



GADE VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY

Gade Valley Primary School admissions policy has been created in line with Hertfordshire County Council's oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled, first, infant, primary, junior and middle schools.

Definitions

The **normal admissions round** is the period during which parents can apply for state-funded school places at the school's normal point of entry, using the common application form provided by their home local authority.

Looked after children are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

- In the care of a local authority, or
- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

- Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or
- Became subject to a child arrangements order, or
- Became subject to a special guardianship order.

How to apply

For applications in the normal admissions round you should use the application form provided by your home local authority (regardless of which local authority the schools are in). You can use this form to express your preference for a minimum of 3 state-funded schools, in rank order.

You will receive an offer for a school place directly from your local authority.

Please note, pupils already attending our Nursery will not transfer automatically into the main school. A separate application must be made for a place in Reception.

Admission number

The school has an agreed admission number of 30 pupils for entry in Reception through to Year 6.

Allocation of places

Oversubscription criteria

Rule 1: Children looked after and children who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order)*.

Rule 2: Medical or Social

Children for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a particular medical or social need to go to the school*.

A panel of officers will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to meet the requirements for this rule. The evidence must relate specifically to the school applied for under Rule 2 and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that can meet the child's needs.

Rule 3: Sibling

Children who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application*. *This applies to reception through to Year 5 in infant, junior and primary schools.*

Rule 4: Nearest School

Children for whom it is their nearest community or voluntary-controlled school or an own admitting school or academy² using Hertfordshire County Council's admission rules.

Rule 5: Distance

Children who live nearest to the school. This process will be achieved by calculating the walking distance from your home to the school using 'google route planner.'

These rules are applied in the order they are printed above. If more children qualify under a particular rule than there are places available, a tie break will be used by applying the next rule to those children.

Tie Break

When there is a need for a tie break where two different addresses are the same distance from a school, in the case of a block of flats for example, the lower door number will be deemed nearest as logically this will be on the ground floor and therefore closer. If there are two identical addresses of separate applicants, the tie break will be random.

Every child entered onto the HCC admissions database has an individual random number assigned, between 1 and 1 million, against each preference school. When there is a need for a final tie break the random number is used to allocate the place, with the lowest number given priority.

Continuing Interest

After places have been offered, Hertfordshire County Council will maintain a continuing interest (waiting) list for all community and voluntary controlled schools. A child's position on a CI list will be determined by the admission criteria outlined above and a child's place on the list can change as other children join or leave it. The county council will contact parents/carers if a vacancy becomes available and it can be offered to a child. Continuing interest lists will be maintained for every year group until the end of the summer term. To retain a CI application after this time, parents must make an In Year application.

Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Parents are entitled to request a place for their child outside of their normal age group.

Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, this will include taking account of:

- Parents' views
- Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development
- Where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional
- Whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group
- Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- The headteacher's views

Wherever possible, requests for admission outside a child's normal age group will be processed as part of the main admissions round. They will be considered on the basis of the admission arrangements laid out in this policy, including the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6. Applications will not be treated as a lower priority if parents have made a request for a child to be admitted outside the normal age group.

Parents will always be informed of the reasons for any decision on the year group a child should be admitted to. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

NURSERY ADMISSIONS

Decisions to offer a place will be based on the criteria and procedures laid out in the Nursery admission policy.

Gade Valley Primary School Nursery class has an intake in September of children who will be 4 years old during that academic year.

Parents/carers will need to contact the school office on 01442 391324 to request a Nursery Application form.

Any spare places will be allocated during the year, as they become available.

There is no automatic transition from a Nursery class into Reception. It is a separate application process that does not take into account which early education or childcare the child has attended.

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the governing body annually.

Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 requires the governing bodies of all maintained schools to endeavor to admit a child with a statement of special educational needs that names their school. Schools must also endeavor to admit children with an EHC (Education, Health and Care) Plan that names the school.

If there are fewer applications than places available at a school all applicants will be admitted. If there are more applications than places available, the criteria outlined below will be used to prioritise applications.