

LOVE, COURAGE & RESPECT
'A Small School Where Big Things Happen'

BRIGHSTONE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



ADMISSIONS POLICY For September 2020

| Date Issued | Prepared By | Approved By | Review |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 18 th September 2018 | Lorraine Ireland & Diana Nicholson | FGB | September 2019 |

Signed: _____

Chair of Governors Mrs D Nicholson

We believe that every child is unique and should be given the opportunity to fulfil their potential in a supportive and caring Christian environment.

All the governors and staff at Brighstone CE aided Primary School are committed to sharing a common objective to help keep the children and staff of the school safe. We ensure that consistent effective safeguarding procedures are in place in order to support the families, children and staff of the school.

Introduction:

Admissions to Year R

This policy will be used during 2019/20 for allocating places in the main admission round for entry to Year R in September 2020. It will also apply to in-year admissions during 2020/21. Outside the normal admissions round, the Local Authority's Fair Access protocol will be applied alongside the policy to secure the admission of vulnerable pupils from specific groups.

The Governing Body of Brighstone Church of England (Aided) Primary School is the admission authority for **The School**. The admission arrangements are determined by the Governing Body, after statutory consultation.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for Brighstone Church of England (Aided) Primary School (**The School**) is 30. The PAN is the number of places for children available in the year group above.

A guiding principle of admissions to this school is that **The School** should serve its local community, defined in the trust deed of 1836 as the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary's, Brighstone. The current parish area and immediate surrounding parishes for **The School** are referred to as: The area served by **The School**, i.e. Brighstone, Brook, Hulverstone, Mottistone, Military Road, Chale, Kingston, Atherfield, Yafford, Limerstone and Shorwell. If you wish to know if you live within the current Parish of St Mary's, please contact **The School**. The policy aims to be clear, fair and objective and to comply with all relevant legislation. If you wish to see the Parish map, please contact **The School**. The policy aims to be clear, fair and objective and to comply with all relevant legislation.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 (EA 10) and the Public-Sector Equality Duty contained within the EA10, The Human Rights Act 1998 and **The School** Standards Framework Act 1998.

This policy will be administered fairly and impartially. The decision to admit or otherwise, is the responsibility of the Governing Body.

Outside the normal admissions round, the Local Authority's Fair Access protocol will be applied alongside the policy to secure the admission of vulnerable pupils from specific groups.

The Governors will admit any pupil whose final Education Health Care Plan (formerly known as a statement of special educational needs) names **The School**. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

Outside the normal admissions round, the Local Authority's Fair Access protocol will be applied alongside the policy to secure the admission of vulnerable pupils from specific groups.

If **The School** is oversubscribed, places will be offered in the following priority order. Places for applications received after the deadline will be allocated using the same criteria:

Admission Criteria

1. **Looked after children or children who were previously looked after.** (see Definition A)
2. **(For applicants in the normal admission round only)** Children or families who have a **serious medical, physical or psychological condition** which makes it **essential** that the child attends the preferred School rather than any other. (Appropriate medical or psychological evidence must be provided in support) (see Definition B).
3. Children **living in the catchment area of The School:** (see Definitions C)
 - (i) Children who at the time of application have a **sibling** (see Definitions D) on the roll of **The School**.
 - (ii) Other children living in the catchment area of **The School**.
4. Children **living out of the catchment area of The School:**
 - (i) Children who at the time of application have a **sibling** (see Definitions D) on the roll of **The School**.
 - (ii) Other children.

Definitions

A. **Looked after children or children who were previously looked after**

This criterion provides a priority for children who are (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 (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). It can also be used for children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. Child arrangement orders are defined in section 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).

B. **Serious medical, physical or psychological condition**

Where a place is requested for a child or family who has a serious social or medical, condition, you must supply supporting independent evidence at the time of application confirming the reason(s) why attendance at Brighstone C of E School is essential rather than any other school. You must also describe the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. The evidence should be provided by a suitably qualified medical professional. The evidence will be considered carefully in confidence by the admissions committee of The Governing Body, who will endeavour to reach a fair and equitable decision.

C. **The Catchment Area**

The catchment area for Brighstone Church of England (Aided) Primary School is the Benefice served by the incumbent of St Mary's Church Brighstone Parishes of Brighstone, Brook, Mottistone, Shorwell and Kingston). The child's permanent residence is where they live, normally including weekends and during school holidays as well as during the week and should be used for the application. The permanent address of children who spend part of their week with one parent and part with the other, at different addresses, will be the address at which they spend most of their time.

Moving home and UK service personnel and crown servants

Places can only be offered on the basis of future moves by:

- a letter from the solicitor (or equivalent) confirming exchange of contracts to buy a property relevant to the application;
- a tenancy agreement confirming the renting of a specific property relevant to the application;
- a letter from a housing association confirming that the parent(s) will be living at a specific address relevant to the application; or
- in the case of UK service personnel and Crown servants, an official government letter (MOD, FCO or GCHQ) letter declaring a relocation date to the relevant parish or priority area of **The School** (or to establish distance from **The School**).

To be considered all evidence must be submitted at the time of application.

D. Siblings

'Sibling' refers to brother or sister, half-brother or half-sister, adoptive brother or adoptive sister, step brother or step sister, foster brother or foster sister and includes children living as siblings in the same family unit. It will also be applied to situations where a full or half brother or sister are living at separate addresses. Categories 3(i) and 4(i) includes children who at the time of application have a sibling for whom the offer of a place at the preferred school has been accepted, even if the sibling is not yet attending.

Additional Information

Tie-breaker

If **The School** is oversubscribed from within any of the above criteria or sub-criteria, straight line distance will be used to prioritise applications; applicants living nearer **The School** have priority. Home-to-school distance will be measured in a straight line using the local authority's Geographical Information System (GIS) from the centre of the building of the home address to the centre of the school building. Distances to multiple dwellings will give priority to the ground floor over the first floor and so on. On individual floors, distances will be measured to the stairs leading to the communal entrance. If distances are equal (for example within a block of flats), lots will be drawn by a person independent of The Governing Body to determine the allocation of a place.

Who can apply?

Only a parent can apply for a place at a School. A parent is any person who has parental responsibility for or is the legal guardian of the child, as set out in the Children Act 1989.

How to apply

The Local Authority operates a Co-ordinated Admissions scheme which processes all main round (ordinary) admission applications. They also publish a Composite Prospectus which details all admission arrangements for schools within the Local Authority. Please see <https://www.iwight.com/Residents/Schools-and-Learning/> for the prospectus and details of the scheme.

You must complete a Local Authority Application Form available from [/https://www.iwight.com/schooladmissions](https://www.iwight.com/schooladmissions)

Offering places

The Governing Body will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on 15 January 2020**. Notifications to parents offering a place will be sent by the Local Authority on 16 **April 2020**.

Applications made after **midnight on 15 January 2020** will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

For the normal admission round, all on time preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria. If more than one school can offer a place, the parent's highest stated available preference will be allocated.

Pupils with an Educational and Health Care Plan (formerly known as a statement of special educational needs)

The governors will admit any pupil whose education, health and care plan names **The School**. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

Multiple births

Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is admitted to a School under this policy then any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above **The School's** PAN.

In-year applications (ordinary)

The allocation of any places which may become available during the year will be made on the basis of the current Admissions Criteria. There are no deadline dates for in year applications. Applications must be made using the Local Authority Admission Form available on-line at <https://www.iwight.com/Residents/Schools-and-Learning/School-Admissions/Tasks>. Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time to any School. The Governing Body will decide whether a place can be offered at **The School**.

In-Year Fair Access placements by the local authority

The local authority must ensure that all pupils are placed in schools as quickly as possible. It may therefore sometimes be necessary for a pupil to be placed by the local authority, or a local placement panel acting on behalf of the authority, in a particular school even if there is a waiting list for admission. Such placements will be made in accordance with the provisions of the Isle of Wight Council In-Year Fair Access Protocol. The Protocol is based on legislation and government guidance.

School Closures

In the event of a school closure, pupils from the closing school may be given priority for any school nominated as the receiving school. Specific arrangements will be determined by the Local Authority in accordance with the School Admissions Code and will be published at the time for the specific school affected.

Waiting lists

When all available places have been allocated a waiting list will be operated by **The School**. All children not being offered a place will automatically be placed on the waiting list for **The School**.

Any places that become available will be allocated according to the criteria of the admission policy with no account being taken of the length of time on the waiting list or any priority order expressed as part of the main admission round. Fair Access admissions and school closure arrangements will take priority over the waiting list.

The waiting list will be reviewed and revised –

- each time a child is added to, or removed from, the waiting list;
- when a child's changed circumstances affect their priority;
- periodically, when parents with a child on the waiting list will be contacted and asked if they wish to remain on the list for the following school year.

At the time of receiving an offer of a school place parents will be advised of the process for adding their child's name to a school's waiting list. Parents may keep their child's name on the waiting list of as many schools as they wish and for as long as they wish.

Starting school in Year R and deferred entry

Pupils born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 (inclusive) are entitled to full-time schooling from September 2020. Parents can request that their child's admission is deferred until later in **The School** year (usually at the start of a school term), but not beyond the point they reach compulsory school age, at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Exceptionally, parents of children with birthdays between 1st April and 31st August (inclusive) may wish to consider to defer admission until the following September. In these circumstances, an application under the following year's admissions policy and procedures will be required and the admission will normally be considered for Year 1. See below for the Admission of children outside their normal age group.

Children with birthdays between:

- 1 September and 31 December 2015 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 December 2020, and must be in school at the start of the Spring Term
- 1 January and 31 March 2016 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 March 2021, and must be in school at the start of the Summer Term
- 1 April and 31 August 2016 (inclusive) reach compulsory school age on 31 August 2021, and must be in school at the start of the new school year in September

Parents of children with birthdays between 1 April and 31 August 2015 (inclusive) whose child has not started in a Year R class during the 2019-20 school year, may wish to request admission to Year R in September 2020 rather than admission to Year 1. In these circumstances, all relevant factors will be considered in assessing the request; parents would be expected to state clearly why they felt admission to Year R was in their child's best interests.

It is recommended that parents considering such a request contact **The School** as early as possible to ensure that an informed decision is made.

Notes on compulsory school age and summer born children

A child is not required to start school until they have reached compulsory school age following their fifth birthday. For summer born children this is almost a full school year after the point at which they could first be admitted. Compulsory school age is set out in section 8 of the Education Act 1996 and The Education (Start of Compulsory School Age) Order 1998. A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his fifth birthday (or on his fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

All children born from the beginning of April to the end of August reach compulsory school age in the September following their fifth birthday. It is likely that most requests for children to be admitted out of their normal year group will come from parents of children born in the later summer months or those born prematurely.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents who have deferred entry into Year R or of a gifted and talented child or a child who has experienced problems or missed part of a year, for example due to ill health, can request a place outside the normal age group. The Governing Body will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like.

Admission Appeals

If you are unsuccessful in gaining a place for your child at **The School** you will be informed by The Local Authority in writing, be given reasons for the refusal and informed of your right to an independent appeal against the decision.

Warning

Places are withdrawn every year because parents give a false 'home address' on application forms. This includes cases where parents take out a short-term let or buy a property solely to use its address on the application form without any intention of taking up permanent residence there. In fairness to all parents, all allegations of fraudulent practice brought to The Governing Body attention will be investigated. The Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place if fraudulent or intentionally misleading information has been used on an application.

Legislation

This policy takes account of all relevant legislation including the legislation on sex discrimination, race relations, and disability, together with all relevant regulations and **The School** Admissions Code (published by the DfE in 2014).

Further Information

If you require further information about applying for a place at Brighstone Church of England (Aided) Primary School, please contact **The School**.

Brighstone CE (Aided) Primary School
New Road
Brighstone
Isle of Wight
PO30 4BB

Tel: 01983 740285

email: office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk

To check if you live within the parishes of Brighstone, Brook with Mottistone, Shorwell with Kingston click on the link below and enter your postcode.

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/parishmap.php>