



Downlands Community Primary School Admissions Policy

Reviewed/ amended	June 2019
Ratified by Governors	9th July 2019
Next Review	June 2022

Policy on Admissions

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Governing body of Downlands Primary School is the admission authority and is responsible for the admission arrangements of the School. This document sets out the admission arrangements of the School for the academic year 2019/2020.

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 We seek to be an inclusive school, welcoming children from all backgrounds and abilities.
- 2.2 All applications will be treated on merit, and in a sensitive manner.
- 2.3 The only restriction we place on entry is that of number. If the number of children applying for entry exceeds the places available, we adopt the procedure set out below to determine whether a child is to be accepted or not. It is our wish for parents to find a place for their child at the school of their choice. However, this is not always possible, due to excess demand on the places available.
- 2.4 A child's level of ability is irrelevant to this school's admissions policy, as are any additional needs the child may have.

3 How parents can apply for their child to be admitted to our school

- 3.1 Our school is a community school, and it determines the admission arrangements in agreement with the local authority (LA). The Admissions Authority for our school is therefore the LA, which publishes its entry regulations every year. Parents can receive a copy of these regulations directly from the LA.

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/school-admissions>

Pupils who are posted mid- term should contact Downlands school as soon as possible to secure a place.

- 3.2 The LA's annual admissions prospectus informs parents how to apply for a place at the school of their choice. Parents have a right to express their preference, but this does not, in itself, guarantee a place at that particular school. Application should be made online by the date stipulated. The school will notify parents of the decision as soon as all the applications have been considered.
- 3.3 In this area, children enter school at the start of the academic year in which they become five. There is one admission date per year, early in September (i.e. when the Autumn Term begins).

4 Admission appeals

- 4.1 We endeavour to offer all service children a place at Downlands however If we are unable to offer a child a place at this school, this will be because to do so would prejudice the education of other children by allowing the number of children in the school to increase too much.
- 4.2 If parents wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry, they can do so by applying to the LA. An independent panel considers all such appeals, and its decision is binding for all parties concerned. If the appeals panel decides that we should admit a child to whom we had refused a place, then we will accept this decision and continue to do all we can to provide the best education for all the children at our school. School Admission Appeal Code (DfE, 2012) Statutory guidance for school leaders, governing bodies and local authorities.

5 The standard number

- 5.1 The 'standard number' is the number of children the LA considers the school can accommodate. The standard number for our school is 45. We keep this number under review, and the Governors will apply to change the number if circumstances change.

6 Sizes of classes for infants

- 6.1 We teach infant children (aged five to seven) in classes that have a maximum number of 30 children.

7 Monitoring and review

- 7.1 This policy will be monitored by the Governing body, who will always take due note of the guidance provided by the local authority admissions
- 7.2 The policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier in the light of any changed circumstances, either in our school or in the local area.

8 Further Information

- 8.1 Important information published by the LA applies to some aspects of school admissions. If you are considering applying for a place at the School you are advised to refer to your home LA's website <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/school-admissions>
- 8.2. If you have any questions in relation to these admission arrangements, please contact the School office.
- 8.3 The School will handle all personal data in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Policy on Dandelions Pre- School Admissions.

- It is our intention to make our pre-school genuinely accessible to children and families from all sections of the local community. To accomplish this, we will:
- Ensure that the existence of the setting is widely known in all local communities. We will place notices advertising the provision in places where all sections of the community can see them, in more than one language if appropriate.
- Arrange our waiting list in Dandelions Pre-School in an order of first come first served but trying to accommodate all four-year olds with morning places by the summer term prior to entry to Reception in September.
- Keep two places vacant, if this is financially viable, with the purpose of accommodating emergency admissions.
- Describe the pre-school and its practices in terms which make it clear that it welcomes both fathers and mothers, other relations and carers, including childminders, and people from all cultural, ethnic, religious and social groups, with and without disabilities.
- Make our equal opportunities policy widely known.
- Where possible be flexible about attendance patterns to accommodate the needs of individual children and families.
- Continue to consult local parents to ensure that the group goes on meeting the changing needs of the local community
- Ensure pre-school children attend at least two sessions to settle in.