



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Director of Education: Chris Shepperd

Powerstock CE VA Admissions Policy 2015-2016

Introduction

This document sets out the Policy of Powerstock Church of England Voluntary Aided School with respect to Admissions. For the purposes of this policy, the Governing Body of Powerstock School is the admission authority.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the churches at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the daily Christian act of worship and from Religious Education.

Parents who wish their children to be admitted to the school/academy, must complete the Common Application Form in line with the Local Authority Co-ordinated Admission Scheme. This form can be obtained from Dorset Admissions Service either online <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/schooladmissions> or by paper Email: admissions@dorsetcc.gov.uk, Tel: 01305 221060. The deadline for this is set by the Admissions service. (This is normally around the middle of January e.g. for September 2014 the deadline was 15 January 2014.)

Parents or guardians will receive written notification of the outcome, from the Local Authority, on a date determined in the Dorset County Council Co-ordinated School Admission Scheme. An offer of a school place should be accepted by the deadline date, which is also set out in the Scheme.

Every year the governing body will review and publish information concerning the Powerstock Primary school admission policy. This will confirm the maximum number of children to be admitted to the school as a whole, the Pupil Admissions Number (PAN) which is currently [10] and explain how places will be allocated.

Aims

The overriding aim of this policy is that it should work for the benefit of all children and parents/guardians in our area. It should be simple to use and assist parents/guardians to take the best decisions on the preferred school for their children. It should contribute to improving standards for all pupils.

The school / academy aims to provide a place for all children whose address is within the designated area, defined as being the area within the ecclesiastical boundaries of the parish(es) of Powerstock, West Milton and North Poorton. Designated area means the area of benefit as defined in the school's Trust Deed. A map of the designated area may be seen in the school office. Or can be found on the Dorset For You School Admissions page <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/school-catchment-areas>.

The address is the place where the child is permanently resident with his or her parent or parents or legal guardians. Evidence may be requested to show the address, for example: to which any Child Benefit is paid or at which the child is registered with a medical GP together with recent utilities bill, council tax bill or tenancy agreement. This evidence will be used when reaching a decision on the child's home address for admissions purposes (including where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility for each part of the week). Parents should not assume that a place will automatically be allocated to their child.

A full-time school place in the Reception class is available for children from the September following their 4th birthday. (i.e. children born between 01/09/2010 and 31/08/2011 will be admitted in September 2015.) Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Where an offer of a place is made to a child below compulsory school age, parents have the right to defer their child's entry to school until later in the school year. The place is held for that child and is not available to be offered to another child. Entry may not be deferred beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which admission is sought.

Deadline for application

Applications for Reception Year entry for the academic year starting September 2015 need to be formally registered with the Local Authority by the date stated on the Common Admission Form for consideration by the admission authority.

Powerstock Church of England (VA) School cannot guarantee places for children when there are no places available as a result of late applications for the normal year of entry or any application that relates to a different year group.

The Governors have set a maximum class size of 30 pupils in Key Stage 1 and 22 pupils in Key Stage 2. Legislation states that no infant class may exceed 30 pupils.

A decision on the admission of new entrants will be made during the spring term 2015. The parents or guardians will receive written notification of the outcome from the Local Authority on the date determined in the Dorset County Council Co-ordinated Primary/Secondary School Admission Scheme [*on or about 16th April 2015*].

Late applications, i.e. those received after the deadline for the normal admissions round will not be considered until after all of those which were received on time have been processed. Further details can be found on the Dorset School Admissions website: <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/schooladmissions>

Waiting Lists

During the normal admissions round it is always necessary to complete a Local Authority Common Application form to apply for a school place. Registering interest with the school on a "waiting list" before the admissions round guarantees neither a place nor priority within the oversubscription Criteria. Offers of places will be made by the Local Authority on the school's behalf.

If the school is oversubscribed for children due to start in 2015-2016 a waiting list will be maintained. The position on the list will be determined by applying the published over-subscription criteria and not by date of receipt. This will mean a position will change if a later application is received from someone with higher priority according to the over-subscription criteria. The existence of a waiting list does not remove the right of appeal against any refusal of a place from any unsuccessful applicant.

Names will only be removed from the list if a written request is received, or if the offer of a place that becomes available is declined. The waiting list will close on 31 December 2015. At that time parents of pupils on existing lists must confirm in writing their wish to be placed on a newly constructed waiting (or continued interest) list which will remain open until 31st August 2016. Looked after children and previously looked after children as defined within this policy, children who are the subject of a direction by a local authority or who are allocated to a school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

Applications outside the normal admissions round

In-year or casual admissions will be processed either through the Dorset Schools Admissions service. Information can be found on the website page:

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/school-admissions/in-year-application>

Policy

The admissions policy of Powerstock School is, while there are adequate places, to offer a place to all applicants irrespective of gender, religion, ethnicity or country of origin, disability or academic ability.

This school participates in the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol.

Where this school is named in a child's Statement of Special Educational Needs, the governing body recognises a duty to admit the child to the school.

Where parents wish to be given preference on the grounds of their faith within their application for a place at this school /academy they should complete the school's supplementary information form (SIF) which is available from the school office. This form must be completed and returned to the school together with all documentary evidence by same deadline date as the Dorset Schools Admission application form if it is to be considered during the admissions process. (This is normally around the middle of January e.g. for September 2014 the deadline was 15 January 2014.)Confirmation of status may be requested from the relevant priest/pastor.

Over-subscription Criteria

Where more applications have been received than places available or where to admit would conflict with the school fulfilling class size legislation, the following priorities shall apply in order:

1. Looked after children or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order¹. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).
2. VULNERABLE CHILDREN
 - i. children of families with confirmed refugee status
 - ii. children with a medical condition or disability where written evidence is available from a senior clinical medical officer and the child's general

¹ An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

A 'residence order' is as 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).

practitioner or specialist showing that it would be detrimental to the child's health not to admit him/her to the school rather than any other. Details of this must accompany the initial application.

- iii. Children where either parent has a disability which would make travel to a different school difficult. Evidence from a registered health professional such as a doctor or social worker will be required. Details of this must accompany the initial application.

LIVING WITHIN THE SCHOOL'S DESIGNATED AREA AS DEFINED ABOVE:

3. SIBLINGS

A child is considered in this category if an older sibling is attending the school at the deadline date, **and will continue to do so when the sibling is admitted**, and where the child lives within the designated area at the same address as the older sibling. 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 where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

4. OTHER CHILDREN

Children resident within the designated area who do not qualify under one of the criteria above.

LIVING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL'S DESIGNATED AREA AS DEFINED ABOVE:

5. SIBLINGS

A child is considered in this category if an older sibling is attending the school at the deadline date, **and will continue to do so when the sibling is admitted**, and where the child lives outside the designated area at the same address as the older sibling. 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 where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

6. OTHER CHILDREN

Children resident outside the designated area who do not qualify under one of the criteria above.

If the school is oversubscribed within any category above, the straight-line distance from the child's home address to the school will be used as the determining factor. Distances will be measured according to the Ordnance Survey eastings and northings for the child's home address and the school. Those living closer to the school will be given priority.

If two or more children with the same priority for admission, live an indistinguishable distance from the school, but cannot all be admitted, then the available places will be decided by the casting of lots by someone independent of the school or the Local Authority.

Registration at any nursery or pre-school unit will **not** be considered as a criterion for over-subscription and no priority will be given to such children even if the pre-school is linked to the school / academy.

Parents must accept the offer by the date set out in the Local Authority Co-ordinated Primary School Admission Scheme. Parents will be asked to reply to the Local Authority. If they do not respond by this date it will be assumed that the place offered has been declined.

Once an offer of a school place has been made, it may only be lawfully withdrawn in very limited circumstances, which include an offer of place based upon a fraudulent or misleading application. Where an offer of place is withdrawn, the application will be considered afresh, and a right of appeal offered if an offer of place is refused.

Appeals Procedure

Parents have a right of appeal to an independent panel against the decision of the Governing Body to refuse application for a school place. Details of the appeals procedure are sent out with all refusal letters.

Enquiries about this policy should be addressed to:

The Chair of the Governors
Powerstock CE VA Primary School
Powerstock
Bridport
Dorset DT6 3TB

Note: Subject to the above policy and the relevant appeals procedure, decisions regarding admissions will be the responsibility of the Governing Body.