. In considering admission criteria and school preferences it is important that applicants also consider the home to school transport policy so they might take account of the likelihood of receiving free transport to their preferred school before making their application. A full copy of Surrey's Home to School Transport policy is available on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk or from the Surrey Schools and Childcare Service on 0300 200 1004.

Admission to the Lighthouse (Hearing Impaired Unit)

Places are offered to pupils whose deafness is deemed to be their major special educational need, or is their major need in conjunction with another disability (e.g. visual-impairment). Children starting at the Lighthouse are either in the process of being assessed for an education, health and care plan (EHCP), or are already statemented or have an EHCP. The presence of special needs in addition to their deafness does not preclude entry to The Lighthouse, although pupils must be able to benefit from inclusion into mainstream classes for part of the day. There must be an available place for that deaf child in an appropriate year group within the main school, and sufficient staffing available to meet the pupil's needs. Priority is given to Surrey children, but out-of-county pupils who live within daily travelling distance of Guildford are also considered.

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