



## **THE EDUCATION ALLIANCE OF CANFORD HEATH**

### **AD ASTRA INFANT SCHOOL**

### **ADMISSIONS POLICY 2017/18**

#### No Catchment area.

The Educational Alliance of Canford Heath admits pupils without reference to a defined catchment area.

#### Preference given to pupils within the TEACH Trust.

Ad Astra Infant school belongs to the TEACH Trust. The Trust will operate a preference system that, once a pupil is admitted to one of its Infant schools (Ad Astra, Canford Heath Infant) it will, in line with the oversubscription criteria below, give priority to a place for the pupil at one of its two Junior schools (Haymoor, Canford Heath Junior). Therefore, parents who state a preference for their child to attend one of the Trust's two Infant schools benefit from the opportunity for their child to attend a fully coordinated Primary education setting until their child leaves school at the end of Year 6.

#### Education, Health and Care Plan / Statement of Special Educational Needs

Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan issued by a local authority naming Ad Astra Infant School will be admitted before preferences are considered for admission in September.

#### Over-subscription

Where there are more applications than places available at Ad Astra Infant school the following criteria will be used, in numerical order, to decide the priority list for the offering of places up to the school's Published Admission Number (90 places) for the admission year group. The distance from home to school, criterion 5, is used as a tie-breaker if there are more applications than places available under criteria 1-4.

1. A “Looked After Child” or who was a “previously Looked After Child” (see Note 1).
2. Pupils who have a sibling (see Note 3) already on the roll of Ad Astra School.
3. Pupils who have a sibling (see Note 3) already on the roll of Haymoor Junior School.
4. Pupils who have a sibling (see Note 3) who is already on the roll of any other school in the Trust (Canford Heath Infant and Canford Heath Junior).
5. Pupils who live (see Note 2) closest to the school. The distance is measured by a Geographical Information System (see Note 4). If the distance measurement is equal for two or more applicants the place will be allocated by the drawing of lots (See Note 5)

### **Entry to Reception including deferred entry**

All children can start in Reception on a full-time basis in the Autumn Term in 2017, although parents/carers may discuss with the Headteacher as to whether their child is ready to start full-time and whether a part-time basis may be preferable. The final decision will rest with the parent/carer of the child.

Parents can defer the date their child starts school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age (i.e. by the start of the term following their fifth birthday) or, for children born between 1 April and 31 August, not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year (i.e. the term that starts after the Easter/Spring holidays) for which the offer was made. Deferred entry should be discussed with the Headteacher.

If parents/carers want to apply for the following year they would normally be expected to apply for a place in Year 1. Parents and carers need to be aware that Year 1 in the school could be full at this stage.

Parents/carers wishing to apply for a year group different to that determined by their child’s date of birth, including delayed admission to reception for summer born children need to refer to the section headed “Applications for a place in a year group different to that determined by date of birth” below. Parents considering this are advised to contact the school and the Local Authority at the earliest possible opportunity (preferably before 31 October 2016) to ensure a decision has been made by the school before the national closing date for applications to Reception 2017/18.

### **Applications for a place in any year group other than a pupil’s correct age related National Curriculum year group (including summer born children)**

Applications for pupils to be educated outside their normal national curriculum year group will be considered on their individual merits by a specialist trust group panel.

Applicants must provide with their application form the following information in support of their request:

1. Clear, documented evidence that to place the pupil in his/her normal age group would be detrimental to his/her educational progress or likely exam performance.
2. Clear evidence that it is in the interests of the pupil’s social and emotional development to be placed in a different year group.
3. Clear evidence that the pupil has previously been placed in a different year group and this has had positive benefits.

(A pupil would need to meet Criteria 1 and 2 above in all cases, for an out of year group admission to be agreed. The existence of Criterion 3 would serve to strengthen a case.)

The Department for Education document “Advice on the admission of summer born children” will be taken into account, where appropriate, when considering applications for a place in any year group different to that determined by date of birth.

### **Excepted pupils for infant classes**

Infant classes must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single school teacher. Additional children may be admitted under limited exceptional circumstances. These children will remain an 'excepted pupil' for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit. The excepted children are:

- Children admitted outside the normal admissions round with Education, Health and Care Plans or Statements of Special Educational Needs specifying a school;
- Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children admitted outside the normal admissions round;
- Children admitted, after initial allocation of places, because of a procedural error made by the admission authority or local authority in the original application process;
- Children admitted after an independent appeals panel upholds an appeal;
- Children who move into the area outside the normal admissions round for whom there is no other available school within reasonable distance;
- Children of UK service personnel admitted outside the normal admissions round;
- Children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted otherwise than as an excepted pupil;
- Children with Special Educational Needs who are normally taught in a special educational needs unit attached to the school, or registered at a special school, who attend some infant classes within the mainstream school.

### **In-year admissions – Looked After Children**

A Looked After Child may be admitted to Ad Astra Infant School above the Published Admission number if it is felt by the local authority that this is the most appropriate placement to meet the needs of the individual child. The Borough of Poole has adopted a Protocol for dealing with in-year admissions of Looked After Children.

### **Applications from separated parents**

Only one application can be considered for each child. Where parents are separated it is essential that agreement is reached by both parties concerning the nominated preferred schools. If agreement cannot be reached the school admission authority will only consider the application from the parent who is the prime carer for the child. The prime carer is the parent in whose name Child Benefit payments are made. If Child Benefit payments are not received by either parent, then the address that the child has been registered with a General Practitioner (GP) at will be considered as the address for the prime carer.

### **Applications for children of multiple births**

If there are insufficient places to accommodate all the children of a multiple birth (i.e. twins, triplets etc) in any year group and one child can be admitted, the other siblings of the multiple birth will be admitted over the school's Published Admission Number. If it is in an infant class (Years R, 1 and 2) the additional children over the PAN will be considered as excepted pupils for the entire time they are in an infant class at the school or until the class numbers fall back to the infant class size limit in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014.

### **In Year Fair Access**

All the admission authorities in Poole have established an In Year Fair Access Protocol. The purpose of the In Year Fair Access Protocol is to ensure that – outside the normal admissions round – unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. Cases are considered by a Panel comprising Headteachers and/or their representatives. When seeking to place a child, the Panel will consider all schools in a fair, equitable and consistent manner. Decisions of the Panel may mean that individual schools admit children above the Published Admission Number. Admission authorities will not normally be asked to admit a child to an infant class where there are already 30 children in the class.

### **Admissions arrangements**

Admission to all Poole schools will be in accordance with the agreed scheme for co-ordinated admission arrangements 2017/18.

All the admission authorities within Poole operate an equal preference admissions system. This means that all first, second and third preference applications are considered together. The local authority will offer the highest ranked preference possible.

## **Notes**

1. A "Looked After Child" means any child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. A child who was "previously a Looked After Child" means a child who after being Looked After became subject to an Adoption Order under the Adoption Act 1976 or under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, a Residence Order or Child Arrangement Order under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 or Special Guardianship Order under Section 14A of the Children Act 1989.
2. Addresses. The school admission authority will consider that a child lives at the address at which he/she lives during the school week. Where a child lives at more than one address during the school week, the school will consider the home address as being where the prime carer resides. The "prime carer" is the person in whose name Child Benefit payments for the individual child are made. If Child Benefit payments are not received by either parent, then the address that the child has been registered with a General Practitioner (GP) at will be considered as the home address of the prime carer. The final decision on the home address of a child will be made by the school. If any information supplied by an applicant is judged by the school to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading the school may refuse to offer a place, or if already offered, may withdraw the offer.

3. “Sibling” means; a full brother or sister, a half-brother or half-sister, adoptive brother or sister, a foster brother or sister and non-blood related children who live with one or both parents or carers in the same property during the school week
4. (a) The distance from home to school is measured by using the shortest, safe and practicable walking route using the centre line of public roads and footpaths (excluding paths identified for the sole use of bicycles i.e. cycleways) from the nearest point on the public highway to the centre point of the child’s home address (see Note 2 above for definition of home address) to a point opposite the nearest approved access point on school property that is for the use of pupils. The centre point of the child’s home address is the centre of the land parcel that the building resides on. The GIS maps used are provided by Ordnance Survey and represent the position as at the beginning of the annual admission cycle i.e. September in the year prior to admission. Any footpaths or roads added after this time will not be taken into consideration until the next academic year of application.

(b) For applicants living on islands within Poole harbour the distance measurement will be a straight line from the centre point of the home property (see Note 2 and 4(a) above) to either:

1. the nearest public landing steps at Poole Quay, or
2. a point on the mainland that the applicant proves to the satisfaction of the school that he/she can access

and from that point the distance will be measured using the shortest, safe and practicable walking route to the nearest point on the public highway and from there using the shortest, safe and practicable walking route using the centre line of public roads and footpaths (excluding paths identified for the sole use of bicycles i.e. cycleways) to a point opposite the nearest approved access point on school property that is for the use of pupils.

(c) If an applicant advises the school that the child would or could use the Sandbanks/Studland Chain Ferry in the journey to school then the distance will be measured on that basis from the home address (see Note 2) in line with Note 4(a) above, including the distance travelled by the ferry.

5. If there are insufficient places to accommodate all applicants and the distance criterion is used, the school admission authority will use random allocation for applicants living an equal distance from the school (up to three decimal points) or at the same address or in the same block of flats who are eligible for the remaining places. Applicants will have their names drawn as lots to see who should be offered the place(s). The person drawing the names will be a member of the Trust who has no involvement with school admissions.