



Empowering our unique schools to excel

Longwick Church of England Combined School

Admissions Policy 2023/24

Policy Level:	3 <u>ODBST Statutory Policy Guidance</u> All Academies must adopt a policy on this topic/area. All Local Governing Bodies will follow and have due regard to this guidance when drafting their local policy. This will need Trustee approval before publication.
Other related ODBST policies and procedures:	
Committee responsible:	Admissions Committee/Education Committee
Approved by:	Local Governing Body
Executive Headteacher:	Mrs Jan Martin
Chair of Governors:	Mrs Claire Randall
Date Approved by Trust:	
Date for Next Review:	Annually



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Our vision, values and aims

Inspiring a love of learning through our Christian Values

At Longwick C of E Combined School our vision is rooted in a commitment to excellence. We aim to serve our community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and promote Christian values through the experience we offer our children. We take pride in providing strong pastoral support in a safe learning environment where all are valued.

We strive to prepare every child for the challenges and changes of the future by enabling them to build strong foundations so that they can achieve the highest standards in their personal development.

The school preserves and develops its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough.

Our Christian Values explicitly linked to the Bible are:

- Respect
- Perseverance
- Wisdom
- Peace
- Responsibility
- Compassion

To underpin our values we use the parable of The Wise and The Foolish Builders Matthew 7, verses 24-27

Our Aims:

- To provide a rich learning curriculum that promotes our Christian values and provides spiritual, moral, social and cultural development for all children.
- To challenge and inspire our pupils to have high aspirations and become confident, curious, independent and resilient life-long learners.
- To provide pupils, as they grow in understanding, with opportunities to contribute to our school, local community and the wider world as responsible citizens.
- To provide a welcoming, safe and caring environment in which everyone is valued.

Inspiring a love of learning through our Christian values – 'I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.' Proverbs 4:2



ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS LONGWICK CHURCH OF ENGLAND COMBINED SCHOOL 2023/24

Longwick Church of England Combined School is part of the Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust, who are the admissions authority for the school. The Board of Trustees have delegated the consultation and operation of the individual schools' admissions policy to the Local Governing Body of the school but hold to the Board of Trustees the agreement to the admissions policies of its academies.

The Trust has made every effort to ensure that these arrangements comply with the School Admissions Code 2014 and all relevant legislation, including that on infant class sizes and equal opportunities.

In reviewing this policy the Trust Board has had regards to the Equality Act 2010 and carried out an equality impact assessment. It is satisfied that no group with a protected characteristic will be unfairly disadvantaged.



Admission Arrangements – September 2023

Admission numbers

The school has a published admission number (PAN) of 30 for entry in the Reception Year, and an admission number of 2 at Year 3 (see Admission arrangements to Year 3 in September 2023).

Application Process

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2023

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2023. There are 30 places (the published admission number) available.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2023 and 31 March 2024 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2023/24), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2024 and 31 August 2025 (summer born children) who do not reach compulsory school age until September 2024, parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2023/24 but to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2024 should proceed as follows: They should apply at the usual time for a place in September 2023 together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the Reception year in September 2024. NB parents would need to provide supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the Headteacher as early as possible. The school will consider the request carefully and if it is agreed this should be clear before the national offer day (16 April 2023), their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered. They should then reapply in the normal way (no later than 15 January 2023) for a Reception place in September 2024. If their request is refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for any other offer of a place in September 2023 (NB it will still be subject to the over-subscription criteria below) or to withdraw their application and apply in the second half of the of the summer term 2024 for a Year 1 place in September 2024. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies and it could be full with children transferring from the 2023/24 Reception Year group.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Parents (see Note 1) wishing to apply for the Reception Year in September 2023 must complete the common application form provided by their home local authority (the home LA). The home LA is the LA in whose area the parents live at the time of the application. The form must be returned to that LA no later than 15 January 2023. Applications received after this date will normally only be considered after all those received on or before the cut-off date. Offers and refusals of places will be posted by the home LA on 16 April 2023¹.

Procedures for applying to any school in Buckinghamshire are explained on Buckinghamshire County Council's website:



Over-subscription criteria

Children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan naming Longwick C of E Combined School will always be offered places. If there are fewer applications than places available, all children will be offered places. If there is greater demand for admission than there are places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below:

1. Looked-after children and children who were previously looked after, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England, but ceased to be so because, immediately after being looked after, they became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order. (see note 2).
2. Families who have exceptional medical or social needs that make it essential that their child attends Longwick C of E Combined School rather than any other. These needs must be fully supported by written evidence from the appropriate professional person involved with the family. (see note 3)
3. Children with a normal home⁴ address in the catchment area (see note 4) and with a sibling (see note 5) on the roll of the school at the time of application or whose parent has accepted an offer of a place at the school and who is expected still to be in attendance at the time of entry to the school.
4. Children with a normal home address in the catchment area.
5. Children with a normal home address outside the [catchment area (see note 4) description] and with a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application or whose parent has accepted an offer of a place at the school and who is expected still to be in attendance at the time of entry to the school.
6. Other children.

Proximity of the child's home, as measured by the straight-line distance (see Note 6) between the home and the school with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority, will serve to differentiate between children in criteria 1 to 6 should the need arise. In the event that two distance measurements are identical, the school will use random allocation to decide which child should be offered the place. The process will be conducted in the presence of a person independent of the school.

See Appendix 2 for catchment map

Admission arrangements to Year 3 in September 2023

Parents (see Note 1) wishing to apply for a Year 3 place in September 2023 must complete the common application form provided by their home local authority (the home LA). The home LA is the LA in whose area the parents live at the time of the application. The form must be returned to that LA no later than **15 January 2023**. Applications received after this date will normally only be considered **after** all those received on or before the cut-off date. Offers and refusals of places will be posted by the home LA on **17 April 2023**.

Admission numbers

Longwick CE School has a published admission number of 2 for entry at Year 3.



Over-subscription criteria

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming Longwick CE School will always be offered places. If there are fewer applications than places available, all children will be offered places. If there is greater demand for admission than there are places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below:

1. Looked-after children and children who were previously looked after, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England, but ceased to be so because, immediately after being looked after, they became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order. (see note 2).
2. Families who have exceptional medical or social needs that make it essential that their child attends Longwick C of E Combined School rather than any other. These needs must be fully supported by written evidence from the appropriate professional person involved with the family. (see note 3)
3. Children with a normal home⁴ address in the catchment area (see note 4) and with a sibling (see note 5) on the roll of the school at the time of application or whose parent has accepted an offer of a place at the school and who is expected still to be in attendance at the time of entry to the school.
4. Children with a normal home address in the catchment area.
5. Children with a normal home address outside the catchment area (see note 4) and with a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application or whose parent has accepted an offer of a place at the school and who is expected still to be in attendance at the time of entry to the school.
6. Other children.

Proximity of the child's home, as measured by the straight line distance (see Note 6) between the home and the school with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority, will serve to differentiate between children in criteria 1-6 should the need arise. In the event that two distance measurements are identical, the school will use random allocation to decide which child should be offered the place. The process will be conducted in the presence of a person independent of the school.

See Appendix 2 for catchment map

Admissions in September 2021

The school received 0 applications expressing a preference for admission to Year 3 in 2021 by the closing date in January 2021. These were ranked as follows:

Children with statements naming the school

Criterion 1	0
Criterion 2	0
Criterion 3	0
Criterion 4	0
Criterion 5	0
Criterion 6	0

Therefore no places were offered.



All Other Admissions

Admission to the school during the school year depends on whether or not there are places available. Reception, Years 1 and 2 at the school have 30 places, and years 2-6 have 32 places. Applications must be made directly to Buckinghamshire County Council.

If there is a vacancy, and there is no child on the relevant waiting list with a higher priority (according to the over-subscription criteria 1-6 above), a place will be offered.

In-year admissions or admissions at the beginning of school years other than Reception will only be considered by the Governing Body up to half a term [using the three-term year] in advance of the desired date for entry. For example, for entry in January, the application will not be considered until after the October half term break.

If parents are moving house, the school will ask for evidence of the move, when considering any application for a place. Documentary evidence in the form of a solicitor's letter to confirm exchange of contracts, or a rental agreement for at least a period of six months will be required (Armed Forces personnel are exempt). If you are returning from elsewhere, to live in a home that you own, we will require evidence to show that you have returned. We will also ask for evidence that any previous house owned has been sold or is being sold. We would not accept an address where the one given is that of a second home with the main home being elsewhere. If there are two or more homes, we will check which is the main home, and may refuse to base an allocation of a place on an address which might be considered only temporary. Nor would we accept an address where the child was resident other than with a parent or carer unless this was part of a fostering or formal care arrangement. We would not normally accept an address where only part of a family had moved, unless connected with a divorce or permanent separation arrangement, in which case we would require proof.

Admissions outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the child's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the Headteacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

Waiting Lists

After national offer day (16 April¹), Buckinghamshire County Council will automatically add the names of the children who have not been offered a place at your preferred ODBST school to the waiting list for the school where they are not able to offer a place. If you don't remove your child from the waiting list and they are able to offer you a place at a higher preference school, they will automatically re-allocate your original offer to another child. **It is important to inform the county if you no longer want your child's name to be included on a waiting list.** Details of these arrangements are available on BCC's admissions website.

The order of priority on the waiting list is the same as the list of criteria for over-subscription and does not depend on the date on which an application is received. No account is taken of

¹ The date for 2023 may vary slightly but is not yet published.



length of time on a waiting list. The school periodically seeks confirmation that parents wish a child to be kept on the waiting list.

In year Admissions

Admission to the school during the school year, or in the September for a year group other than the normal entry point of the school, depends on whether there are places available. Reception, years 1 & 2 at the school have 30 places, and years 3-6 have 32 places. Buckinghamshire County Council co-ordinates in year applications for our school. As such applications must be made to the council, using their website.

In year admissions will be dealt with as indicated below.

- If there is a vacancy, and there is no child on the relevant waiting list with a higher priority (according to the over-subscription criteria 1-6 above), a place will be offered.
- Applications will only be considered by the Governing Body up to half a term in advance of the desired date for entry. For example, for entry in January, the application will not be considered until after the October half term break.

Multiple births

In cases where there is one place available, and the next child on the list is a twin, triplet, etc., we would admit both twins (and all the children in the case of other multiple births) even if this meant exceeding the agreed published admission number.

Fair Access

The school participates in the Buckinghamshire County Council Fair Access Protocol. Children qualifying under the Fair Access Protocol may be offered a place even if there are no places available in the relevant year group and may take priority for admission over children on the waiting list.

Appeals

There are established arrangements for appeals against non-admission. Details are available from the school, including the date by which an appeal should be submitted. It should be noted that, in the event of an unsuccessful appeal against non-admission to the school, the school does not consider any further application in the same school year (1 September – 31 August), unless there has been a material change in circumstances, for example a change of address which results in a move from outside the catchment area to inside it.

Further information

Parents who wish their children to attend the school are most welcome to visit. Arrangements can be made through contacting the school office on 01844 344 769 or via email office@longwick.bucks.sch.uk.

Admissions in September 2021

The school received 63 applications expressing a preference for admission to the Reception Year in 2020 by the closing date in January 2021. These were ranked as follows:

Children with statements or EHC plans naming the school
Criterion 1 - 0



Criterion 2 - 0
Criterion 3 - 4
Criterion 4 - 13
Criterion 5 - 5
Criterion 6 - 41

22 places were offered.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from the school office on 01844 344 769 or via email office@longwick.bucks.sch.uk.



Notes

The following are detailed notes referring to the definitions in use for this school's policy:

Note 1 "Parent" is defined in law (The Education Act 1996) as either:

- a. any person who has 'parental responsibility' (defined in the Children Act 1989) for the child or young person; or
- b. any person who has care of the child or young person.

If you are in any doubt, please contact the school for advice.

Note 2 By a looked after child we mean one in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of its social services function. Previously looked after children are children who have been adopted, subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders. Adopted children are those for whom an adoption order is made under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12) or the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (Section 46). A "child arrangement order" is one settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live (Children Act 1989, Section 14A). Applications under this criterion must be accompanied by evidence to show that the child is looked after or was previously looked after (e.g. copy of the adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order). Evidence that a child from outside England was previously in state care will be required to come within this criterion. A child regarded as having been in state care outside England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society."

Note 3 When applying under criterion ii (exceptional medical or social needs), you must include supporting evidence from an independent professional person who is aware of the situation and supports your reasons for preferring Longwick C of E Combined School. This supporting evidence must clearly demonstrate why the school is the most suitable and must illustrate the difficulties that would be caused if your child had to attend another school. The person supplying the evidence should be a doctor, health visitor, social worker, etc. who is aware of your child's or your own case. The school reserves the right to ask for further evidence or clarification where necessary and may seek the advice of appropriate educational professionals where necessary.

Note 4 By normal home address, we mean the child's home address. This must be where the parent or legal carer of the child lives with the child unless it is proved that the child is resident elsewhere with someone else who has legal care and control of the child. The address should be a residential property that is owned, leased or rented by the child's parent/s or person with legal care and control of the child.

To avoid doubt, where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week or month, the address where the child lives will be determined having regard to a joint declaration from the parents stating the exact pattern of residence. If the residence is not split equally, then the relevant address used will be that at which we are satisfied that the child spends the majority of the school week. Where there is an equal split or there is any doubt about residence, we will make the judgment about which address to use for the purpose of determining whether or not to offer a place. We will take into account, for example, the following:

- any legal documentation confirming residence
- the pattern of the residence
- the period of time over which the current arrangement has been in place
- confirmation from any previous school of the contact details and home address supplied to it by the parents
- where the child is registered with his/her GP
- any other evidence the parents may supply to verify the position.

We may ask for evidence of the normal home address in the form of a recent bill. This could be, for example, the most recent Council Tax bill, utility bill no more than three months old, a current TV licence, buildings and contents insurance, mortgage statement or rent book which shows the address concerned. Parents who are unable to provide this evidence should contact the school to discuss what evidence might be acceptable. If it becomes clear or if there is any doubt that the parents and child are



not living at the address given on the application form, the school may seek further evidence. The school works closely with the LA to ensure that places are not obtained at the school on the basis of false addresses, and, in cases of doubt, will take steps to verify the information provided. If a place at the school is offered, and it later becomes clear that the offer was made on fraudulent or misleading information (e.g. a false claim to living in the catchment area), and the school has denied a place to a child with a stronger claim, the school will withdraw the offer of a place. The offer can also be withdrawn even after the child has started at the school.

We regard a child's home address to be where he or she sleeps for the majority of the school week (Monday to Friday). We may ask to see official documentation, such as a child benefit book or medical card if there are reasons why a child does not live at his or her parent's address. For example, if he or she is resident with a grandparent, this needs to be made clear on the application form. If such arrangements are not declared or a relative's address is used on the application, we may consider that a false declaration has been made, and withdraw the offer of a place. Childcare arrangements are not sufficient reason for listing another address.

If parents move house after the application has been made, but before any offer of a place has been made, the home LA must be informed.

If parents are moving, we will ask for evidence of the move, when considering any application for a place under the co-ordinated scheme.

We would not accept an address where the one given is that of a second home with the main home being elsewhere. If there are two or more homes, we will check which is the main home, and may refuse to base an allocation of a place on an address which might be considered only temporary. Nor would we accept an address where the child was resident other than with a parent or carer unless this was part of a fostering or formal care arrangement. We would not normally accept an address where only part of a family had moved, unless connected with a divorce or permanent separation arrangement, in which case we would require proof.

Note 5 By sibling we mean a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent's/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. It is helpful if parents make it clear on the application form where the sibling has a different family name. Where there is more than one sibling at the school, only the youngest should be listed on the application form.

Note 6 The straight line distance used to determine proximity of the home to the school will be measured by Buckinghamshire LA's Geographical Information System: Following a recent OSA ruling you now need to copy this in your policy.



Appendix 1

Objections to and referrals about determined school admission arrangements

Members of the public can make an objection to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) if they think that the admissions arrangements of a maintained school or an academy do not comply with the 'School Admissions Code' (the Code) or other legislation relating to school admissions.

All admissions authorities must determine their admission arrangements by 28 February every year, even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not been required. Complainants have until 15 May to contact the adjudicator if you have an objection.

If people wish to make an objection they must complete the ['school admission arrangements objection form'](#)

Further guidance is available on the [Office of the Schools Adjudicator web site](#)



