

Toddington St. George Church of England School



Admissions Policy 2017 - 2018

Central
Bedfordshire

The Governing Body has chosen to operate the Central Bedfordshire standard admissions policy shown below: You can view the Central Bedfordshire policy at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

Toddington St. George (TSG) is an Academy and has an admission number of 60 for entry to the Reception year at the start of the academic year during which the child become five.

It was voted and agreed by the FGB in March 2015 that our policy should be amended to have:

Special Educational Need Children

1. All “looked after” children or children who were previously “looked after”
2. Children living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Children living in the catchment area
4. Other children with siblings at the school
5. Children whose parents are staff at the school,
6. Children who live nearest to the school determined by straight line distance from the school site to the child’s home address.

Pupils who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs are required to be admitted to the school which is named on the statement, even if the school is full. Pupils identified for admission through the Fair Access Protocol will also be admitted even if the school is full.

The admissions criteria will be applied separately and sequentially until all places are filled. Priority is not given within each criterion to children who meet other criteria. Definitions:

'Looked after' children: A ‘looked after’ child is a child in the care of a local authority as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. In relation to school admissions legislation a ‘looked after child’ is a child in public care at the time of application to a school.

Previously **'looked after' children:** A previously ‘looked after’ child is a child who was ‘looked after’, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or a special guardianship order.

Catchment area: A geographical area from which children are given priority for admission to the particular school. Please see www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions for more information on school catchment areas.

Siblings: A sibling refers to a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, the brother or sister or the child of the parent / carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living at the same address. The sibling must be in the school at the time of application and be likely to remain in the school at the proposed date of admission. Children who live nearest to the school determined by straight line distance from the school site to the pupil's home address. The distance the pupil lives from the school which is measured in a straight line, using the local authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. The local authority will measure the distance from the address point of the pupil's home to a point on the school site agreed with the governing body of the school.

Admissions above the published admission number:

What happens where there is more than one child in the same criterion and there are not enough places available?

The distance criterion will be used as a tiebreaker in each criterion where required to determine the allocation of places. The distance the pupil lives from the school, which is measured in a straight line using the local authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. The local authority will measure the distance from the address point of the pupil's home to a point on the school site agreed with the governing body of the school. In the event of (a) two or more children living at the same address point (e.g. children resident in a block of flats) or (b) two addresses measuring the same distance from the school, the ultimate tie-breaker will be random selection, using the Tribal Admissions database to allocate the place.

Applicable to current / in-year pupils (September 2014 admissions)

The Local Authority has determined its admission arrangements for September 2014 following appropriate consultation and consideration by the Central Bedfordshire Admissions Forum on 27 March 2012. The Governing Body has chosen to operate these admission arrangements.

Note: As of September 2014 the Local Authority will no longer be required to coordinate in year admissions. Parents will return their application form to the first preference school. If this is a community or VC school, the school will forward the application on to the School Admissions Service for determination.

1. All 'looked after' children or children who were previously 'looked after' (see definitions);
2. Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school (see definition of sibling);
3. Other pupils living in the catchment area
4. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds (see definition);
5. Other siblings (see definition);
6. Any other children

Notes:

- 1.If applying these criteria results in there being more children with an equal right to admission to the school than the number of available places, the tie break will be the distance the pupil lives from the school, measured in a straight line, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. The Local Authority will measure the distance from the address point of the pupil's home to a point on the school site agreed with the governing body of the school. The Local Authority will not give priority within each criterion to children who meet other criteria.
- 2.The Local Authority will normally offer a place at the catchment area school if parents apply for a place at that school during the normal admissions round. However, a place at the catchment area school cannot be guaranteed. If a pupil moves into the catchment area outside the normal admissions round (or after the allocation process has begun) it may be more difficult to offer a place at the catchment area school if this would mean exceeding the admission number at the school. In this case, a place will normally be offered at the next nearest school or academy which caters for pupils of the same age and has places available.
- 3.Pupils who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs are required to be admitted to the school which is named on the statement, even if the school is full. Pupils identified for admission through the Fair Access Protocol will also be admitted even if the school is full.

Definitions:

Looked after' children: A 'looked after' child is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

Previously 'looked after' children: A previously 'looked after' child is one who 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. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. 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).

Sibling: A sibling refers to a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister or the child of the parent / carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living at the same address. The sibling must be in the school at the time of application and be likely to remain in the school at the proposed date of admission.

Very Exceptional' Medical Grounds: 'Very exceptional' medical grounds refers to cases where there are exceptional medical reasons which make it essential that a child should attend a particular school and where the preferred school is the only school locally that could meet the child's needs. A medical report from the child's doctor or consultant must be submitted with the application form, setting out valid medical reasons why it is essential for the child to be admitted to the school in question and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. The Local Authority reserves the right to seek further information in order to determine whether it is essential for a child to be admitted to the preferred school on medical grounds. Admission on medical grounds cannot be considered where the medical condition relates to that of a parent / carer, brother or sister or other relative/childminder.

Home Address: A pupil's home address will be regarded as the address of the parent / carer with parental responsibility with whom the child normally lives. This will not usually include grandparents, aunts or uncles. Where a child spends time with parents / carers at more than one address, the address used to allocate a school place will be the one at which the pupil is ordinarily resident and where the child spends the majority of the school week (Mondays to Fridays) including nights. If there is any query on the home address this will be checked against original official documentation e.g. council tax bill, a recent utility bill (gas, electricity or water), a rental agreement, child benefit annual statement or family tax credit information.

For in-year admissions:

- The admission of pupils who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school, when that pupil has either been assessed or moved into the area outside the normal admissions round
- The admission of pupils in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol
- The admission of pupils who have moved into the area, where there is no other suitable school within a reasonable travelling distance, or where the admission of an additional catchment area child would not prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources. Before admitting children under this exception, governing bodies that are their own admission authority should consult their Local Authority who will be able to advise whether the first of these conditions applies
- The admission of a looked after child outside of the normal admissions round
- The admission of a twin or children from multiple births
- The admission of service children
- The admission of a child in very exceptional circumstances in which the Local Authority and the headteacher are in agreement that not to agree to admit the child would be perverse