



Non-Statutory Nursery Admissions policy

2023-2024

Vision For Education In Our Church School: At Toddington St. George, our curriculum is underpinned by our mission statement, core values and vision for education.

Let Your Light Shine Matthew 5:15

St. George's is a loving and caring community and our Christian values are at the heart of everything we do.

Every child and adult in our community is wanted, accepted and respected. God makes each person unique in many special ways. Each and every person is precious, bringing special distinctiveness, gifts and talents to the world, things that no one else can; at St. George's we call these our sparks.

Our vision, inspired by the gospel according to Matthew, is that together, we light our sparks and let our light shine, living God's love. At St. George's we are creating a deeply Christian school for our whole community.

Lighting A Spark In Everyone

The Governing Body is responsible for the admission of pupils to Toddington St Georges Church of England Academy and admits 26 pupils to the morning session and 26 pupils to the afternoon session of the Nursery each September.

This admission number has been agreed by the Governing Body and applies to the year 2023. The Governing Body, as the Admission Authority, will allocate the available places in line with this policy.

The closing date for admission application forms to be received by the academy is as advertised by the school; annually. The date of submission will be by the last Friday in March of any year.

All applications **must** be made via Toddington St George Application Form. Information on completing the application and notification dates of admission decisions are published by the school on the website.

Admission to the Nursery is conditional on the first 15 hours of free childcare funding being directed to the academy throughout the child's time in the Nursery.

The school does have a Hearing Impaired Provision for pupils with hearing needs, but there are no specific facilities for pupils with physical disabilities. The school is however on a level site, and all the accommodation is on one floor; there are also ramps at the entrance to the Year 4 access area and to the external huts. All classrooms may be entered without steps apart from two Year 4 classes. Should access be required to these classes, class arrangements will be changed to ensure access for all. As far as possible, the school will ensure that pupils with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as other pupils.

The school provides for the admission of all successful applicants who were born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020.

The Governors are required to admit a pupil with an Education, Health and Care plan which names the school. When there are more applications than there are places available, the Governors will admit pupils according to the following criteria in order of priority.

The admissions criteria will be applied separately and sequentially until all places are filled. Priority is not given within each criterion to children who meet other criteria.

- 1) Children who are in public care (looked after children) or those who were previously looked after but have ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order. This includes children who appear to the Admission Authority to have been in state care (i.e. in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider whose sole/main purpose is to benefit society) outside of England but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted only.
- 2) Children living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
- 3) Children living in the catchment area
- 4) Other children with siblings at the school
- 5) Children whose parents are staff at the school
- 6) Children who live nearest to the school determined by straight line distance from the school site to the child's home address.

The Academy operates a single intake policy in September of each year.

Applications made after the closing date for Nursery applications

Where an application is received after the closing date for Nursery applications, admission will be on the basis of places being available in the Nursery class. The total number of places available in the Nursery class sessions at the date of application may be fewer than 26 where staffing

arrangements for the confirmed September intake have already been finalised, in accordance with the staff:pupil ratios set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework 2021. If more applications for places are received than places available then the above criteria will apply.

Definitions and notes:

Looked after' children: A 'looked after' child is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

Previously 'looked after' children: A previously 'looked after' child is one who immediately after being 'looked after' became subject to an adoption, child arrangement, or special guardianship order. An 'adoption order' is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'child arrangement order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. 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).

Catchment area

'Nursery catchment' aligns with the statutory catchment area for the school. A geographical area from which children are given priority for admission to the particular school. Please see www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions for more information on statutory school catchment areas.

Home Address

A pupil's home address will be regarded as the address of the parent / carer with parental responsibility with whom the child normally lives. This will not usually include grandparents, aunts or uncles. Where a child spends time with parents / carers at more than one address, the address used to allocate a school place will be the one at which the pupil is ordinarily resident and where the child spends the majority of the school week (Mondays to Fridays) including nights.

If there is any query on the home address this will be checked against original official documentation e.g. council tax bill, a recent utility bill (gas, electricity or water), a rental agreement, child benefit annual statement or family tax credit information.

Siblings

A sibling refers to a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, the brother or sister or the child of the parent / carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living at the same address. The sibling must be

in the school at the time of application and be likely to remain in the school at the proposed date of admission.

Distance

The distance the pupil lives from the school is measured in a straight line, using the information the school already has from the local authority's computerised measuring system for **statutory** pupils. This will be the guide used for measuring the distance from the address point of the pupil's home to a point on the school site agreed with the governing body of the school.

Tie-breaker

The distance criterion will be used as a tiebreaker in each criterion where required to determine the allocation of places. The distance the pupil lives from the school, which is measured in a straight line, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. The advice of the local authority would be requested to measure the distance from the address point of the pupil's home to a point on the school site agreed with the governing body of the school. In the event of (a) two or more children living at the same address point (e.g. children resident in a block of flats) or (b) two addresses measuring the same distance from the school, the ultimate tie-breaker will be random selection software to allocate the place.

Staff

Staff definition: This applies to permanent, full or part-time, staff who have been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time of application and/or staff recruited to fill a vacant post where there was a demonstrable skill shortage. The relationship to the child is defined as by blood or adoption or with legal parental responsibility and living with the child in the same house Monday – Fridays. The definition does not include peripatetic staff.

Twins and multiple births

Where a twin or multiple birth sibling has been offered the last available place then the other twin or sibling(s) will be offered a place as exceptions to the infant class size rule.

Waiting list

Toddington St George will maintain a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants. If a vacancy arises a place will be offered according to the oversubscription priorities above.

Applications for a Reception

Attendance in the nursery does not guarantee a place in Reception in the main school the following year. Nursery children must reapply for a place in the main school via Central Bedfordshire Council as per the instructions on the admissions page on their website.

Deferred Reception Places

If you are requesting a deferred Reception place for your child, this must be done in line with the academies statutory admissions policy for the year your child would chronologically start Reception. You will also need to make a new request for a Nursery place as per the non-statutory nursery policy for that year.

Appeals

Parents do not have a right of appeal against a decision to decline an application for a nursery place.