



St George's Church of England Infant School

School Admissions Policy

Statutory Policy

Date of Policy: 01.09.2026	Review cycle: Annually	Review date: 01.09.2027
Approved by: Head Teacher Chair of Governors	Approval date: August 2026	Policy lead: Victoria Harjette

Inspire, Believe, Achieve- Let Your Light Shine Matthew 5v16.

Be inspired with all our mind, believe in ourselves to achieve and flourish

The 6 Principles of Nurture:

The nurturing approach offers a range of opportunities for children and young people to engage with missing early nurturing experiences, giving them the social and emotional skills to do well at school and with peers, develop their resilience and capacity to deal more confidently with the trials and tribulations of life, for life.

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally
2. The classroom offers a safe base
3. The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing
4. Language is a vital means of communication
5. All behaviour is communication
6. The importance of transition in children's lives

St George's CE Infant and Preschool is a **Voluntary Controlled** school. The Admissions Authority is Buckinghamshire Council (the Local Authority). The Governing Body of St George's Church of England Infant and Preschool applies the regulations on school admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend. We are an inclusive school that welcomes children from all backgrounds and abilities.

Our Planned Admissions Number (PAN) is 60 in Reception (Foundation 2) for September 2027.

THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026:

1. All applications must be made in accordance with the Buckinghamshire coordinated admissions scheme (the scheme).
2. All governing bodies are required by section 324 of the Education Act 1996 to admit to the school a child with a statement of special educational needs that names the school. These children will therefore be admitted prior to applying the admission rules.
3. Once a child is allocated a reception place under the scheme the school will offer a full-time place in September 2025. Parents can choose whether to defer this offer within the constraint at (4) below, or to accept the offer on a part time basis as they wish.¹ This deferment can be up to the point at which the child is legally required to start school (i.e. the start of the term after the child's fifth birthday) and cannot be beyond the end of the normal academic year of entry for the child (i.e. the latest any child could start is during the summer term of reception/foundation 2) otherwise they must re-apply for admission to Year 1.
4. Parents of children younger than five have the right to defer entry until no later than the term after the child's fifth birthday if deferring within the same academic year.
5. If there are more applications received than the places available at a school then places will be allocated within the scheme in accordance with the published admission rules for the school.
6. Details of the dates for timely applications and how late applications are handled are given in the scheme (see BC website).

Admission rules for Buckinghamshire voluntary-controlled primary Schools:

1. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became the subject of an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. (*See Note 1*)
2. Children who have exceptional medical or social needs, which can only be met at that school, supported by written evidence from an appropriate professional person. (*See Note2*)²
3. Children living within the catchment area of the school (*See Note 3*).
4. *For the main point of entry:* Siblings (*See Note 4*) of children who are attending the school or a 'linked primary' school in Year R – Year 5 (Woodside Junior School) at the time allocations are made, and are expected to be on the school roll or linked school roll at the time of the proposed admission, or who have already been offered a place to start in the current academic year at the school or a 'linked primary school'.
- For immediate in year admission after the normal point of entry:* Siblings of children who are in Year R to Year 6 at the time of admission to the school.
5. Children attending a primary school linked to the school named in the list of 'linked primary' schools at the time allocations are made.

¹ The Governing Body strongly recommends that parents start their children full time into school in order to integrate quickly into school life and to benefit from the rich and varied curriculum the school offers.

6. Once the above rules have been applied then any further places will be offered in distance order; using the distance between the family's Normal Home Address (*See Notes 5 and 6*) and the school's nearest open entrance gate offering the closest first. A straight line distance is used. (*See Note 7*)

7. Where a school can take some, but not all, of the children who qualify under one of these rules, we will give priority to children by taking account of the next rule (or rules) in the numbered list to decide who has priority for places.

8 If it still not possible to decide between two applicants who are equidistant then an independently scrutinised random allocation will be made to allocate the final place.
(*See also Note 8 below regarding twins and multiple births*)

Further Information regarding Admissions can be found on the Buckinghamshire Council website:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/>

St George's Preschool has a separate admissions policy, please see the school website for further information

<https://www.stgeorgesamersham.org.uk/preschool/>

Explanation of terms used in the admissions rules:

Note 1 Definition of Child in Care

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 (see the definition in Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989). This covers **accommodated** children and those who are in care under a **Care Order**/interim order. This can include: living with family or friends, in foster care, a children's home, residential school, and special school or in supported lodgings. This includes children who were previously looked after and immediately after being looked after became the subject of an adoption, residence or special guardianship order as set out below. Other definitions: adoption order: 'under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002' residence order: is an order setting the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the children's Act 1989 special guardianship order: 'an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians) under Section 14A of the Children Act 1989

Note 2 Exceptional Social and Medical process

Education Professionals will consider the applications under this rule on receipt of information from the parent to indicate strong reasons for the child attending a particular school. When making an application parents should send evidence from an independent professional person (this might be a doctor, health visitor, or Education Welfare Officer, for example) who knows about the child and supports the application to the school. It must clearly show why the school is the most suitable and any difficulties if alternate schools were offered.

Note 3: Primary School Catchment Areas

The primary school catchments can be viewed at: <http://www.buckscs.gov.uk/schooladmission/>

Note 4: Definition of sibling

A sibling is a brother or sister. For admission purposes we mean one of two or more individuals who have one or more parent in common, or any other child (including an adopted child) who permanently lives at the same address and for whom the parent also has parental responsibility. We will only consider a pupil in a primary school as a 'sibling' if he or she is attending, in the specified year groups, the school or a linked primary school at the time the allocations are made or, for in-year admissions the time of admission), or has been formally offered a place at the school in the operation of the Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme. In all cases they are expected to still be at the school at the time of proposed admission.

Note 5: Definition of parent

This is as defined in law (the Education Act 1996) as either:

- Any person who has parental responsibility (defined in Children Act 1989) for the child or young person; or
- Any person who has care of the child or young person.

Note 6: Definition of normal home address

This is the child's home address. This must be where the parent or legal carer of the child live together unless it is proved that the child is resident elsewhere with someone who has legal care and control of the child. The address should be a residential property that is owned, leased or rented by the child's parent(s) or person with legal care and control of the child. To avoid doubt where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week or month, the address where the child lives will be determined by:

- 1) Confirmation of the registered address to which Child Benefit is currently being paid, or, if child benefit is not received then the address from which the child in question is registered with the doctor.
- 2) If 1) above is not applicable then the parent with whom the child spends the greater proportion of the school week from Sunday evening to Thursday evening.

Note 7 Definition of home to school distance

The **straight line distance definition**: is 'the distance from the address point of the pupil's house, as set out by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest open school gate available for pupils to use'.

As part of the computer system we use for school admissions there is a program that measures the 'straight-line' distance from the nearest open school gates to your home address.

The point we measure to at your home address is determined by the Ordnance Survey ADDRESS-POINT which is an Ordnance Survey data product that provides a National Grid coordinate and a unique reference for each postal address in Great Britain that is on the Royal Mail's Post Office Address File (PAF®).

The PAF contains postal address data and includes premises such as buildings or permanent mobile and park homes, plus other features such as temporary buildings and houseboats.

Note 8 Multiple births – twins, triplets etc.

In cases where there is one remaining place and the next child on the waiting list is one of a twin, triplet or other multiple birth group then both twins (or all the siblings in the case of multiple births) will be admitted and whilst that child is in the class they will be an excepted pupil under the Schools Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 2012 which permit Key Stage 1 class sizes to exceed 30 following the admission of a twin for as long as necessary until a child leaves the class at which point the class size will remain at the lower figure.