

Pierrepont Gamston Primary School (Voluntary Aided Church School)



ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AND SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2015/2016

Introduction and General Information

The admission criteria and arrangements intend to give the fairest opportunity for local pupils to gain a place at what has become a very popular school. As this is a Voluntary Aided school the Governors are also able to consider applications without the constraints of a catchment area, but recent experience indicates that community places have been fully taken by pupils who are siblings or who live quite close to the school.

In accordance with The School Admissions Code 2012 (3.11) the school participates in the Fair Access Protocol.

Admissions to all years

For admissions to any cohort in school, priority will be given to children who are 'looked after' by the local authority or who are 'previously looked after'. Previously looked after children are those who were adopted immediately following having been looked after.

First admission – at the agreed date before the child's 5th birthday.

Parents who wish their child to be educated at Pierrepont Gamston Primary School should apply using the Local Authority (LA) common application form to be returned online to the LA and complete a copy of the supplementary application form, for this School, which should be returned to the school. Completed forms should be returned before 12 noon on the closing date of 15th January 2015.

All applications will be considered at the next meeting of the school's Governing Body and prioritised according to the published Admissions Criteria. The result of the Governors' decision will be given to the LA who will relay this to parents on the 16th April 2015. Parents whose child has been offered a place will be given details of the next stage in the process. Parents whose children are not offered a place will be advised of the procedure for appealing against the decision.

Transferring from another school (Admissions outside of the normal round)

Parents who wish their child to transfer to Pierrepont Gamston Primary School from another school should firstly speak with the Head Teacher of the present school. They should then contact Pierrepont Gamston Primary School and arrange a visit with the Head Teacher. Parents should complete an application form and it should be returned to the LA as soon as possible. The LA will relay to parents, in writing, the decision of the application in line with the coordinated admission scheme. Parents whose child has been offered a place will be given details of the next stage in the process. Parents whose children are not offered a place will be advised of the procedure for appealing against the decision and informed how to place their child's name on the waiting list. Children of nomadic travellers moving into the area will be allocated a place as soon as reasonably practicable if one is available.

Subscription Criteria

As a Church Aided School we have a concern, in the name of God, both to nurture Christian children in their faith, and to serve the wider community of which we are part. We aim to be distinctively Christian, but also fully inclusive. The following criteria therefore offer places to children of all faiths and of no faith, but presume a willingness on the part of parents to embrace the ethos of the school on behalf of their children.

In the event of over-subscription the following criteria will be applied in the published order, provided that the application has been received before the published closing date for applications. Any applications received after the closing date will be considered after all those that were received on time. 45 places are available in the first admissions intake year i.e. for pupils to be admitted to school for the first time. For applications received in respect of twins, triplets or children of other multiple births the LA policy will apply.

In the event of over-subscription within any of the following criteria, priority will normally be given to applicants who live nearest to the school, with distances measured from the main entrance door of the child's home address to the main entrance door of the school, using the Local Authority software. All applicants will first be considered for a Community place, in accordance with the criteria in Paragraph 2 below. If unsuccessful, any applicants who have also applied for a Foundation place will then be considered for such in accordance with the criteria in Paragraph 4.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs

Children who have a statement of special educational needs in which this school is named will be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to other applicants.

1. Children who are looked after or previously looked after by the Local Authority

1.1 Priority over places will be given to children who are 'looked after' by the Local Authority or 'previously looked after' (children who were adopted immediately after they were looked after) as described in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) which will reduce the number of places available to other applicants.

2. Community Places (at least 80% of the total places available in any admission year)

2.1. Places will be allocated to applicants who at the time of admission will have a brother or sister*¹ attending the school.

2.2. Places will then be given to other applicants.

3. Foundation Places (no more than 20% of the total places available in any admission year)

For each of the following criteria preference will be given to those applicants who have expressed a wish for Church school education and who can demonstrate a commitment to this. Parents will explain their commitment by completing extra questions on a supplementary application form. Parent(s) and child(ren) must have attended a place of worship, within Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance, at least monthly on average over the past two years, in order to be considered for a Foundation Place. Additional preference will be given to those who also attended other activities outside of Sunday services during the last two years. A reference will be sought from the family's church minister to confirm their frequency of attendance.

3.1. Places will be allocated to applicants who at the time of admission will have a brother or sister*¹ attending the school.

3.2. Places will then be given to other applicants, based on the proximity of their main family home to school as assessed by the local authority.

*¹ The term 'brother or sister' includes all children normally resident in the same household who are regarded as members of the same family.

Tie Breaker

In the event of a tie whereby two children are equal after all of the criteria have been applied a tie break will be applied for the remaining place. In the event of two distances being equal, lots will be drawn and independently verified.

Appeal Arrangements

Under the terms of the School Admission Appeals Code 2012 (2.1a), parents have the right to make a formal appeal against the Governors' decision not to admit. For an appeal to be successful parents will need to prove that the decision to refuse a place was not one that a reasonable admission authority would make, or that a child would have been offered a place if the published admission arrangements had been properly implemented. In order to appeal parents should write within twenty school days of the date of the refusal letter to: The Appeals Coordinator, Rothera Dowson Solicitors, 2 Kayes Walk, Stoney Street, The Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1PZ.

Waiting Lists

In accordance with the School Admission Code 2012 (2.14) our school complies with the statement that "each admission authority must maintain a clear, fair and objective waiting list for at least the first term of the academic year of admission."

The school maintains Waiting Lists for unsuccessful applicants in all other year groups. Children on each of these lists will be placed in order according to the admission criteria for the current school year. Places, if they become available, will be offered to children from the appropriate list in strict order. Parents who are unsuccessful in their application will be asked if they wish their child to be placed on the Waiting List for their year and will be advised, on request, where their child stands in the list. It should be remembered that a child's position on the list may rise and fall as others are added or removed from the list. This list will be maintained for the cohort as it moves through the school until the end of Year 6. The parents of children on the list will be contacted in September each year to ascertain if they wish their child to remain on the list. The child's name will be removed unless the parent confirms that they do so wish within 14 days. Parents are requested to notify the Admissions Administrator at the school if at any time they no longer wish their child to be considered for a place.