



Admissions Policy 2026/27

Reviewed September 24

ADMISSIONS POLICY

School Vision

“We shine like stars to achieve and make a difference in the world, knowing that with God, all things are possible.”

Procedures

At Aspull Church Primary School children start school in the September before their fifth birthday.

Parents are able to put their child’s name down at school expressing an interest (this does not mean a place has been offered) at any time prior to start of school.

Admissions Criteria

Our admission number is 30. If we receive more applications than places available, the following admission criteria will be applied once places have first been allocated to pupils who have a statement of special educational needs or education health and care plan which names the school:

1. Children in public care and previously looked after children (see note A)
2. Children with proven special educational, medical or social needs (see note B)
3. Children with siblings who attend Aspull Church Primary School at the time of admission (see note C)
4. Children who, with their immediate family regularly attend St Elizabeth’s Church, Aspull or Aspull Methodist Church (see note D)
5. Children who with their immediate family regularly attend other Christian churches (see notes D & E)
6. Children living closest to the school.

Notes:

A. This includes any "looked after child", "previously looked after children" and any child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. 'Looked after' means that the child was (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.

This criteria also includes looked after children and all previously looked after 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.

B. Our supplementary 'Social & Medical Need' form together with a supporting letter from a Professional e.g. Doctor, Social Worker with knowledge of the family and the needs of the child must accompany the completed application form. The letter should explain why admission to the school is necessary for the child's well-being and the difficulties which would be caused if the child had to attend another school

C. Siblings' includes step, half, foster and adopted who live at the same address as part of the same family unit

D. 'Regular Church Attendance' is normally taken to mean a minimum of monthly attendance at Church for a period of 12 months by an immediate adult member (to include: parent, grandparent, primary carer) and the child prior to the closing date for applications. The Governors will request confirmation of this from the relevant member of clergy on our supplementary 'Church Reference' form (see note for Church attendance below)

E. The Governing Body defines 'Christian Church' as being any Church in membership of, or sharing the statement of belief of, 'Churches Together in England' (see note for Church Attendance below)

Note for Church Attendance following the Pandemic: *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.*

Child's Home Address

The address used on the admission form must be the current one at the time of application i.e. the family's main residence. If the address changes, parents must notify school.

If you are separated and your child spends time at each parent's address, the address we use for admission to school is that of the main carer. We use the address of the parent who gets the Child Benefit for this.

Deferred Entry

Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to the school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year. Where entry is deferred, the place will be held open and not offered to another child. Parents cannot defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted. It is the Governing Body's decision whether or not to agree to a deferral.

Part-time Attendance

Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Tie Breaker

When we use the admission criteria, more children might fall into a particular category than the number of places left. If this happens we use the tie breaker to decide who is given a place.

Places will be given to the children who live nearest to the school. We measure this distance:

- From the child's home address in a straight line to the centre point of the school site as determined by the Local Authority
- Using the GIS system which is based on Ordnance Survey maps

In cases where there are two or more children with the same distance measurement (for example if more than one child lives in a block of flats), where to admit another child would breach the infant class size regulations, a system will be used to randomly pick who will be offered a place. Please contact the school if you would like more information about this.

If the last place at the school is for one of twins (or triplets, and so on), the other twin or triplet will be offered a place too.

Waiting lists

Where we have more applications than places, the admission criteria will be used. Places may become available at school after the offer date. To decide which children have these places, we will:

- late applicants will be slotted into the order according to the extent to which they meet the criteria. Thus it is possible that a child who moves into the area later to have a higher priority than one who has been on the waiting list for some time.
- keep the list in priority order, decided by the Admissions criteria

- offer places that become available to the next child on the waiting list
- keep the waiting list until the end of the Autumn term

Important information about the waiting list: We cannot take into account the length of time a child's name has been on the waiting list, only the admission criteria for this school. This means that your child's position on the list may change if another parent asks to be put on the list and their child has higher priority in the admission criteria.

Making an Application

Parents are invited to look round school prior to indicating whether Aspull Church Primary School is their choice.

Parents must complete the Local Authority application form, stating three preferences. If you wish to be considered against the faith criteria you must also complete the Church Reference Form, which is available on the Local Authority Website or from the school office.

Offers of places will be in writing. For those families that have been unsuccessful, the Admissions Section of the LA will send letters and details of what to do next.

Once admissions are confirmed, we welcome each child and his or her family by invitation to our arranged Inspire sessions.

Late Applications

Late applications (those received after the closing date) will only be considered after those received by the closing date. They will be placed on the waiting list in order according to the criteria. The only exception to this is applications for looked after children that are received by the 15th February will be included with on time applications.

Non-routine or In-year Admission

Parent wishing their child to attend this school mid-year, should contact the Local Authority to determine whether a place is available. If a place is available, the Local Authority will notify the school of the child's details. Parents will then be contacted by school to discuss the reason for requesting a place. If appropriate, a place will be offered to the child. If a place is not available, parents have the right of appeal.

Parents cannot re-appeal for a place at school within the same school year unless there has been relevant, significant and material change in the family circumstances.

Appeals

Where the Governors are unable to offer a place because the school is over-subscribed, parents have the right to appeal to the Local Authority. Parents should notify the Local Authority as soon as possible of their intention to appeal. Parents will have the opportunity to submit their case to the panel in writing and also attend the appeal to present their case. You will normally receive 10 days' notice of the place and time of the hearing.

Please note that this right of appeal against the Governors decision does not prevent you from making an appeal in respect of any other school.

Fraudulent Applications

Where the Governing Body discovers that a child has been awarded a place as the result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, the Governing Body will withdraw the offer of the place. The application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, to a higher year group if the child is gifted and talented or to a lower year group if the child has experienced problems such as ill health.

The parents of a summer born child (born between 1 April and 30 August) 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.

A decision is made on the basis of the circumstances of each case.

The process is as follows:

Stage 1 – request

Parents make a formal request to the Local Authority School Organisation Team in writing with any supporting evidence they wish to be considered.

- A request for early entry into Year 7 should be made before 31 October in the previous academic year in order to give sufficient time for the case to be considered prior to the offer of school places on 1 March.
- A request for delayed entry to reception class should be made at the same time as applying for a place for normal entry (i.e. by the closing date of 15 January) in order to give sufficient time for the case to be considered prior to the offer of school places on 16 April.
- A request for in year admission outside of the normal age group should be made on the normal in year transfer form.

We do not accept requests for early entry to reception class for children who will not be of statutory school age.

Stage 2 – decision

Requests for voluntary-aided, foundation and academy schools will be referred to the school to be considered.

Requests for community and voluntary controlled schools will be considered by the local authority. We will look at the following factors but these are not exhaustive:

- Parent's views
- The needs of the child and the possible impact on them of being educated out of year group
- The child's medical history and views of medical professionals if appropriate
- In the case of children born prematurely the fact that they may have naturally fallen into the lower age group if they had been born on their expected date of birth
- Whether delayed academic, social, emotional or physical development is adversely affecting their readiness for school;
- Any other information which the parent requests the local authority to consider.

Stage 3 – outcome

Parents are notified of the decision in writing by the School Organisation Team.

Request agreed:

If the request is agreed the application will be considered for the year group requested and ranked alongside any other applications. **There is no guarantee that a place will be offered at the preferred school.** Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

Where a child has been educated out of their normal age group, the parent may again request admission out of the normal age group when they transfer to secondary school. It will be for the admission authority of that school to decide whether to admit the child out of their normal age group.

Request refused:

There is no statutory right of appeal against the refusal of a request for admission outside the normal age group. However, if the parents are dissatisfied they have the right to complain through the Council's complaints procedure for decisions made by the local authority or under the school's complaints procedure where the decision has been made by the school.