

# Swanmore Church of England (Aided) Primary School

## Admissions Policy 2021-2022

### Admissions to Year R

This policy will be used during 2021/22 for allocating places in the main admission round for entry to Year R in September 2021. It will also apply to all in-year admissions during 2021/22. Outside the normal admissions round, the Local Authority's Fair Access protocol will be applied alongside the policy to secure the admission of vulnerable pupils from specific groups.

The Governing Body of Swanmore Church of England (Aided) Primary School is the admission authority for **The School**. The admission arrangements are determined by the Governing Body, after statutory consultation.

Each school has a published admissions number (PAN) for entry to Year R. The school will admit this number of children if there are sufficient applications. Where there are fewer applications than the published admission number, places will be offered to all applicants. The Published Admission Number (PAN) for Swanmore Church of England (Aided) Primary School is 60.

### Admission to Key Stage 2

The Governing Body admits more children than the PAN for **The School** into Key Stage 2 classes, where 64 children are admitted for year groups Year 3 – Year 6.

A guiding principle of admissions to this school is that a church school should serve its local community, defined in the Trust Deed of 1863 as the Ecclesiastical Parish of Swanmore. The policy aims to be clear, fair and objective and to comply with all relevant legislation.

Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school will be admitted. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN.

If the School is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school, places will be offered in the following priority order. Places for applications received after the deadline will be allocated using the same criteria:

### Admission Criteria

- 1. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after** (see Definition A).
- 2. (For applicants in the normal admission round only)** Children or families with an exceptional medical, physical or psychological need. Supporting medical or psychological evidence must be provided at the time of application which explains why those needs make it essential that the child attends this school rather than any other (see Definition B).
- 3. Children of staff at the school.** Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made.
- 4. A child living in the catchment area of the School** (see Definition C) who at the time of admission has **a sibling** (see Definition D) on the roll of **the School**.
- 5. A child living out of the catchment area of the School** who at the time of admission, has a sibling on the roll of **the School**.
- 6. A child living in the catchment area of the School.**
- 7. Other children.**

## **Definitions**

### **A Looked-after children and children who were previously looked after**

Looked after children are defined as those who are (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 function (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application. Previously looked after children are those who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because, immediately after being looked after, they became subject to an adoption order, child arrangements order or special guardianship order. An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or section 12 of the Adoption Act 1976. Child arrangement orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangement orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. 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).

Previously looked after children also includes those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

### **B Serious medical, physical or psychological condition**

Where a place is requested for a child or family who have a serious medical, physical and/or psychological condition, you must supply supporting independent evidence at the time of application confirming the reason(s) why attendance at Swanmore Church of England (Aided) Primary School is essential rather than any other school. You must describe the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. The evidence should be provided by a suitably qualified medical professional. The evidence will be considered carefully in confidence by the admissions committee of The Governing Body, who will endeavour to reach a fair and equitable decision. Priority will be given to those children whose evidence establishes that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school.

### **C The Catchment Area**

The catchment area for Swanmore Church of England (Aided) Primary School is the Ecclesiastical Parish of Swanmore. The child's permanent residence is where they live, normally including weekends and during school holidays as well as during the week, and should be used for the application. The permanent address of children who spend part of their week with one parent and part with the other, at different addresses, will be the address at which they spend most of their time.

#### **Moving Home**

For house moves after the application deadline an exchange of contracts or a signed tenancy agreement (usually for a 12 months duration) will be accepted as proof of address, but parents may subsequently be asked to demonstrate that the child is resident at the new address and any place offered may be withdrawn if this evidence cannot be provided.

As a result of a house move notified to the County Admissions team by 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 parents may at the same time change the schools named in their original on time application. Additionally, where a house move has been notified to the County Admissions team by the above date, the application will be considered in relation to the new address unless the applicant specifically requests that the child's address on the relevant closing date is used instead. A new address resulting from a house move notified after 11<sup>th</sup> February will be used to communicate the outcome of the application but cannot be used to determine the outcome of an on-time application made from the previous address.

**Swanmore Church of England (Aided) Primary School**  
Admissions Policy 2021/22

Overseas residents with a planned relocation to Hampshire will be asked to provide exchange of contracts, signed tenancy agreement (usually of 12 month duration) or other evidence to substantiate ownership of the property. If this cannot be provided, the applicant's current (overseas) address will be used in the application.

**For UK service families** with official proof of posting to Hampshire and of a relocation date, a Unit postal address, quartering area address or future home address will be accepted as the address for the application, in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

### **D Siblings**

'Sibling' refers to a brother or sister, half brother or half sister, adoptive brother or adoptive sister, foster brother or foster sister, step brother or step sister, living as one family unit at the same address. It will also be applied to situations where a full, half or adopted brother or sister are living at separate addresses. Categories 4 and 5 includes children who at the time of admission have a sibling for whom the offer of a place at the preferred school has been accepted, even if the sibling is not yet attending.

## **Additional Information**

### **Tie-breaker**

If **The School** is oversubscribed, Hampshire County Council's admission policies for Community and Controlled schools use a distance measure to prioritise applications. In the situation that two or more applications measure the same distance to the school, random allocation will be used as explained on Hampshire's website. The use of this is rare but the situations where random allocation would be required are:

- Same cohort siblings (this does not include twins or multiple births who are an exception to Infant Class Size regulation)
- Unrelated applicants who live equal distance from the school
- House of multiple occupation (where living accommodation is shared but not bedrooms eg not a block of flats)
- Forces families applying with a posting order and for admission purposes the unit address is used as there is no allocated housing order.

Each random allocation event is only valid for the allocation of the available school place.

On any waiting list the remaining applicants will remain equally ranked and any further place offered will be offered the result of a further random allocation.

In making a random allocation it is important that there is scrutiny from a person who is not involved in the allocation process. The roles involved with that random allocation are:-

- Independent Adjudicator (IA) – this is a person who ensures that the process is carried out in a correct and transparent way. The IA must be independent of the school for which the allocation is to be made, and must also be independent of the County Admissions Team.
- Senior Admissions Officer (SAO) – this is an officer from the County Admissions Team who is responsible for carrying out the administration of the random allocation procedure and recording the result, under the scrutiny of the IA.
- Person who makes the draw (P) – this must be a person independent of the school for which the allocation is to be made and must be a person who is not part of the Admissions team.

**Swanmore Church of England (Aided) Primary School**  
Admissions Policy 2021/22

### **Who can apply?**

Only a parent can apply for a place at a school. A parent is any person who has parental responsibility for or is the legal guardian of the child, as set out in the Children Act 1989.

### **How to apply**

The Local Authority operates a Co-ordinated Admissions scheme which processes all main round (ordinary) admission applications. They also publish a Composite Prospectus which details all admission arrangements for schools within the Local Authority. Please see <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/admissions> for the prospectus and details of the scheme.

You must complete a Local Authority Application Form available from website <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/admissions/ad-applyonline.html>. Should you wish to use a paper application, please contact the school office who will be pleased to issue you with one.

### **Admissions Process**

The Governing Body will consider first all those applications received by the published deadline of **midnight on 15 January 2021**. Notifications to parents offering a place will be sent by the Local Authority on **16 April 2021**.

Applications made after **midnight on 15 January 2021** will be considered after all on-time applications have been fully processed unless exceptional circumstances merit consideration alongside on-time applications.

For the normal admission round, all on-time preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria. If more than one school can offer a place, the parent's highest stated available preference will be allocated.

### **Pupils with an Education Health Care Plan**

The governors will admit any pupil whose Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP) names Swanmore Church of England (Aided) Primary School. Where possible these children will be admitted within the PAN.

### **Multiple births**

Where a twin or child from a multiple birth is admitted to a school under this policy then any further twin or child of the same multiple birth will be admitted, if the parents so wish, even though this may raise the number in the year group above **The School's** PAN.

### **In-year applications (ordinary)**

The allocation of any places which may become available during the year will be made on the basis of the current Admissions Criteria. There are no deadline dates for in year applications. Applications must be made using the Local Authority Admission Form available on line at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/admissions/ad-applyonline.html> Any parent with parental responsibility can apply for a place for their child at any time to any school. The Governing Body will decide whether a place can be offered at Swanmore C of E Primary School.

### **In-Year Fair Access placements by the local authority**

The local authority must ensure that all pupils are placed in schools as quickly as possible. It may therefore sometimes be necessary for a pupil to be placed by the local authority, or a local placement panel acting on behalf of the authority, in a particular school even if there is a waiting list for admission. Such placements will be made in accordance with the provisions of the local authority's In-Year Fair Access Protocol. The Protocol is based on legislation and government guidance.

### **School Closure**

In the event of a school closure, pupils from the closing school may be given priority for any school nominated as the receiving school. Specific arrangements will be determined by the Local Authority in accordance with the School Admissions Code and will be published at the time for the specific school affected.

### **Waiting lists**

When all available places have been allocated, a waiting list will be operated by Swanmore C of E Primary School. All children not being offered a place will automatically be placed on the waiting list for the School. Any places that become available will be allocated according to the criteria of the admission policy with no account being taken of the length of time on the waiting list or any priority order expressed as part of the main admission round. Fair Access admissions and school closure arrangements will take priority over the waiting list.

The waiting list will be reviewed and revised:

- each time a child is added to, or removed from, the waiting list;
- when a child's changed circumstances affect their priority;
- periodically when parents, with a child on the waiting list, will be contacted and asked if they wish to remain on the list for the following school year.

At the time of receiving an offer of a school place parents will be advised of the process for adding their child's name to a school's waiting list. Parents may keep their child's name on the waiting list of as many schools or academies as they wish and for as long as they wish.

### **Starting school and deferred entry to Year R**

The admission authorities will provide for the admission of all children to Swanmore C of E Primary School in the September following their fourth birthday. When the child has been offered a place at the school:

- a) that child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday
- b) the child's parents can defer the date on which their child is admitted to the school until later in the 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
- c) 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.

### ***Notes on compulsory school age and summer born children***

A child is not required to start school until they have reached compulsory school age following their fifth birthday. For summer born children this is almost a full school year after the point at which they could first be admitted. Compulsory school age is set out in section 8 of the Education Act 1996 and The Education (Start of Compulsory School Age) Order 1998. A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his fifth birthday (or on his fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

**Swanmore Church of England (Aided) Primary School**  
Admissions Policy 2021/22

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

Parents who have deferred entry into Year R or of a gifted and talented child or a child who has experienced problems or missed part of a year, for example due to ill health, can request a place outside the normal age group. In addition, the parents of a summer born child (children born between 1st April and 31st August inclusive) may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group - to reception rather than year 1.

**It is recommended that parents considering such a request as defined above, contact Swanmore C of E Primary School as early as possible to ensure that an informed decision is made.**

The Governing Body will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case, taking into account the parents views, and information about the academic, social and emotional development of the child. In addition, where relevant, any medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether the child has been previously educated out of their normal age group and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The views of the head teacher will be taken into account and the Governing Body will set out clearly the reasons for their decision. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like.

**Admission Appeals**

If you are unsuccessful in being offered a place for your child at Swanmore C of E Primary School you will be informed by The Local Authority in writing, be given reasons for the refusal and informed of your right to an independent appeal against the decision.

**Warning**

Places are withdrawn every year because parents give false information on application forms, e.g. a false 'home address'. This includes cases where parents take out a short-term let or buy a property solely to use its address on the application form without any intention of taking up permanent residence there. In fairness to all parents, all allegations of fraudulent practice brought to The Governing Body's attention will be investigated. The Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place if fraudulent or intentionally misleading information has been used on an application.

**Legislation**

This policy takes account of all Equalities legislation together with all relevant regulations, and the School Admissions Code (published by the DfE in 2014).

**Further Information**

If you require further information about applying for a place at Swanmore Church of England School, please contact us.

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