

**Catshill Middle School and
Catshill First School & Nursery**

Admissions Policy

Reviewed: September 2017

Next Review: September 2018

Signature Chair of Committee

Date

Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Commissioned Services

Human Resources – Liberata
Learning and Achievement – Babcock Prime

Admissions – Babcock Prime
Finance – WCC/Liberata

CATSHILL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND CATSHILL FIRST SCHOOL & NURSERY
ADMISSIONS POLICY for 2018/19

Applying for Places

Applications are welcomed from all who wish their children to attend Catshill First School & Nursery and Catshill Middle School. Parents/Carers who are considering applying are warmly invited to visit the schools.

The schools hold an Open Evening and Open Morning in the Autumn Term of the year prior to intended admission. In addition visits can be arranged at any time by contacting the school office. The school will be pleased to provide information and answer questions by letter or telephone, or to meet parents/carers to discuss possible applications.

The following procedure for applications is designed to ensure that the Governors' Admissions Policy is applied as fairly and consistently as possible.

Catshill First School & Nursery and Catshill Middle School follow Worcestershire County Council's admissions guidance and arrangements. Full details are available on Worcestershire County Council's website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk

The Application and Closing Date

Parents are invited to state three preferences, and parents are also able to state the reasons, for their preference. All preferences are to be **treated as equal initially**, and sent out to other admission authorities (i.e Academies, Foundation, Free and Voluntary Aided Schools, or neighbouring LAs) if appropriate, for consideration.

Applications open on 1 September 2017.

Closing date for the receipt of applications will be **15 January 2018**.

School offer notification date will be 16 April 2018.

When there are more applications than places, in a Community or Voluntary Controlled First, Middle or High school, children are admitted in the following order of priority:

1. ***'Looked after'** children and **previously *'Looked after'** children.
2. **Siblings** (see below for definition) of pupils attending the school **and** living within the **catchment area** of the school. In order to qualify for a place on the grounds of a sibling attending the school, the sibling must already be attending the school at the time of application and still be attending at the time of admission. Copies of catchment area maps, if required are available from the LA, or can be viewed in schools. To find the catchment school for a postcode visit [School Catchment Search](#)

In the event of a school catchment area change being approved, pupils who would still have a sibling connection (see below for definition) at the time of admission and who are living at the same address in the previous catchment area for a school, (but not within the revised catchment area), at the time the change was approved will be considered as living within the catchment area.

3. Pupils living within the **catchment area** of the school. Copies of catchment area maps, if required are available from the LA, or can be viewed in schools. To find the catchment school for a postcode visit [School Catchment Search](#);
4. Pupils living **outside of the catchment area** but who would still have a **sibling** connection (see below for definition) at school at the time of admission. In order to qualify for a place on the grounds of a sibling attending the school, the sibling must

already be attending the school at the time of application and still be attending at the time of admission

5. Pupils who were attending a feeder school at the time of application;
6. **Children of staff** at the mainstream school, where that member of staff has been employed for two or more years, and/or is recruited to fill a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
7. Pupils who live **nearest** to the school by the shortest **straight line distance**. The measurement will be taken using the GeoCode Points for each property and the GeoCode point for the centre of the School. The Local Authority uses a software package called Arcview GIS to determine distance. Ordnance Survey supplies the co-ordinates that are used to plot an address within this system. (In the event of equi-distance applicants, any place will be allocated by random selection (lottery). Someone totally independent of Children, Families and Communities will supervise this process).

In accordance with legislation, a child with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan will be offered a place at the school named in the Statement or the Plan.

*'Looked after' means all those currently in the care of a Local Authority or accommodated by a Local Authority under the terms of the Children Act 1989 and children who were previously in the care of or accommodated by a Local Authority but immediately after being looked after, became subject to an adoption, a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

Where there are too many applications from within the catchment area, priority will be decided in the following order, i.e. sibling connection, attendance at feeder school, children of staff, then according to distance, each assessed as indicated above. Where there are too many applications from within the out of area sibling criteria, priority will be decided in the following order; i.e. attendance at feeder school, children of staff, then according to distance, each assessed as indicated above and so on with all other criterion.

The sibling connection, as well as brother and sister will include half-siblings, adopted children, step-siblings or a child of the parent/carers partner. They must also be living at the same home address. Children who are brought together as a family by a same sex civil partnership and who are living at the same address, are also considered to be siblings.

In the event that one or more but not all children from a multiple birth can be allocated place(s), all of the children from that multiple birth will be admitted, even if this takes the school over PAN. These children are exceptions to the Infant Class Size legislation.

Late Applications

The Council has agreed in its co-ordinated scheme to accept late applications, for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools within Worcestershire, within the time-frame set out in the scheme, and treat them as being on time, only in the following circumstances;

- a) where a family have just moved address, (refer to Information for Parents booklet);
- b) where it is agreed by the School Admissions, that individual circumstances apply and the delay was reasonable given the circumstances of the case;

In each case supporting documentary evidence will be required. In all other circumstances, or if the application is not received until after the date set out in the scheme, late applications will receive a lower priority, and will only be considered after the applications received (or deemed to be) on time.

Waiting Lists

Waiting lists for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, are maintained by the School Admissions Section, and parents need to apply, in order to be included. These waiting lists will be maintained until the end of the 31 December 2018. At that stage parents will need to reapply at the start of the following term if they wish to be included. **Only on receipt of an acknowledgement letter from School Admissions will that child be on the list. Please see the Information for Parents Book for full details on how Waiting Lists are operated.**

Shared Catchment Areas

If there is more than one catchment area school and the number of applications for places from within the catchment area for one of those schools exceeds the number of places available, the allocation of places for the shared catchment area will be decided according to the following priorities, in the following sequence:

1. pupils who would still have a sibling connection at the school at the time of admission;
2. pupils who were attending a feeder school at the time of application;
3. children of staff at the mainstream school to which they apply, where that member of staff has been employed for two or more years, and/or is recruited to fill a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
4. pupils living nearer to the oversubscribed school than to the alternative school.

If places still exist after consideration of 1 to 4 above, they will then be allocated to other pupils who live nearest to the school by the shortest straight line distance. The measurement will be taken using the GeoCode Points for each property and the GeoCode point for the School. The Local Authority uses a software package called Arcview GIS to determine distance. Ordnance Survey supplies the co-ordinates that are used to plot an address within this system. (In the event of equi-distance applicants, any place will be allocated by random selection (lottery). Someone totally independent of Children, Families and Communities will supervise this process).

Fair Access Protocol

As part of the Worcestershire Fair Access Protocol, all schools with Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 classes can be required to exceed the published admission number to admit pupils covered by the Protocol.

'In Year' Transfer Arrangements

Parents/Carers completing an application form for 'In Year' transfers, with a first preference for a Community or Voluntary Controlled School in Worcestershire, must forward the application to School Admissions.

Parents/Carers with a first preference application for 'In Year' transfers into an Academy, Foundation, Voluntary Aided School in Worcestershire or a school in another Local Authority must forward the application to the individual schools.

In line with the Code of Practice, all own admission authority schools must, on receipt of an in year application, notify the relevant Local Authority of its outcome and inform parents of their right to appeal against a refusal of a place.

Parents/Carers seeking to transfer to a school that does not involve a house move, or where there is no need for an immediate move, need to be aware that any date set for joining the new school may be after the next term or half term holiday and that parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child continues to receive appropriate education in the interim.

Admission of Children Outside of their Normal Age Group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health, effectively in the year group below or above their chronological age group. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that 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.

The Local Authority must make the decision based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. The Local Authority will request the head teacher of the school to take account of the parent's views; 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 in order to reach a decision as to whether or not it is appropriate for the individual child to delay or accelerate their entry into school and be taught permanently behind or ahead of their chronological age group. The reasons for the decision must be clearly set out.