Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2025/26
St George's Beneficial Church of England Primary School

This policy will apply to all admissions for the academic year 2025/26 including in year applications.
The Published Admission Number is 30 for September 2025

If the school is oversubscribed, applications will be considered first according to the following priorities in the order set out below: -

1. Looked After Children and Previously Look After Children - these are defined as Looked After Children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Previously Looked After Children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a Child Arrangement Order of a Special Guardianship Order. Please see 'Additional Information'.

2. Children or families who have a significant medical, physical, psychological or social need. Evidence must be attached with the application form. Applications under this criterion must be supported by written evidence from an appropriate professional involved stating clearly why the preferred school is the most appropriate for the child and reasons why other schools in the city are inappropriate. Please see 'Additional Information'.

3. Children living within the school's designated catchment area. (If the school cannot admit all applications from the catchment area, applicants will be ranked within this category in accordance with priorities in 4. below:

4. Children living outside the school's catchment area in the following priority order: -

   i) children who have a brother or sister (living within the same household) already on roll and who will still be attending the school the following academic year;
   Note – this category does include step-brothers/step-sisters, adoptive and foster brothers/sisters living within the same household or children whose parents are married or cohabiting and live together within the same household.

   ii) Children whose parents have a religious conviction for attending the school. Please see 'Additional Information';

   iii) children eligible for service premium

   Note - service premium is paid to eligible children of armed services personnel under S14 of the Education Act 2002

Pupils are eligible for service pupil premium if they meet one of the following criteria:

- One of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service).
- They have been registered as a ‘service child’ on a school census in the past 6 years (see below the DfE’s ‘Ever 6 Service Child measure’
- One of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme
- One of their parents is in the armed forces of another nation and is stationed in England

iv) Children of staff employed at the school (or school on an adjacent site)

(a) Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for 2 or more years at the time at which the application is made, and or

(b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

v) Children who live closest to the school, based on the shortest distance from home to school, measured on a straight line ‘as the crow flies’. (This distance will be used where necessary to prioritise applications). Please see ‘Additional Information’ below.Should there be two or more identical distances requiring prioritisation, this will be done by random allocation. Please see ‘Additional Information’ below.

Note: Should a school be oversubscribed from within any criteria then any additional criteria will be used to prioritise applications within these categories.

Additional Information

Pupils with a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan

The Admission code states “All children whose Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan names the school must be admitted”. These children will have priority for admission over and above all other admission applications and will be included in the admissions allocation process.

Co-ordinated Scheme

The admission and application process, including key dates are outlined in the Co-Ordinated Scheme 2025/26

Looked after children

A ‘Looked After Child’ is a child who is in
a) the care of a Local Authority, or
b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

A child is regarded as being 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. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12 Adoption Order) and children adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Section 46 Adoption Orders).

Child Arrangement Orders are defined in Section 8 of The Children Act 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 22.04.201 is deemed to be a Child Arrangement 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(s).

Medical, Physical, Psychological or Social Need

If a child or a family member has a significant medical, physical, psychological or social need that you would like taken into account when places are allocated, applicants should tick the relevant box on the application form and submit supporting evidence to support their request. The evidence must be in writing from a Doctor or other appropriate professional involved with the child/family member’s health, wellbeing or specific family circumstances. In all cases evidence must show why it is appropriate that the child attends the preferred school and why other schools in the city are inappropriate.

Catchment Areas

A catchment area is a geographical area defined by the council. The idea of having a catchment area is to give some priority for the admission of children living in the local area of the school. Please note - living in the catchment area does not guarantee a place at the school. The catchment area is determined by the home address (the child’s permanent residence). Catchment areas for individual addresses can be looked up on the council’s website or catchment maps for individual schools can be obtained by contacting the Admissions Team.

Sibling Link

A sibling link is defined as a child’s brother or sister (living in the same household) already on roll and attending the school you have applied to, or at a linked feeder junior school and who will still be attending the school the following academic year. This category includes step-brothers/step-sisters, adoptive and foster brothers/sisters who are living in the same household, or children whose parents are married or cohabiting and live together within the same household. This does not include siblings who live in a different household. Twins, triplets and other children of multiple births will be admitted above the admission limit of a school if the limit has been reached by admitting one of the multiple birth children. A sibling link at the school does not guarantee admission to the school.

Religious Criteria

St. George's is a designated Church of England Primary School and applicants have the option of applying for the school on the basis of their religious convictions. The school welcomes applicants of all faiths. This has to be evidenced by the completion of the Place of Worship Form, signed by the applicant's religious leader. There will be a link to the Place of Worship Form on the online application. There is an expectation that the family, including the applicants, will be regular attenders at the Place of Worship for their faith (approximately 12 times a year and have been resident more than a year or monthly since resident in the U.K).

Children eligible for service premium

Service premium is paid to eligible children of armed services personnel under Section 14 of the Education Act 2002. The service premium is designed to support children with parents serving in the regular British armed forces. Pupils attract the premium if they meet the following criteria:

- One of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service)
- They have been registered as a 'Service Child' on a school census in the past 6 years (see below the DfE's 'Ever 6 Service Child Measure'.
- One of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, or the War Pensions Scheme.
- One of their parents is in the armed forces of another nation and is stationed in England.

Children of staff employed at the school

a) Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for 2 or more years at the time at which the application is made, and, or
b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a skill shortage

Distance Measurement

Where it is necessary to prioritise applications, the criteria will be prioritised based on the shortest distance from the child's home to school, measured in a straight line 'as the crow flies'. Distances will be measured using the council's Geographical Information System (GIS) department. The Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) unique property reference coordinates will be used to represent the school, whilst home coordinates will be primarily derived from the LLPG, with Ordnance Survey's ADDRESS-POINT product used as support. Only distances measured by GIS will be taken into account for the purposes of the distance criteria. Should there be two or more identical distances, the prioritisation will be done by random allocation. Shared residency arrangements - the child's admission address will be based on the address agreed by parents but in the event of a dispute regarding the admission's address, it will be based on the address at which child benefit is paid. In the absence of child benefit being paid, other evidence supplied will be used to determine the child's allocation address. The Local Authority will have the final decision. However, parents will also need to agree on the preference schools.

Appeals

If a parent is unsuccessful with any of their preferences, they will have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel and will be provided with the relevant information by the Admissions Team at Portsmouth City Council.

Waiting Lists

All parents who have been refused a place at the school will have the option to remain on the waiting list. Children will be held on the waiting list by order of the criteria in the admissions policy. No account can be taken of the length of time a pupil is on the list. A pupil's position can change on the list as new applicants join or other applicants come off the waiting list. Children will remain on a waiting list only until the end of the academic year, August 2026. If parents/carers want their children to be on the waiting list for the following academic year, they must reapply. The Admissions Team may also write to applicants on the waiting list during the academic year to confirm if they wish to remain on the waiting list.

Starting a child in school

Parents who are allocated a place via the Starting School allocation process can start their child in September.

They can also discuss deferring entry of their child to later in the school year, or go parent time - but not beyond the point at which they reach statutory school age (which is the term following their 5th birthday) or for children born between 1st April and 31st August (Summer born), not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year, for which the offer was made. Any such requests should be discussed and agreed with the allocated school following confirmation of their allocation.

For parents wishing to delay the whole of the year for a Summer born child, please read the following information on the webpage - Apply to start School - Portsmouth City Council.

Admission out of chronological year group

Children will usually be admitted into their chronological year group, except in significant exceptional circumstances and with the agreement of the admissions authority. Where children may have missed school, been educated in another country, or have been out of education, these problems can usually be addressed by additional support in the child's chronological year group. For gifted and talented pupils, parents can discuss directly with the school the way a provision is made for these pupils. Admissions authorities must make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development, any medical issues and views of professionals involved with the child.

Fair Access Protocol

The Local Authority operates a Fair Access Protocol which prioritises admissions to certain categories of school age children. This protocol relates to admission applications during the year, but does not apply to children applying in the normal admissions round. The protocol takes priority above the school's admissions policy for those on a waiting list and the LA may require the school to admit above their published admission number.