



Sandwich Infant School

Admissions Policy for Entry 2024-25

Date of next Review: September 2025

Our Vision – Where everyone is valued and learning is fun

Our Values - Kindness, Curiosity, Determination, Honesty

Admissions Policy 2024/2025

Introduction

At Sandwich Infant School our vision and values reflect our commitment to an academy where there are high expectations of everyone. Children are provided with learning opportunities so that each child attains and achieves all that they can. Everyone in our school is important and included. We work hard to ensure that there are no invisible children here, recognising everyone's uniqueness and success. We recognise learning in all its forms and are committed to nurturing lifelong learners. We are a safe environment, committed to improving children's confidence and self-esteem. We know that safe and happy children achieve.

Sandwich Infant School is a member of Aquila; The Diocese of Canterbury's Academy Trust and will comply with all relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code, the School Admission Appeals Code and the law on admissions.

Process:

Sandwich Infant School has an admission number of 56 pupils for entry into Reception. The school will accordingly admit at least 56 each year if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 56 or fewer apply. The school will admit any pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school.

Applications for admission to the school should be made using the Local Authority Common Application Form by the national closing date of 15th January.

The Local Authority will inform parents of the offer of a place on behalf of the Local Authority on the national offer date 16th April or the next working day.

Priority will then be given to those children who meet the oversubscription criteria set out below.

Oversubscription Criteria:

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 a 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.

2. Social and Medical need

Priority will be given in exceptional circumstances to a small number of children (or in some cases a close relative of the child) whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend this school over any other.

Supporting evidence in the form of a letter from a doctor or social worker or other relevant qualified, independent professional, would be required. Medical, health, social and special access reasons will be applied in accordance with the school's legal obligations and does not guarantee that a child will be given priority as each decision will be made on the merits of the individual case.

3. Siblings

Siblings of pupils attending the school at the time of application. 'Sibling' means a natural brother or sister, a half brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, a step brother or sister, or other child living in the same household who, in any of these cases, will be living with them at the same address at the date of their entry to the school.

4. Distance from school

Proximity to the school with those living closest to the school having priority calculated by: We use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to the point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody.

The child's home address will be determined by:

The address is the place where the child is permanently resident with his or her parent or parents or legal guardians. Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility the 'home address' is considered to be the address at which they sleep for the majority of school nights. Further information can be found below.

Tie-breaker - 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).

If siblings from multiple births (twins, triplets, etc) apply for a school and the school would reach its Published Admission Number (PAN) after admitting one or more, but before admitting all of those siblings, the school will offer a place to each of the siblings, even if doing so takes the school above its PAN. If the admissions are to Year R, and so result in a breach of infant class size legislation, the additional pupil(s) will be treated as “excepted” for the time they are in an infant class or until the numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit, as defined in the School Admissions Code.

Late applications

Applications received after the closing date and before the school admissions meeting will be placed last in the criteria in which they fall unless the admissions committee is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which reasonably prevented the application from being submitted on time. Supporting evidence must also be supplied 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 place will be made on the basis of the application alone.

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. Preference will be given to children moving into the area from outside the Local Authority area who do not have a school place. Evidence will need to be provided that the child has recently moved in.

Withdrawal of an Offer of a Place

After a place has been offered, the school reserves the right to withdraw the place in the following circumstances: -

- when a parent/carer has failed to respond to an offer within 14 working days
- when a parent/carer has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information
- when the place was offered on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent/carer.

Fraudulent applications

Where the school has made an offer of a place at a school based on fraudulent or intentionally misleading information, which has effectively denied a place to a child with a higher right of admission, the school will withdraw the offer of a place. If the school withdraws an offer of a place you will be notified of your right to appeal to an independent appeal panel.

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

Waiting Lists

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. 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 School Office at Sandwich Infant School at School Rd, Sandwich CT13 9HT within 20 days of the date of the letter refusing your child a place at the school for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals process is on our website at <https://www.sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk/>.

School age

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

Deferred entry for infants

A child is entitled to a full time place in the September following their 4th birthday. Parents have the right to defer their child's entry until later in the school year, or to attend part-time until they reach compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred to the next academic year.

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 office

Sandwich Infant School

SCHOOL ROAD,

SANDWICH,

KENT,

CT13 9HT