

BRANCASTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY

1 Introduction

1.1 Our governing body applies the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend this school. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 introduced a new framework for school admissions as of September 2000. This was later revised in the Education Act of 2002. Our Admissions policy conforms to the regulations that are set out in that Act and are further explained in the statutory School Admissions Code of Practice and the statutory Appeals Code of Practice. These were revised in January 2003 and came into force in September 2004.

2 Aims

2.1 We seek to be an inclusive school, welcoming children from all backgrounds and abilities.

2.2 The only restriction we place on entry is that of number. If the number of children applying for entry exceeds the places available, we adopt the procedure set out below to determine whether a child is to be accepted or not. It is our wish for parents to find a place for their child at the school of their choice. However, this is not always possible, due to excess demand on the places available.

2.3 A child's level of ability is irrelevant to this school's admissions policy, as are any special needs the child may have.

Admissions

The School has an Admissions Number of **11** in each year group

The Governors will give preference, in this order, to:

- (1) 'Looked after children' in public care
- (2) Children with a statement of special educational needs naming this school
- (3) Children from the catchment area with siblings already at the school (see notes 1 and 2)
- (4) Children from the catchment area (see note 1)
- (5) Children from outside the catchment area with siblings already at the school (see note 2)
- (6) Children from outside the catchment area whose parents worship in the Church of England and express a wish for them to attend a Church of England school. (see note 3)
- (7) If, within category 6, there are still more children than places available, those children living nearer the school 'as the crow flies' will be accepted

The School admits children at the beginning of the school year in which they become 5 years old. For very young children (for example those whose birthdays fall in the summer term) and in discussion with parents, this could be part-time rather than full-time in the first instance. Parents may not defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which admission is sought.

Prospective parents are very welcome to make an appointment to visit the School. Children are invited to attend induction sessions prior to joining. Applications are co-ordinated by the County Council. All applications should be submitted to Norfolk County Council stating parents' preference of schools by the last working day in December in the year preceding admission. Application forms are sent to all parents of children due to start school providing an interest has been registered at any Norfolk school.

Where a child has special needs the parents and the LEA will be fully consulted at the time of registration regarding the provision required to meet these needs.

In certain circumstances, and after consultation between parents, governors, staff and the LEA, pupils outside the age range 5-11 have been, and may continue to be, admitted for academic and/or social reasons.

Offers of places will be sent by Norfolk County Council by first class post during April. This letter will include full details of how to make an appeal.

Note 1: Where a child lives with each parent for part of the week, he/she will be eligible for admission under criteria (1) and (2) when he/she is living at the address within the catchment area in the family unit for at least 4 nights per week.

Note 2: Siblings are defined as brothers/sisters living at the same address including step brothers/sisters and children in foster care within the same family unit.

Note 3: Prospective parents will be invited to meet the Rector in order that faith based background be determined following the attached Diocesan guidelines.

Reviewed 18th March 2019

Signed
John Ward, Chair of Governors

Next Review Date: Spring 2020