

CRADLEY C OF E VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2024/2025

Vision Statement: Enriching Lives

Policy written by: Mr Adam Greaves

<u>Dates</u>			
Written			
Reviewed	Spring 23		
Amended			
Next Review	Spring 24		

CRADLEY C of E VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1, School admission arrangements should work for the benefit of all parents and children. The arrangements should be as simple as possible for parents to use, and help them to take the best decisions on the school for their children.
- 1.2, The arrangements enable parents' preferences for the schools of their choice to be met to the maximum extent possible.
- 1.3, Admission criteria are clear, fair and objective, for the benefit of all children including those with special needs or with disabilities.
- 1.4, Admission arrangements contribute to improving standards for all pupils.
- 1.5, Parents have easy access to helpful admissions information.
- 1.6, Local admission arrangements achieve full compliance with all relevant legislation and guidance – including on Key Stage 1 class sizes and on equal opportunities – and take full account of the guidance in this code.
- 1.7, Admissions to Cradley are under the control of the Governing Body. The criteria for allocating places are set out in the Herefordshire Council booklet Admissions and Transfers to Schools which is reviewed and published annually.
- 1.8, The agreed admission limit for Cradley Primary School is 17 children per year group.
- 1.9, Parents wishing to apply for a place do so on one of two forms. PA1 and the In Year Transfer Application Form.

2, Form PA1 Admission of a Four Year Old to An Infant or Primary School

- 2.1, Form PA1 is used when a child first starts school. Forms are issued by and should be completed and returned to Herefordshire Council.
- 2.2, The agreed number of places in the reception year is 17 (Planned Admission Number). In allocating the places the Council will follow their published criteria – found in the Admissions and Transfers booklet. Parents should also refer to this document for relevant dates as to when applications should be made.
- 2.3, Parents who are refused a place for their child at Cradley Primary School have the right to appeal to an independent appeals committee of the governors. Full details would be provided by the Council as part of their normal admissions procedure.

- 2.4, It is the agreed policy of the governors that all 4 year olds should be encouraged to take their place from the 1st September in the academic year in which they are 5. However, the governors acknowledge the rights of parents to take places at the beginning of the term in which the child is 5. Governors also acknowledge the rights of parents of Summer born children to defer their admission to school until the September following their 5th birthday Where a parent requests their child is admitted out of their normal age group, the governors are responsible for making the decision on which year group a child should be admitted to. They are required to make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned. There is no statutory barrier to children being admitted outside their normal age group, but parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular age group.
- 2.5, Prior to starting school there will be a parents' meeting and class visits from the reception teacher. The Cradley Primary School Early Years Policy refers to the matter.

3, **In Year Transfers (Other than at Normal Age for Admission).**

- 3.1, There is a direct interface between any In Year Transfer scheme and the "In Year Fair Access" protocol. The "In Year Fair Access protocol" is designed to handle, in a professional way, all In Year Transfers that are not straight forward. This will include children who have been permanently excluded, children attending PRUs integrating back into mainstream education, traveller children, children with SEN (but without statements), children who display behavioural difficulties, "serial" movers (children who have been transferred at least twice before without an address change reason) etc.
- Parent/Guardian – determines preference school by visiting and researching local schools
 - Parent/Guardian and current school – completes application
 - Parent/Guardian submits application to preferred school
 - The Admissions Authority for the school informs parents/carer of the outcome within 10 school days assuming the application is straightforward.
 - If application is not straightforward the Headteacher of the school may advance the application to the Local Authority for consultation under the In Year Fair Access Protocol – a decision will be made within 20 school days.
 - If you are refused a place at your preferred school, you will be offered the opportunity to appeal against the decision. How to appeal will be detailed in the refusal letter.
- 3.2, The In Year Transfer scheme will impact upon all maintained schools within Herefordshire and subsequently upon any parent or guardian (from within and outside Herefordshire) seeking an in year transfer into these schools. All applications will be dealt with in a consistent and fair manner
- 3.3, If it is not a straight forward application, the Admissions Team will forward details to the In Year Fair Access Panel to consider and make a decision within the 20 days and inform the parent/guardian of the outcome.

- 3.4 In the event of a service family applying for a place the admissions authority must allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area (as long as one is available), provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date. Admission authorities must not refuse to process an application and must not refuse a place solely because the family do not yet have an intended address, or do not yet live in the area;
use the address at which the child will live when applying their oversubscription criteria, as long as the parents provide some evidence of their intended address.
- 3.5 In the event of over subscription children should not be refused a place at their chosen school but should be placed on a waiting list.

4, **Oversubscription Criteria**

- 4.1, If there are too many applications for places, the Governors will decide which children would be offered places at Cradley Primary School according to the following admissions criteria, taken in order.
1. Looked After children and previously children and those defined by the School Admissions Code 2021 as being previously looked after children.
 2. Children with an Educational Healthcare Plan that names the school.
 3. Pupils whose home address is within the catchment area of the school as defined by the LA and who have a sibling in school at the time of entry.
 4. Pupils whose home address is within the catchment area of the school as defined by the LA and who request a Church place supported by the appropriate Vicar / Rector / Minister. Faith in this context is defined as being an adherent to the Christian Trinity.
 5. Pupils whose home address is within the catchment area of the school as defined by the LA and who have the 'shortest available walking route to school'.
 6. Pupils who have attended Cradley Nursery in the academic year before an application is made.
 7. Pupils whose home address is outside the catchment area of the school as defined by the LA and who have a sibling at the school
 8. Pupils whose home address is outside of the catchment area of the school as defined by the LA and who request a Church place supported by the appropriate Vicar / Rector / Minister. Faith in this context is defined as being an adherent to the Christian Trinity.
 9. Pupils whose home address is outside the catchment area of the school as defined by the LA but who live nearest by the 'shortest available walking route' as defined by the LA

Please note that

- ‘Church’ is taken as meaning an organised body subscribing to the doctrine of the Trinity, which is either a member of the local Christian Council / Council of Churches or affiliated to ‘Christians together in England’.
 - ‘shortest available walking route to school’- distance is measured by the shortest available walking route (using road and/or made up footpath) using the nearest network node from the property address point to the nearest network node at the main school entrance gate. This measurement will simply be used to differentiate between candidates who fulfil these criteria in the event of oversubscription, rather than being a requirement under the criteria itself.
 - ‘Parents’ include all those who have a parental responsibility for a child as set out in the Children Act 1989. Where responsibility is shared, the person receiving Child Benefit is deemed to be the parent responsible for completing application forms and whose address will be used for admission purposes.
 - ‘The Home Address’ will be the address used for correspondence related to where ‘Child Benefit’ is paid. In cases where there is doubt of the home address, or where a child lives between two homes (split families) or other relevant circumstances, proof of the home address must be provided to the school to confirm the address on the application form. Home address will be the address that complies with the above at the closing date for applications set by the Local Authority.
 - sibling’ is defined as:
 - A full or half brother or sister
 - A step brother or step sister
 - An adoptive brother or sister
 - Children of parents who are married or cohabiting, where the parents and children live together in the same family household.
- 4.2, The closing date for applications, set by the LA, is in January preceding the relevant academic year. Subsequent to this date the Governors will allocate places in accordance with the admission policy. If a place is refused, then under the 1996 Education Act, a parent has the right of appeal, for which application should be made in writing to the School Governing Body.

5, **Addendum: Church Places Criteria**

- 5.1, The following extract adapted from the National Society’s admissions advice is an additional explanation that the DBE (Diocesan Board of Education) would like highlighted to Governors and prospective parents of how Church places are defined and determined:
- 5.2, National context: On 14 March 2006, the Archbishop of Canterbury asked the Church to find “some simple objective criteria, applicable across the country, for admissions; and, to avoid misunderstanding, some clear public commitment in the whole sector to guarantee places for local children and for children of other faith backgrounds”. The Hereford Diocesan Board of Education has responded by

recommending the following criteria and understandings which have been adopted by this school's Governing Body.

Christian commitment – “faith priority” places

1. **Baptism** is the basic criterion for the identification of the children of practising Christian families. **Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child** could also be taken into account for those Christians who do not practise infant Baptism. However, that will not normally be enough on its own, if over-subscribed schools are going to be able to distinguish those most clearly admissible on faith grounds. There needs also to be some evidence of Christian commitment and practice for those seeking admission on the basis that they are of the faith of the school.
2. We operate, therefore, a three-tier stratification for faith-based places:
 - known to the church
 - attached to the church and
 - at the heart of the church.
3. Applicants for a faith priority place will be asked to identify themselves as being: known to the church; or attached to the church; or at the heart of the church. The period in question will normally be the past two years. Applicants new to the area would need to provide evidence from a previous church or churches.
4. An applicant **‘known to the church’** will not be a frequent but probably an occasional worshipper, someone who is perhaps known through a family connection, or one or more of whose family would be involved in some church activity, such as a uniformed or other church organisation.
5. An applicant **‘attached to the church’** will be a regular but not frequent worshipper, by which is meant (for example) one who usually attends a monthly family or church parade service or is regularly involved in a weekday church activity including an element of worship.
6. An applicant **‘at the heart of the church’** will be a regular worshipper. This might normally mean one who worships usually twice a month. To accommodate difficult patterns of work and family relationships account will be taken of week-day worship. **The worshipper could be the child** for whom application is made or one or both parents.
7. **In the event that during the period specified for the attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirement of these admission arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period which the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship.**

Application form and church reference

7. Applicants for faith priority places will need an application form (available from the school website or the school office) to give evidence of their Christian commitment.

8. Christian applicants should give evidence that the child for whom a place is sought has been baptised or had a service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child. A copy of a certificate of Baptism or of a service of Thanksgiving should be included if possible with the application.
9. There needs to be confirmation through a worship community reference of applicants' claims, where they are applying on a faith priority basis. This reference will simply confirm or reject the objective facts as proposed by the family: this family is known to the church; this family is attached to the church; this family is at the heart of the church.
10. Once the reference is available to the governing body of the school it becomes objective evidence for the admissions committee in forming their judgement on the application. The same will apply in the case of any subsequent appeal or adjudication.

Church Place Information Form

Full Name of Child	Christian Name(s)	Surname	M/F	Date of Birth
Address		Telephone No		No of Years at this address
Post Code				
Name of Parent(s) or other legal guardians				Date for which application is made
Names of brothers or sisters attending this school - at present - in the past Number of younger brothers /sisters				Class
Primary school or present secondary school attended				
Church attended				
How long has your family attended this church?				
Name of Priest or Minister				
On how many Sundays in the year are services held in the Church you attend? How many of these services does your family normally attend		What is your denomination? (please tick) Church of England Baptist Methodist United Reform Other.....		

Information relating to your child:

Has your child been baptized or dedicated? Please give details of the year and church.

Church.....
Year.....

Please note :

In the event that during the period specified for the attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirement of these admission arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period which the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

Family Involvement with the Church

Identification of your involvement with the Church. Please tick one of the appropriate definitions

1. At the heart of the Church

[A regular worshipper. At least twice a month (including weekdays).
The worshipper could be the child for whom application is made, or one or both parents.]

2. Attached to the Church

[A regular but not frequent worshipper (eg once monthly at family service or Church parade) or is regularly involved in a weekday church activity including an element of worship.]

3. Known to the Church

[Not a frequent worshipper but attend occasionally, eg Christmas, Easter, Harvest Festival. Perhaps known to the Church through a family connection or where one or more of the family are involved in some church activity, such as uniformed or other church organization]

Please add any comments which you wish to be considered:

Signature of Parent/Guardian.....Date.....

Clergy Reference:

How many years have you been responsible for the church usually attended by the applicants?

How many years have the applicants been attending church since your appointment?

Please indicate **YES** in the box which most closely describes your level of support. (And **NO** in the other two boxes):

- 1. This applicant is at the heart of the church and I unreservedly recommend a church place
- 2. I fully support this application and can vouch that this applicant is attached to the church
- 3. I confirm that this applicant is known to the church and I support the application

Clergy comments:

Signature of Priest/Minister.....**Date**.....

This form should be completed and sent to Cradley CE Primary School

