St Chad's CE Primary School Admissions Policy 2027 - 2028

1. Statutory Framework

St Chad's C of E Primary School is an Academy. The Forward as One Church of England Multi Academy Trust is the admissions authority for the school. The Trustees apply the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend one of its schools. Schools will comply with the provisions within the Schools Admissions Code 2021 and the Schools Appeal code available at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academy-admissions

School Information

St Chad's C of E Primary School is an inclusive school that welcomes children from all backgrounds and abilities. The only restriction placed on entry is number. If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied. It is our wish to allow parents the right to have the place at the school of their choice. However, this is not always possible due to excess demand on the places available.

St Chad's has a Published Admission Number of **30**

Infant Class Size Legislation

Infant classes (those where the majority of children will reach the age of 5, 6 or 7 during the school year) must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single school teacher (as defined in Section 4 of the SSFA 1998). 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.

Subsequent guidance has made it clear that local authorities are expected to ensure that older children who have experienced the benefit of restricted class numbers should continue to benefit from a similar limit on the size of junior classes.

Application Procedures

Oldham residents will apply for a reception school place using the Oldham on-line facility. The application period will run from 1st September 2026 to 15th January 2027.

Applications received after the appropriate closing date will be regarded as late unless, in the judgement of FA1 MAT, there are significant and exceptional reasons for the lateness. Proof of special circumstances will be required.

Late applications are not considered until all on-time applicants have been allocated places.

A child's name will be automatically placed on the waiting list (for the individual school first applied to) where they have been refused a place in the school's normal year of entry.

In-Year Admissions applications

Oldham residents, who wish to apply for a place in the first year at school after the first school day in September, or to any other age group at any time, will apply on the local authority Common Transfer Application Form.

Oversubscription criteria

The duty to comply with parental preferences requires that all applicants will be offered a place providing there are enough places in the school for everyone who applies.

All children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where the school is named will be allocated places before the oversubscription criteria are applied.

If the number of applications exceeds the admission number, it will be necessary to determine which pupils can be offered a place by applying the following oversubscription criteria in priority order. Oversubscription Criteria for St Chad's Primary School

Criterion 1.

Children in public care and previously looked after children will be given the highest priority for admission. This includes any "looked after child", "previously looked after children" and any child

who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.
'Looked after' means that the child was (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions. This criteria also includes looked after children and all previously looked after children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Criterion 2
Children who are considered to have exceptional medical or social reasons as to why they should attend a particular school. Parents will be required to submit evidence to support their application under this criterion (see note (a) below).

Criterion 3
Children who already have a sibling at the school and who will still be attending when their brother/sister starts in Reception. (see note (b) below).

Criterion 4
Geographical proximity to school, with those families living nearest to the school having higher priority. Distance is measured in a straight line between the home postcode (see note (c) below) and the school's postcode, measured electronically by GIS software within the admission database using Post Office data and Ordnance Survey data.

Notes

(a) Exceptional reasons for priority over other applicants - Decisions must be consistent and based on objective evidence, which must be provided in writing by an appropriate professional e.g. a doctor or a social worker.

(b) Siblings –St Chad's accepts that in some family units (1 or 2 parents/carers and children), the children may not be natural brothers and/or sisters. Other children from the same family unit can be considered as a sibling link under this criterion provided that proof is available to demonstrate that the children are permanently resident at the same address and part of the same family unit.

(c) Tie breaker - Should it be necessary to distinguish between applicants with equal priority within any of the above criteria, the distance is measured as a straight line from the child's home address to the school property measured between the two central data points of the home postcode and school post code. Measurements are calculated using Geographical Information System mapping software based on Ordnance Survey and Postcode data.

Permanent Address

The only address St Chad's can consider is the address of the adult with whom the child is permanently resident. Where a child stays with another parent for part of the week, further enquiries may be made in order to determine where the child is permanently resident. Proof of residence will be required.

Any allegations received by the admission authority of people providing false accommodation for school places shall be fully investigated and, if found to be true, allocated places maybe withdrawn.

If a childminder, grandparents or another member of the family cares for the child on a daily basis at another address, St Chad's cannot consider this address for the purpose of its admission process to school.

Intention To Move House

An intention to change address cannot be considered by St Chad's until such a move has actually taken place and proof is available to substantiate the change of address. Proof of change of address will be accepted up until the latest reasonable date prior to the final allocation of school place usually in April.

Twins or Triplets

In cases where twins, triplets, or other multiple birth siblings are split when allocations take place, they will be allocated a place over the Published Admission Number and will remain excepted pupils for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit.

Flats

In the event of two or more children living equal distant from the school, e.g. blocks of flats, the place will be decided by drawing lots, the first name drawn will be offered the place.

Start date

There is a legal requirement that all children are in full time education by the beginning of the term following their 5Th birthday. Once a place has been allocated parents/carers can defer the date their child is admitted to school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age. For children born between 1st April and 31st August this cannot be beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made. Deferred entry should be arranged directly with the Head of school for which the application has been made.

Waiting Lists

If a place cannot be offered at the time of application, the child's name will be placed on a waiting list at the parent's request. The waiting list will operate until 31st December. Those on the waiting list and late applicants will be treated equally and placed on the same waiting list. Waiting lists will be held in order of the published admission criteria and will be re-ranked when new applicants are added.

Appeals

All parents have the right to appeal against the refusal of a school place by submitting an appeal to the Independent Appeal Panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admissions Appeal code. This is co-ordinated and managed by the local authority. If parents wish

to appeal they can do so by completing a School Admission Appeal Form and return it to Oldham Council. A decision by an Admission Appeal Panel is binding on the school governors and parents.

Oldham Council School Appeals, Level 4, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham OL1 1UL
Oldham Council School Admission Appeals: Phone: 0161-770-4213
Email: schoolappeals@oldham.gov.uk
Oldham Council School Appeals

Revised in accordance with;
UPDATED ADMISSIONS ADVICE REGARDING THE NEW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CODE FOR ALL MANCHESTER DIOCESAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES.