



## **The Southwater Infant Academy Admissions Policy 2018 – 2019**

The Governing Body of The Southwater Infant Academy is the Admission Authority for the Academy. This means that it is the Governing Body that sets and applies the Admissions Policy for the Academy. The Academy takes part in the co-ordinated admission scheme with West Sussex County Council and the County Council offers places at the Academy for September 2018 admission on behalf of the Governing Body.

When parents are seeking a place for their child to start school for the first time, the application process is co-ordinated by The Pupil Admissions Team at West Sussex County Council. Families are contacted by them during the Autumn of the year before children are due to start school. Applications should be submitted to The Pupil Admissions Team by the deadline of 15 January 2018. Notification of which school has been allocated will be sent out on 16 April 2018.

All parents should apply for a school online at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions). If you have no option but to apply on a paper form, please telephone West Sussex County Council on 03330 142 903 to request one.

There will be an admission number of 120 places available in the Early Years Foundation Stage in 2016. This will be in addition to existing year groups of 120 in Year 1 and 120 in Year 2.

In the event that there are more applicants than places, the Academy Trust will allocate places using the following criteria, which are listed in order of priority:

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

Any child with a statement of special educational need (SEN) or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan naming the school will automatically be admitted to a school, under Section 324 or the Education Act 1996.

- 1) Looked after children (children in public care); and previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or a special guardianship order.
- 2) Children who need a place at the school on exceptional and compelling social, psychological or medical grounds;
  - Parents/carers must provide written supporting evidence from an appropriately qualified person (usually a doctor or social worker). The evidence should state clearly why the school asked for is the only one that can meet the child's needs. Letter from parents are not normally considered sufficient evidence.

- 3) Children who have brothers or sisters already at Southwater Infant Academy and who will still be there when the child starts (brothers or sisters may be half or step-siblings but must be living permanently at the same address);
- 4) Other children who live in the catchment area;
- 5) Children who have brothers or sisters already at Southwater Junior Academy and who will still be there when the child starts (brothers or sisters may be half or step-siblings but must be living permanently at the same address);
- 6) Other children who live within the catchment area for Castlewood Primary School;
- 7) Children who live outside the catchment areas for Southwater Infant Academy, and Castlewood Primary School.

In the case of oversubscription in any of the above categories, priority is given to applicants who live nearest the school measured by a straight line from school to home, using Ordnance Survey address point data from a central point in each building.

In line with Paragraph 1.7 of the School Admissions Code (2014), published by the Department for Education (DfE), the Governing Body is under a duty to consider all applications for an oversubscribed school against its published oversubscription criteria. Parents not offered a place at the Academy will be offered another school by the County Council.

### **Admission Appeals**

If we do not offer a child a place at this academy, it is because to do so would prejudice the education of other children by allowing the numbers of children in the Academy to increase.

Legislation relating to Infant Class Sizes must be adhered to. This means that classes for Reception, Year 1 and 2 must not contain more than 30 pupils with one teacher. In allocating places in these year groups the Academy and West Sussex County Council must comply with this legislation as it is a statutory requirement and every effort must be made to keep over-sized classes to a minimum.

Where parents are refused the schools of their preference, they are advised of their right of appeal and offered the opportunity of having their child's name placed on the waiting list. The waiting list is ordered according to the oversubscription criteria for the academy. This means that a child's name can go down as well as up on the list. The waiting list for community, controlled schools and academies is held and managed by the Pupil Admissions Team at West Sussex County Council until the 31 August each year. They will offer a place to the child at the top of the waiting list when a place becomes available. After this the Governors will hold the waiting list until December 31 each year.

Where the Governors are unable to offer a place because the Academy is over subscribed, parents have the right to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel. Parents have at least 20 school days in which to submit their appeal, as required under paragraph 2.1 of the School Admission Appeal Code.

Further information can be found at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions) or by telephone on 033 301 42903.

### **Deferred Entry**

Once a school place has been allocated every parent has the right to request deferred entry or part time education until the term in which their child is 5 years old. We would encourage parents thinking of this option to come in and talk to the Headteacher. Our preferred practice is that all children start school in September either on a full time or part time basis; we are able to make very flexible part-time arrangements to suit individual children and would encourage parents to take up this option rather than delaying entry altogether.

### **Delayed Entry**

The Government has said it intends to change the School Admission Code so that parents can choose to delay when 'summer born' children (those born between 1 April and 31 August) start school. A national consultation will be held on this proposal with a view to it being approved by parliament in the near future.

This means parents of summer born children (1 April to 31 August) may delay entry for the whole of that academic year and apply for a place in EYFS class in the September following the child's fifth birthday. Parents wishing to apply for a delayed entry must apply in writing to either The Southwater Infant Academy or West Sussex County Council giving their reasons for this application. The decision on whether to allow a request for delayed entry will be made by our Governing Body. A statement of the West Sussex County Council's policy and application form is available at: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-places/admission-of-children-outside-their-normal-year-group/](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-places/admission-of-children-outside-their-normal-year-group/) If the School Admissions Code changes this policy will be updated.

### **Admission outside my child's normal age group**

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group. An application should be made to The Southwater Infant Academy. The decision will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. The right of appeal does not apply if a place is offered at the school but it is not in the preferred age group.

### **In Year Admissions**

Applications for an academy place after the start of the academic year or for any other year group, are processed by The Southwater Infant Academy. Please contact the academy office on 01403 733254 or by e-mail to [office@southwaterinfants.co.uk](mailto:office@southwaterinfants.co.uk)

An application form must be completed and returned to The Southwater Infant Academy.

## **Southwater Junior Academy**

The Southwater Infant Academy and The Southwater Junior Academy operate as two separate academies on a shared site. There is however close cooperation between the two academies.

The offer of a place at The Southwater Infant Academy does not guarantee a place at The Southwater Junior Academy at the end of Year 2. Parents will be asked to apply for a place by the Pupil Admissions Team at West Sussex County Council.

### **Further Information**

All parents are advised to read the Southwater Infant Academy Admission Policy in conjunction with the Local Authority booklet "Information for Parents". Please also refer to this booklet for further information on 'Admission of children outside their normal age group' and 'Deferred entry'.

For further information please contact either:

West Sussex County Council  
The Pupil Admissions Team  
Telephone: 033 301 42903  
E-mail: [admissions.north@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.north@westsussex.gov.uk)

The Southwater Infant Academy  
Admissions Officer  
Mrs Sharon Ashbolt  
Telephone: 01403 733 254  
E-mail: [office@southwaterinfants.co.uk](mailto:office@southwaterinfants.co.uk)