



## **The Beacon Church of England Primary School**

### **Admission Policy 2025 - 2026**

#### **Introduction**

This document sets out the admission arrangements of The Beacon Church of England Primary School. For the purposes of this policy, the Local Governing Body is the admission authority.

#### **Ethos Statement**

We offer a vision of excellence and academic rigour and are committed to providing children of all faiths and none, a high-quality education and environment where Christian values and principles permeate all that we do.

Our school is an inclusive community where all are welcome and are part of the family.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

#### **VISION AND VALUES**

Our Christian Vision is at the core of everything we do.

##### **Our Christian Vision**

##### ***Learning Together, Following Jesus***

*Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life."*

*John 8:12*

*Jesus is the light we follow to provide our children with as many opportunities as possible for a positive future. Through living out our Christian Values, we grow as a strong community. We have high aspirations for both ourselves and the children and believe in being committed to the development of every child at our school, demonstrating love and respect daily.*



### **Aims:**

Our Christian vision is at the core of everything we do. It is who we are and why we are here. We aim to live out our vision through our aims which are:

1. To educate for **wisdom, knowledge and skills** and ensure the best possible outcomes for all pupils.

*At The Beacon we believe in providing our children with as many opportunities as possible for a positive future. Through our inspire curriculum, we aim for all children to live a full and enriched school life. (John 10:10)*

2. To have high **hopes and aspirations** in all aspects of school life.

*At The Beacon we believe in having high aspirations for both ourselves and our children. Timothy 4:17 says, "But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength." We want to provide our children with strength to strive to be the very best they can be.*

3. To follow our Christian Values by **participating** and **living well together** in our community.

*At The Beacon we believe in being positive and doing our best. In this way we can strengthen our community and each other. We will always be welcoming (Jeremiah 29:7) and to live out our Christian values to help us grow as a strong community.*

4. To **respect** everyone and ensure outstanding personal development, behaviour and attitudes.

*At the Beacon we believe in being committed to the development of **every** child at our school, demonstrating love and respect on a daily basis (Corinthians 13:4-7).*

### **Christian Values**

We have twelve core values which are embedded in the life and work of the school and the community. They are: Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service, Truthfulness, Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship and Respect. We focus on one value each half term over a two-year cycle.

These values are clear in everything we do and how we operate. They reflect the core ideology of our school and do not change over time. Values are what we live, breathe and these are reflected in our day-to-day activities.



We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect the ethos and its importance to the school community.

This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

### **Process**

1. Applications for admission to the school should be made using the Local Authority Common Application Form by the national closing date of 15th January. Parents/carers of children already in our school nursery will need to follow the same application process.
2. The Local Authority will inform parents of the offer of a place on behalf of the Local Governing Body on the national offer date 16th April or the next working day.
3. The Beacon Church of England Primary School has an admission number of 60 pupils for entry into Reception. The school will accordingly admit at least 60 each year if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 60 or fewer apply. The school will admit any pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school. Priority will then be given to those children who meet the criteria in the order set out below.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

#### **Priority 1**

#### **Looked after Children, Previously Looked after Children and Internationally Adopted Looked After Children (LAC, PLAC and IAPLAC)**

The first oversubscription criterion must always be Looked After, Previously Looked After and Internationally Adopted Previously Looked After Children. As this is a legal requirement, it automatically appears as the first of the school's oversubscription criteria.

A "Looked After Child" (LAC) is a child who is:

- (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. (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to the school.

A "Previously Looked After Child" (PLAC) is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after.



An “Internationally Adopted Previously Looked After Child” (IAPLAC) is a child who appears (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.

## Priority 2

### Children with exceptional medical / social needs.

- Definition of Exceptional Medical Need

The term ‘Exceptional Medical Need’ means that the child’s health and welfare would be best served if they attended the school. Parents would need to provide medical evidence in the form of a letter or report from a doctor to support their case. They would have to establish that the school was the best / only school to serve their child’s needs. They would also need to state why other schools could not provide the appropriate support for their child.

- Definition of Exceptional Social Need

The term ‘Exceptional Social Need’ means that the child’s welfare would be best served if they attended the school. Parents would need to provide evidence in the form of a letter or report from a social worker or other professional in the area of children’s welfare to support their case. They would have to establish that the school was the best / only school to service their child’s needs. They would also need to state why other schools could not provide the appropriate support for their child.

Applicants wishing to be considered under this criterion should submit documentary evidence to **the school by the closing date. The preference form should still be submitted to the LA.** The Admission Governors will review the evidence and if necessary, take advice from educational professionals, medical professionals, social workers etc. A decision will be made as to whether your application falls under this criterion based on the evidence supplied. If your circumstances change after the closing date or you require further advice or assistance, please contact the school.

## Priority 3

### Siblings

Siblings of pupils attending the school during the academic year to which the child would be admitted. The term sibling includes: brothers and sisters, foster brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters and step brothers or sisters living at the same address and as a family unit.



#### **Priority 4**

All other applicants who have expressed a preference for the school

#### **Tie-breaker**

In the event of over-subscription within any of the above criteria than there are places available, distance from the child's permanent home address to the main entrance of the school will be used to determine which child will be admitted. Those children living closest will be given preference.

Proximity to the school. We will measure the distance by a straight line. All straight-line distances are calculated electronically using a geographical information system.

In the event that two or more children live at the same distance from the school (as can happen with families living in blocks of flats), random allocation, where supervised drawing of lots by an independent responsible person of good standing will be used to decide which child(ren) will be allocated the remaining place(s) (in accordance with 1.34 and 1.35 of the School Admissions Code).

#### **Late applications**

Preference forms received after the closing date will be considered as late applications unless there is a valid reason for the application being late e.g. change of address, change in a medical condition or exceptional circumstances.

All applications submitted before the national closing date will be considered equally and included in the Local Authority initial allocation of school places. Applications received after the national closing date will be processed in accordance with Liverpool admissions scheme for schools.

Supporting evidence for Priority 2, Social/Medical needs, must also be supplied to the school by the closing date for applications, unless it is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which reasonably prevented it being submitted on time. In the absence of such supporting evidence, the allocation of places will be made on the basis of the application alone.

#### **School age**

A full-time school place in the Reception class is available for children from the September following their 4th birthday.

#### **Deferred entry for reception children**

Parents offered a place for their child have a right to defer entry, or to take a place up part-time, until the start of the term beginning immediately after their child has reached compulsory school age. However, places cannot be deferred until the next academic year.



### **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range, for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting on their schooling. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.

All such requests will be considered on their merits and either agreed or refused, on that basis. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

The process for requesting such an admission is as follows:

With the application, parents should request that the child is admitted to another year group (state which one), and the reasons for that request. Parents will submit any evidence in support of their case with the application, for instance from a medical practitioner, Headteacher etc. Some of the evidence a parent might submit could include:

- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and
- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

The school will consider each case on its merits, taking into account the individual circumstances of the request and the child's best interests. We will also ensure the parent is aware of whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed before final offers are made, the reason for any refusal and information and actions for parents of summer born children for reception classes.

Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time.

### **In-Year admissions**

From time to time a place becomes available further up the school. The allocation of places is in accordance with the admissions criteria.



## **Children of UK Service Personnel & other Crown Servants**

The Admission Governors will consider admission applications for children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces) and other Crown Servants in advance of the family arriving in the area, provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address. If the application is for a reception place the parents need to complete the LA application form. If the school is oversubscribed the Governors will consider the application against the oversubscription criteria.

## **Waiting Lists**

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. The LA, will coordinate on behalf of the governors, the waiting list for reception admissions.

Where in any year the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the first term after the beginning of the school year. This will be maintained by the admission authority and it will be open to any parent to ask for their child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application. Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves it.

## **Appeals Procedure**

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code.

Appellants should contact

The School Business Manager

The Beacon Church of England Primary School

Heyworth Street,

Liverpool,

L5 3QG

or information on how to appeal.

The Notice of Appeal which will be in the information provided should be received by school within 20 school days of the date of the letter refusing your child a place at the school.

Information on the timetable for the appeals process is on our website at

<http://www.beaconceprimary.co.uk>.



### **Address definition**

The address is the place where the child is permanently resident with his or her parent or parents or legal guardians. Evidence may be requested to show the address, for example: to which any Child Benefit is paid or at which the child is registered with a medical GP together with recent utilities bill, council tax bill or tenancy agreement. This evidence will be used when reaching a decision on the child's home address for admissions purposes (including where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility for each part of the week). Parents should not assume that a place will automatically be allocated to their child.

### **Enquiries**

Should be to The School Business Manager, The Beacon CE Primary, Heyworth Street, Liverpool, Merseyside, L5 3QG.