



ADMISSIONS POLICY & PROCEDURE FOR 2026/2027

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| Governors' Committee Responsible: | Full Governing Body | | |
| Policy Originator: | Headteacher | | |
| Status: | Statutory | Review Period: | Annually |
| Date: | December 2024 | Next review date: | December 2025 |

Policy

Shalford Infant School follows the admissions procedures put in place by Surrey County Council (SCC). We will not permit race, disability, gender, religion or belief to be used as criteria for admission. The school caters for the full ability range and the presence or absence of a special education need is not a factor in our admission policy in accordance with the DfE SEND guidelines.

Admissions for EYFS

Children will be admitted to school in the September of the academic year in which they have their fifth birthday. We will admit up to our published admission number (PAN). If the number of preferences is greater than the PAN, the school is oversubscribed and the number of admissions has to be limited. The criteria by which admissions will be managed is set out below.

Procedure

1. Whenever possible, children coming into school will be visited at the local playgroups by their teachers in the term prior to entry.
2. The children will visit the school for a minimum of 1 morning or afternoon session when they will have the opportunity to meet their teachers and experience a variety of activities in their classroom.
3. In June/July, parents will be invited to a meeting where they will be able to learn about and discuss all aspects of their child's school life.
4. Children will begin school in staggered phases based on their birth date (Summer-born children begin first, followed by Spring- and Autumn-).
5. If feasible, home visits are organised for the first week of term in September where parents and children will be able to meet individually with school staff.

Procedure for admissions in year and at all other times

Applications for places in Years 1 and 2, or for Reception made after the main round of applications, will be considered by the Governors using the above criteria and/or any special circumstances put forward at the time of application. An in-year application form, *School Managed Application form (SMA)*, must be completed and returned to the school, along with any relevant supplementary forms.

Admission arrangements for Shalford Infant School – 2026/27

The Published Admission Number for initial entry to Shalford Infant & Nursery School in 2026 is 30.

Applications for admission at the normal intake for Reception will be managed in accordance with Surrey's coordinated scheme for primary admission. Applications for admission to Reception must be made by 15 January 2026.

Children with an education, health and care plan that names the school will be allocated a place before other children are considered. In this way, the number of places available will be reduced by the number of children with an education, health and care plan that names the school.

Where the school is over-subscribed for any year group, applications for entry in 2026/27 will be ranked in the following order:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children.
 - i. *See Note 1 for information relating to looked after and previously looked after children.*

2. Exceptional social/medical need.
 - i. *See Note 2 for information relating to exceptional social/medical need.*

3. Children of a member of staff
 - i. *See Note 3 for information relating to children of a member of staff. A supplementary information form must be completed and returned by the application closing date for all applicants wishing to apply under this criterion.*

4. Siblings
 - i. *See Note 4 for information relating to siblings.*

5. Any other children
 - i. *Remaining places will be offered on the basis of nearness to the school measured in a straight line from the address point of the child's home address, as set by Ordnance Survey to the nearest official school gate for pupils to use, see Note 5. See Note 5 for information on the definition of home address.*

If within any category there are more children than places available, any remaining places will be offered to children who meet that criterion on the basis of proximity of the child's home address to the school. The distance will be measured in a straight line from the address point of the child's home address, as set by Ordnance Survey to the nearest official school gate for pupils to use. This is calculated using Surrey admissions team's Geographical Information System.

Notes

1. Looked after and previously looked after children

Looked after and previously looked after children will receive the top priority for a place. Looked after and previously looked after children will be considered to be:

- children who are in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989, e.g. fostered or living in a children's home, at the time an application for a school is made; and
- children who have previously been in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 and who have left that care through adoption, a child arrangements order (in accordance with Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) or special guardianship order (in accordance with Section 14A of the Children Act 1989); and
- children who appear (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. A child will be regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. The parent/carer will need to provide evidence to demonstrate that the child was in state care outside of England and left that care as a result of being adopted

Places will be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at a school and the local authority may also ask schools to admit over their published admission number at other times under this criterion.

2. Exceptional social/medical need

Occasionally there will be a very small number of children for whom exceptional social or medical circumstances apply which will warrant a placement at this school. The exceptional social or medical circumstances might relate to either the child or the parent/carer. Supporting evidence from a professional is required such as a doctor and/or consultant for medical cases or a social worker, health visitor, housing officer, the police or probation officer for other social circumstances. This evidence must confirm the circumstances of the case and must set out why the child should attend this school and why no other school could meet the child's needs.

Providing evidence does not guarantee that a child will be given priority at this school and in each case a decision will be made based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at this school above any other.

Common medical conditions and allergies can usually be supported in all mainstream schools, therefore priority under the school's exceptional medical criterion would not normally be given for these.

In addition, routine child-minding arrangements would not normally be considered to be an exceptional social reason for placement at this school.

Places may be allocated under this criterion when places are first offered at the school and the local authority may also ask the school to admit over its published admission number at other times under this criterion.

3. Children of a member of staff

Priority will be given to a child if their parent is a permanent member of staff at the school and meets either or both of the following circumstances:

- a) the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, on a full or part time basis; and/or
- b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

A person will be considered to be a child's parent for the purpose of this criterion if they are living in the same family unit as the child at the same address and are:

- their mother or father
- any other person who has parental responsibility, such as an adoptive parent, step-parent, a special guardian or person named in a child arrangements order
- any other person who does not have parental responsibility but otherwise has the care of the child, such as a foster carer.

A supplementary information form must be completed and returned by the application closing date for all applicants wishing to apply under this criterion.

For applications made as part of a normal intake, the length of employment will be considered as of the closing date for applications. For in year applications and for the purpose of maintaining a waiting list, the length of employment will be considered as of the date the application is received or the date a place becomes available, if a place is considered from the waiting list.

4. Siblings

A sibling will be considered to be a brother or sister (that is, another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), a half-brother or half-sister or a step-brother or step-sister or an adoptive or foster sibling, living as part of the same family unit at the same address.

A child will be given sibling priority if they have a sibling on roll at the school at the time of application. If a sibling leaves the school concerned after the application but before the national offer day, the applicant must let the Local Authority School Admissions Team know as this may affect the child's sibling priority.

This will apply both at the initial allocation of places and also when prioritising the waiting list.

5. Home address

The child's home address excludes any business or childminder's address and must be the child's normal place of residence. It also excludes any relative's address unless the child lives at that address as their normal place of residence. Where the child is subject to a child arrangement order and that order stipulates that the child will live with one parent/carers more than the other, the address to be used will be the one where the child is expected to live for the majority of the time. For other children, the address to be used will be the address where the child lives the majority of the time. In other cases, where the child spends an equal time between their parents/carers, it will be up to the parent/carers

to agree which address to use. Where a child spends their time equally between their parents/carers and they cannot agree on who should make the application, we will accept an application from the parent/carer who is registered for child benefit. If neither parent is registered for child benefit we will accept the application from the parent/carer whose address is registered with the child's current school or nursery.

We will not generally accept a temporary address if the main carer of the child still possesses a property that has previously been used as a home address, nor will we accept a temporary address if we believe it has been used solely or mainly to obtain a school place when an alternative address is still available to that child. All distances will be measured by the computerised Geographical Information System maintained by Surrey's admissions team.

The address to be used for the initial allocation of places to Reception will be the child's address at the closing date for application. Changes of address may be considered in accordance with Surrey's coordinated scheme if there are exceptional reasons behind the change, such as if a family has just moved to the area. The address to be used for waiting lists, after the initial allocation, will be the child's current address. Any offer of a place on the basis of address is conditional upon the child living at the appropriate address on the relevant date. Applicants have a responsibility to notify the school and Surrey County Council of any change of address.

5. Tie breaker and the admission of twins, triplets, other multiple births or siblings born in the same academic year

Where two or more children share a priority for a place, e.g. where two children live equidistant from a school, random allocation will be used to determine which child should be given priority.

Any child from a multiple birth will be offered a place if one child has already been offered a place and the subsequent child(ren) are ranked consecutively.

Waiting lists

Where there are more children than places available, waiting lists will operate for each year group according to the oversubscription criteria for the school without regard to the date the application was received or when a child's name was added to the waiting list.

Waiting lists for all year groups will be maintained until the last day of the summer term 2027 when they will be cancelled. Applicants who wish a child to remain on the waiting list after this date must reapply for in-year admission.

6. In-year admissions

The following applications will be treated as in-year admissions during 2026/27:

- applications for admission to Reception which are received after 1 September 2026;
- all other applications for admission to Years 1 and 2.

Where there are more applications than places available, each application will be ranked in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria for the school.

7. Starting school

There is a single intake into Reception. All children whose date of birth falls between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 will be eligible to apply for a full-time place in Reception at the school for September 2026. Applicants can defer their child's entry to Reception until later in the school year, but this will not be agreed beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the beginning of the final term of the academic year for which the offer was made. Applicants may also arrange for their child to start part time until their child reaches statutory school age.

8. The admission of children outside of their chronological year group

Applicants may choose to seek a place outside their child's chronological (correct) year group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and what is in the best interests of the child concerned.

- Applicants who are applying for their child to have a decelerated entry to school, i.e. to start later than other children in their chronological age group, should initially apply for a school place in accordance with the deadlines that apply for their child's chronological age. If, in liaison with the headteacher, governors agree for the child to have a decelerated entry the place cannot be deferred and instead the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the decelerated cohort
- Applicants who are applying for their child to have an accelerated entry to school, i.e. to start earlier than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place at the same time that other families are applying for that cohort. If, in liaison with the headteacher, governors agree for the child to have an accelerated entry, the application will be processed. If it is not agreed for the child to have an accelerated entry, the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the correct cohort

Applicants must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interest and provide what evidence they have to support this. More information on educating children out of their chronological year group and the process for making such requests is available at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.

9. Providing false or misleading information

If an applicant is found to have supplied false or deliberately misleading information or to have withheld any relevant information, the local authority reserves the right to withdraw any offer of a place, even if the child has already started at the school.

10. Home to school transport

Surrey County Council has a Home to School Transport policy that sets out the circumstances that children might qualify for free home to school transport.

Generally, transport will only be considered if a child is under 8 years old and is travelling more than two miles or is over 8 years old and travelling more than three miles to the nearest school with a place. Transport will not generally be provided to a school that is further away if a child would have been offered a place at a nearer school had it been named as a preference on the application form, although exceptions may apply to secondary aged children whose families are on a low income if they are travelling to one of their three nearest schools and to children whose nearest school is out of County but over the statutory walking distance.

Eligibility to transport is not linked to the admission criteria of a school. Some schools give priority to children who are attending a feeder school, but attending a feeder school does not confer an automatic right to transport to a linked school. In considering admission criteria and school preferences it is important that applicants also consider the home to school transport policy so they might take account of the likelihood of receiving free transport to their preferred school before making their application. In considering eligibility for home to school transport, the local authority will take account of all state funded schools, including free schools and academies. A full copy of Surrey's Home to School Transport policy is available on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk or from the Surrey Schools and Childcare Service on 0300 200_1004.