



# Beechwood Primary School

## ADMISSION POLICY

### For the academic year 2022/23

Beechwood Primary School is an Academy, serving the children of Woodley. We warmly welcome children and families from all faiths and from none. We are part of the Frays Academy Trust, and the ethos of Beechwood Primary School is founded on the principles of respect for one another, self-discipline and honesty in keeping with the principles of the Trust.

Beechwood Primary School is a part of the Wokingham Borough Council co-ordinated admissions process and parents should apply for a Reception place using this process through their home borough.

All children whose statement of special educational needs or Education Health Plan names Beechwood Primary School will be admitted.

**Published Admission Number (PAN):** There are 60 places available in Reception each year.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

In the event that there are more applicants than places available all places will be allocated on the basis of the following oversubscription criteria, which will be applied in this order:

1. A looked after child or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement order, or a special guardianship order.
2. Children who suffer from a long-term medical or psychological condition, which makes it necessary for them to attend Beechwood Primary School. This would be applied in exceptional circumstances. Applications must be accompanied by medical evidence from a GP, Hospital Consultant, or other appropriate professional, which would need to prove why the reason/s for this is exceptional.
3. Children who have a member of their immediate family suffering from a long term medical or psychological condition, which makes it necessary for them to attend Beechwood Primary School. This would be applied in exceptional circumstances. Applications must be accompanied by medical evidence from a GP, Hospital Consultant or other appropriate professional, which would need to prove why the reason/s for this is exceptional.
4. Children of Staff of the Trust
  - a. Where the member of staff has been employed for two or more years at the time of application, and/or
  - b. The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
5. Children who have a sibling attending full time school at the time they start school. *(see notes and definitions page 4)*
6. Children living nearest to the school. *(see notes and definitions – page 4)*

When deciding between applicants who, ostensibly, have equal entitlement under the above criteria, the local Governors will consider the proximity of the applicants' homes to the school and priority will be given to applicants who live closest to the school. In the event of a tie due to the exact same distance measurement when only one place is available, allocation will be made by random allocation i.e. lottery. This will be done in the presence of an independent witness.

### **Waiting List**

If Beechwood Primary School cannot offer a place, parents will be offered the opportunity of placing a child's name on the waiting list. The school will maintain this waiting list for one year in the order of the oversubscription criteria and not in the order in which the applications are received.

Please note that the list will be re-ordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever a child leaves or is added to the waiting list. Therefore, it is possible a child may move up or down the list.

**Children below compulsory school age**

Parents/carers can request that their child attends on a part-time basis until they reach compulsory school age (*see notes and definitions – page 4*), or that the date that their child is admitted is deferred until later in the academic year when they reach compulsory school age.

**Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. When such a request is made, the Academy Trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the Headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

The process for requesting such an admission is as follows:

1. Parents write into the Headteacher, requesting their child to be considered outside their normal age group with reasons to the request and any supporting documentation.
2. A meeting to be convened between the Headteacher and the parents to discuss the matter.
3. A report to be compiled to the Executive Headteacher including:
  - a. The views of parents.
  - b. The views of the Headteacher.
  - c. Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development submitted by the parent.
  - d. Any medical history and supporting documentation. Information about whether the child had previously been educated out of their normal age group.
  - e. Information as to whether the child may have naturally fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.
  - f. The Academy Trust may choose to seek professional advice according to the nature of the reasons for the request.
4. The Executive Headteacher will make a decision on the above and in the best interests of the child.
5. The Headteacher will inform parents of the decision.

**In-year admissions**

Parents wishing to apply for a place at Beechwood Primary School, other than September start in Reception, should complete the School's application form and return it to the School. The form will be reviewed by members of the governing body, and a place will be offered if available. If a place is not available, parents will be given the option of being placed on a waiting list. Details of all in-year applications will be shared with Wokingham Borough Council. Parents may also complete the common application form available from Wokingham Borough Council, listing Beechwood Primary School as one of their preferences.

### **Children of UK Service Personnel or Crown Servants returning from Overseas**

Families of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to this area or Crown servants returning from overseas to live in this area can make an application, and be offered a school place (should a place be available), in advance of their move, provided their application is accompanied by an official letter declaring a relocation date and unit address or quartering address. Should the required Year group be full, then the applicant will be added to the waiting list based on the future address supplied and verified.

### **Appeals**

Parents have the right to appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Information regarding appeal procedures can be obtained from the Academy Trust either by email, [office-beechwood@fraysacademytrust.org](mailto:office-beechwood@fraysacademytrust.org), or by phone, 0118 969 5976. Parents do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place but it is not in their preferred year group.

### **Withdrawal of Places**

If the school and/or Academy Trust are given false or misleading information, the Academy Trust reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place to the child.

### **Notes and Definitions**

- Wokingham Borough Council coordinates admissions on behalf of schools in the borough for Reception applications; all in-year admissions will be coordinated by the Frays Academy Trust.
- ‘Families’ normally means parents or legal guardians.
- ‘Independent professional’ includes doctor, hospital consultant or psychologist for applications received under medical grounds, and registered social worker, care worker, housing officer, police or probation officer for applicants made based on social needs.
- Siblings must be living in the same household as the applicant and attending Beechwood Primary School at the beginning of the term in which the younger child is due to start full-time education. The term ‘sibling’ includes brother or sister, half brothers and sisters, step-brother or sister, adopted or foster children but does not include any other relationship to the applicant. The child of the parent/carer’s partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling is also included. Cousins or childminder’s children with whom the child may have grown up do not qualify. We reserve the right to ask for proof of sibling relationships.
- Distance will be measured in a straight line from the applicant’s home address to the school, using a Graphical Information System which is based on Ordnance Survey data, with those living closer to the school receiving higher priority. In the case of two children having the same distance random allocation will be used. The grid reference of the measurement point for Beechwood Primary School is Easting – 476248 Northing – 173134.
- Proof of address will be required on application. In cases of children whose parents have shared responsibility but live at different addresses, and the child stays with each parent for part of the week, the ‘Home Address’ will be considered as the address of the parent to whom Child Benefit is paid.
- A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his or her fifth birthday (or on his or her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31<sup>st</sup> December, 31<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> August.

This policy, dated November 2020, was written with reference to ‘Schools Admissions Code’, Department of Education December 2014 and ‘Advice on the admission of summer born children’, Department of Education December 2014.