

Consultation on proposed changes to Castle Hill St Philip's CE Primary School's Admission Policy for 2026-27

The Governing Board is consulting on proposed changes to its admission policy for 2026-27.

The Governors are proposing to amend their criteria to -

- clarify church attendance and reduce the frequency of church attendance in line with advice from Liverpool Diocese and the Church of England. Regular church attendance is now deemed to be once a month and so eight times in the twelve months immediately prior to the date of application is the recommended frequency of attendance to allow for missed months due to illness/holidays/cancelled services.
- add Baptism as one of the oversubscription criteria. Many families struggle to attend church regularly so governors wanted to add Baptism as it demonstrates support for the Christian faith and distinctiveness of the school.
- add Children of Staff as one of the oversubscription criteria. Governors wish to support the wellbeing of staff.
- Change the priority for children with siblings at the school. Governors want commitment to the Christian faith to take priority over siblings as some parents of children meeting the sibling criteria may not support the Christian distinctiveness of the school

The school's full proposed arrangements are below. If you have any questions about the school's proposed admission arrangements, please contact Mrs Hilton at the school on 01942 255578.

Proposed Admissions Policy 2026-27

Castle Hill St Philip's CE Primary School
Admission number: 30

Introduction

This document sets out the admission arrangements of Castle Hill St Philip's CofE Primary School. For the purposes of this policy, the Governing Body is the admission authority.

Process

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 Governing Body on the national offer date 16th April or the next working day.

Castle Hill St Philip's CofE Primary School has an admission number of 30 pupils for entry into Reception. The school will accordingly admit at least 30 each year if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 30 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 set out below.

Oversubscription Criteria

1. Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children.

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. Regular attendance at public worship in any Church of England church.

Attendance will be established by information provided on the Supplementary Information Form completed by a member of the clergy or other designated church officer. For the purposes of these admission arrangements 'regular' means attendance at least eight times in the twelve months immediately prior to the date of application.

3. Attendance at public worship in any other Christian church.

For the purposes of these admission arrangements 'other Christian church' means a church which is Designated under the Ecumenical Relations Measure 2018, nationally by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, or locally by the diocesan bishop, or which is a member of Churches Together in England, or affiliated to the Evangelical Alliance or a Partner Church of Affinity. The list of nationally Designated churches can be found at

[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/list_of_designated_churches_3_o ct_18.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/list_of_designated_churches_3_oct_18.pdf)

A parent or parents wishing to apply against this criterion must complete a Supplementary Application Form. Attendance at public worship will be established by information provided on the Supplementary Information Form, including verification by the relevant Minister/Faith Leader or their designated officer. For the purposes of these admission arrangements 'regular' means attendance at least eight times in the twelve months immediately prior to the date of application.

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

4. Baptism at any Christian church

Baptism at any Christian church means a church which is Designated under the Ecumenical Relations Measure 2018, nationally by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, or locally by the diocesan bishop, or which is a member of Churches Together in England, or affiliated to the Evangelical Alliance or a Partner Church of Affinity. The list of nationally Designated churches can be found at https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/list_of_designated_churches_3_o ct_18.pdf

A parent or parents wishing to apply against this criterion must complete a Supplementary Application Form and provide evidence of baptism ie original Baptism certificate or re-issued Baptism certificate at the time of application.

5. Siblings of pupils attending the school at the time of admission. '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.

6. Children of staff

Children of all staff will be considered where the parent has a permanent contract of employment. Their normal base of work must be at Hereford Road, Hindley, Wigan, Lancashire, WN2 4DH and their employment contract must have been in place for two or more years at the time of the closing date for application for admission.

7. Distance from school

Proximity to the school with those living closest to the school having priority calculated by: Children living closest to the school measured by a straight line distance from the home address to the main entrance using the Local Authority measuring system. The child's home address will be determined by:

When considering your child's application, we will use the permanent home address we have for you at the closing date for applications. If parents are separated and the child spends time at each parents' address, the address which will be used for admission to schools is the address where the child sleeps the majority of the school nights (Sunday to Thursday) during the week in term time. Where there is a dispute or equal nights are slept, parent will be asked to provide proof of the address registered with the child's GP. We may ask to see additional forms of evidence of your home address (photocopies are acceptable). This may include:

- Proof of where you are registered for council tax.
- Your television licence.
- Wage-salary slip.
- Proof of your child tax credits.

Any evidence you provide must show that the parent or main carer lives at this address. We may seek evidence by other means if the parent/carers is unable to provide sufficient proof of their residence.

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 and with the support of the Local Authority where required

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

Applications received after the closing date and before the [Admissions Authority] admission meeting will be placed last in the criteria in which they fall unless the [Admissions Authority] is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which reasonably prevented the application from being submitted on time. Supporting evidence, including that provided by the required Supplementary Information Form, 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 places 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.

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.
- 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. An application from a child who would 'normally' be a year 1 child for a year R place will be considered alongside applications for year R.

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 the Admin Officer at Castle Hill St Philip's CofE Primary School at Hereford Road, Hindley, Wigan, WN2 4DH 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.castlehill.wigan.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

All admissions enquiries should be made to Admin Officer at Hereford Road, Hindley, Wigan, WN2 4DH.

CASTLE HILL ST PHILIP'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church Attendance Reference Form



Child's Full Name

Date of Birth **Home Telephone No.**

Address (including postcode)
.....
.....

Name of parent/carer
.....

Mobile No. **E-mail**

Place of worship

Name of place of worship

Address

.....

Worship attendance

I wish to confirm regular church attendance for the above child/child's family.

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these [admissions] arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship".

Signed (Church Representative).....**Position held**

Date