



Everyone

Smiles

Here

Esh Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Admissions Policy

September 2025

Date Approved by the Governing Body: November 2023

Review by: November 2024

School Admission Policy

We intend to admit up to 15 pupils to the reception year group in September 2025. This arrangement follows consultation between the governing body, the Local Authority, all other schools in the area and all other Admission Authorities in the area. It included the statutory requirements of the code not requiring consultation.

Admissions criteria

The school is open to receive applications for admissions from the parents of all children. Applications must be made on the Local Authority Common Application Form. This form must be returned to the Local Authority. Applications received after the closing date will only be considered after all those received by the closing date.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming Esh C.E. (Aided) Primary School will always be offered places.

Notes:

“Parent” is defined in law (The Education Act 1996) as either:

- any person who has ‘parental responsibility’ (defined in the Children Act 1989) for the child or young person; or
- any person who has care of the child or young person.

If you are in any doubt, please contact the school for advice.

Oversubscription criteria

If the numbers of applications exceed the number of places available, children will be admitted in the following order:

- 1. Looked-after children and children who were previously looked after**, but ceased to be so because, immediately after being looked after, they became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order **including children previously in state care outside of England** who have ceased to be in that state care as a result of being adopted.

Notes:

By a “looked-after child” we mean one in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of its social services function. An adoption order is one made under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Section 46). A ‘child arrangements order is one settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with

whom the child is to live (Children Act 1989, Section 8, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014, Section 14). A 'special guardianship order' is one appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian/s (Children Act 1989, Section 14A). Applications under this criterion must be accompanied by evidence to show that the child is looked after or was previously looked after (e.g. a copy of the adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order).

Children previously in state care outside of England means children who have been looked after outside of England by a public authority, a religious organisation or another provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. The care may have been provided in orphanages or other settings. In the case of children adopted from state care overseas, the admissions authority will require evidence that a child is eligible by asking the child's parents or carers for appropriate evidence of their previously looked-after status.

A 'child arrangements order' is one settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live (Children Act 1989, Section 8, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014, Section 14).

A 'special guardianship order' is one appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian/s (Children Act 1989, Section 14A). Applications under this criterion must be accompanied by evidence to show that the child is looked after or was previously looked after (e.g. a copy of the adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order).

2. Children with a normal home address in the parish of Esh.

A map showing the boundaries of the parish is attached at appendix 1

3. Children who at the time of admission will have siblings attending the school.

Sibling refers to 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 in the same family unit at the same address.

4. Faith criteria: Church of England.

Children and/or one or more parents who attend public worship at a Christian church at least monthly for a period of not less than 12 months prior to the closing date specified on which the application is submitted.

'Christian church means any church which is designated under the Ecumenical Relations Measure nationally by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York or locally by the diocesan bishop, or is a member of Churches Together in England, or the Evangelical Alliance, or a partner church of Affinity'

This criterion means physical attendance at an act of public worship. Online worship and private prayers in the church building do not meet this requirement.

Applications for faith places must be supported by a letter from an authorised minister or two office holders of the church or faith community.

5. Medical or social criteria: Pupils with very exceptional medical or social factors directly related to school placement. Applications must be supported by written evidence from a doctor or other professional practitioner, setting out the particular reasons why our school is the most suitable school, and will be considered on a case by case basis, as assessed using the Local Authority criteria.

6. Other Children.

Tie breaker

Where there are places for some, but not all, applicants within a particular criterion, distance from the front door of the home address (the front door of a block of flats) to the main entrance of the school will be the deciding factor. The home address is the child's permanent address where he or she generally resides. If a place is offered on the basis of false information, or if parents do not respond within the stated timescale to the offer of a place, the Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw their offer. In the event that two distance measurements are identical, the school will use random allocation to decide which child should be offered the place. The process will be conducted in the presence of a person independent of the school.

In assessing home to school distance the LA measures by the shortest walking route. Routes are measured from the centre point* of the child's house, or in the case of a flat from the centre point* of the building, to the nearest school site entrance. A Geographical Information System (GIS) is used to identify and measure the shortest walking route. The GIS identifies routes on the Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network (ITN) and Urban Paths Network (UPN), which are national recognised datasets. The LA will not include any other routes. In all cases the GIS identifies the route to be measured by connecting in a straight line the centre point* of the child's house to the closest point on the nearest route on the ITN/UPN.

*In accordance with the co-ordinates of the Basic Land and Property Unit on the National Land and Property Gazetteer.

Other information

If you wish your child to attend Esh Church of England Primary School, you must fill in an application form, even if you live in the admission zone for the school.

The child's home address is the address of the parent/carer receiving the child benefit. The addresses of childminders or family members sharing in the care of children must not be used.

Parents who wish their child to attend Esh Church of England Primary School are welcome to visit the school for a tour and an initial discussion with the Head Teacher.

Admission of children below compulsory school age and deferred entry to school

The School Admissions Code requires school admission authorities to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. However, a child is not required to start school until they have reached compulsory school age following their fifth birthday. For summer born children (those born after 1 April) this can sometimes be almost a full school year after the point at which they could first be admitted.

Some parents may feel that their child is not ready to start school in the September following their fourth birthday and the child's parents are entitled to:-

- defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made; and
- where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age

If parents wish to exercise the above rights they should discuss this with the Head Teacher as soon as possible to confirm arrangements and specify their choice in writing as follows: -

- that they wish their child to attend part-time until they reach compulsory school age, or
- that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the same academic year or until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age. The school will hold any deferred place for the child, although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.
- that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until the term after the child reaches compulsory school age provided this is not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

The child must, however, start school full-time in the term after their fifth birthday.

If parents of summer born children wish to defer entry as outlined above and wish them to be admitted to the Reception Year in the term following their fifth birthday, rather than year 1, then parents should apply at the usual time for a place in September of the current academic year together with a written request that the child is admitted outside of his or her normal age group to the Reception Year in September the following year providing supporting reasons for seeking a place outside of the normal age group.

This should be discussed with the Head Teacher as soon as possible. If their request is agreed, and this should be clear before the national offer day, their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered and they should reapply in the normal way for a Reception place in the following year.

If their request is refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for any offer of a place in the current academic year (NB it will still be subject to the over-subscription criteria in this policy) or to withdraw their application and apply for a Year 1 place the following year. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies as it could be full with children transferring from the previous Reception Year group.

Further information and advice on the admission of summer born children is available from Durham County Council or refer to DFE School Admissions Code at www.gov.uk/

The admissions process for casual vacancies

A casual vacancy occurs when the number on roll in a class falls below the school's standard number, published in the school's Prospectus.

Casual Vacancies will be allocated in accordance with the Primary In Year Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. Parents will be required to name up to three schools of their choice in order of preference. The scheme will be operated by the Admissions Team within Children and Young Peoples Services at Durham County Council. The team will provide advice on places, send out application forms and confirm the offer of a place to parents.

Waiting Lists

Where no casual vacancies exist, a waiting list will be kept of all applicants for such a place in each year group. After the decision regarding admissions to Reception Class has been made by the Governors those unsuccessful applicants will be included on a waiting list throughout the academic year of proposed entry. This waiting list will be produced in rank order as a consequence of the application of the published admission's criteria to each child. Each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the published oversubscription criteria. Waiting lists for each year group will be maintained for the remainder of the school year. In July, at the end of the school year, those parents who applied for a casual vacancy and were unsuccessful will be circulated to ascertain whether they wish their child's name to remain on the list. It will be the responsibility of parents to update or provide information regarding any change of circumstance.

Multiple births

In cases where there is one place available, and the next child on the list is a twin, triplet, etc., we would admit both twins (and all the children in the case of other multiple births) even if this meant exceeding the agreed admission number for Reception or the number of places in other year groups in the relevant admission year.

Procedure for appeals against decisions to turn down an application for admission or a deferred entry request

Parents have the right to appeal if they are not satisfied with the Governors' response to their expressed preference. Parents who wish to appeal should inform the school in writing. Further guidance is available on the school website: www.eshprimary.org.uk

Admission outside of normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully on its own merits and circumstances (e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health). However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered then there is no right of appeal.

Further details are available from:-

Mr A Park



**Headteacher
Esh CofE Primary School
Front Street
Esh
Durham
DH7 9QR**

