

Admissions Policy 2027-28

All Saints

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**‘Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.’
1 Corinthians**

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Date	Version	Reason for change	Overview of changes made	Source
09.01.25	0.1	Scheduled Review internal lead	Updated to MAT format. No changes to criteria.	MAT Policy
20.01.25	0.2	Scheduled Review board lead	No changes.	
07.02.25	1.0	Schedule full board review	Ratified	

04.02.26	1.1	Scheduled review	No changes from consultation	
06.02.26	2	Schedule full board review	Ratified	

The Directors of The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust welcome children from all backgrounds, faiths and no faith. The Directors are committed to developing inclusive schools that reflect the diversity of the local community. Admission to the school is not dependent on being a member of a particular faith community.

As well as being an inclusive neighbourhood school, as a Church school, Richard Crosse has a distinctive character and ethos that reflects the teachings of Jesus Christ and Christian values. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. We hope that all children in the school will be able to participate (as appropriate) in the religious life of the school (including collective worship and religious education). This does not affect the right of parents who are not Christians to apply for a place. Indeed, through our commitment to inclusivity, we actively welcome families from other faiths and no faiths.

Note: Parents have a statutory right of withdrawal from Collective Worship and Religious Education.

Admission Number

The Board of Directors is responsible for the admission of pupils to the school and admits children each year in accordance with the published admission number for the school. The number is reviewed annually.

For the academic year commencing in September, the number is 15 for compulsory school aged children, and 11 per session for part-time Foundation Stage children. The closing date for applications for reception children and for nursery education will be the same as the Trust's.

Admissions

Children will be admitted to pre-school in the academic year that they turn four. The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust has one admittance date in September. However, should places be available, parents are able to apply throughout the year.

Full time places in reception classes will be available in September of the academic year within which the child becomes five years old.

It is the Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust's policy to try and meet parents' wishes where possible, however in some cases there may be more applications than there are places available. Admission where the school is oversubscribed is determined by the oversubscription criteria detailed below.

Admissions for Reception to Year 6 are administered through a co-ordinated admissions scheme. Applications on a single common form may be submitted indirectly to Staffordshire Education authority, or submitted on-line.

Applications for our pre-school are processed by the Trust. Applications should be made using the Application Form on the Trust website, and sent to TSSMAT by post or emailed to office@allsaints-ranton.staffs.sch.uk

Oversubscription criteria

If the total number of preferences for admission to a school exceeds the school's published admission number (PAN), the following order of priority is used to allocate the available places:

1. Children in care and children who ceased to be in care because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order), including those 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 *see additional note * below*.
2. Children who satisfy both of the following tests:
 - o Test 1: the child is distinguished from the great majority of other applicants either on their own medical grounds or by other exceptional circumstances.

Medical grounds must be supported by a medical report (obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application). This report must clearly justify, for health reasons only, why it is better for the child's health to attend the preferred school rather than any other school.

Exceptional circumstances must relate to the choice of school and the individual child, i.e. the circumstances of the child, not the economic or social circumstances of the parent/carer. They should be supported by a professional

report (obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application), e.g. social worker. This report must clearly justify why it is better for the child to attend the preferred school rather than any other school

and

- Test 2: the child would suffer hardship if they were unable to attend the preferred school.

Hardship means severe suffering of any kind, not merely difficulty or inconvenience, which is likely to be experienced as a result of the child attending a different school. Applicants must provide detailed information about both the type and severity of any likely hardship at the time of application.

3. Children who have an elder sibling in attendance at the preferred school (or in the case of an infants school, the affiliated junior school) and who will still be attending the school at the proposed admission date. (For admission purposes, a brother or sister is a child who lives at the same address and either: has one or both natural parents in common; is related by a parents marriage; is adopted or fostered by a common parent or has unrelated children who live at the same address, whose parents live as partners.)
4. Children living within the catchment area of the preferred school. *see additional notes ** below*
5. Other children arranged in order of priority according to how near their home addresses are to the main gate of the school, determined by a straight-line measurement as calculated by the Trust's geographical information system. *see additional notes **** below.*

Where it is not possible to accommodate all children applying for places within a particular category then the Trust will allocate the available places in accordance with the remaining criteria. If for instance, all the catchment area children cannot be accommodated at a school, children who are resident within the catchment area will be arranged in order of priority according to criteria 5 followed by those children resident within the catchment area arranged in order of criteria 6.

If we cannot distinguish between applicants using the criteria listed, such as in the case of children who live in the same block of flats, then the child or children who will be offered the available spaces will be randomly selected. This process will be independently verified.

Additional notes

There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to a school.

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide any supportive information required in order for the application to be assessed against the published admissions criteria, the Trust will not seek to obtain this information on behalf of the applicant.

*Children in care means children who are looked after by a Trust in accordance with section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989 and who is (a) in care of a Trust, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Trust in the exercise of their social services functions (see definition in Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).

Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a special guardianship order as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

**Copies of school catchment area maps are available from the Trust or individual schools. See our catchment [catchment areas page](#).

****The Trust uses a geographical information system (GIS) to calculate home to school distances in miles. The measurement is calculated using Ordnance Survey (OS) data from an applicant's home address to the main front gate of the school. The coordinates of an applicant's home address are determined and provided by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and OS address point data.

Attendance at a particular nursery or infant school will not guarantee admission to any particular primary or junior school. Parents must make a separate application for admission to primary or junior school at the appropriate time.

The requirement for the Trust to meet the infant class size legislation may result in the refusal of catchment area or sibling applications where a class has already reached its limit of 30 pupils. However, as an exception, the Trust will give careful consideration to offering places above the published admission number to applications from children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted even when there are no other vacant places.

It is expected that parents will agree on school places before an application is made, and it may be necessary to request evidence from the parent to confirm that this is the case. The Trust is not in a position to intervene in disputes between parents over school applications and will request that these are resolved privately.

Home address

The home address is considered to be the child's along with their parent/carer's main and genuine principal place of residence at the time of the allocation of places i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than legal guardianship) the friends or relatives address will not be considered for allocation purposes.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week, parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

If a child's home address changes during the admissions process it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform the Trust immediately. Where there is a proposed house move taking place during the admissions process the Trust will only accept the revised address for purposes of allocation where parents/carers can provide documentary evidence of the move by **8 March 2025**. It will be necessary for sufficient evidence of a permanent move to be provided by the applicant by this date before it will be taken into account for allocation purposes at the national offer date.

If a place is offered on the basis of an address that is subsequently found to be different from the child's normal and permanent home address at the time of allocation of places then that place is likely to be withdrawn.

Any Staffordshire child not obtaining a place at any of their parent's preferred schools will be allocated an alternative school place and will be advised about the independent appeals process.

Deferred entry to reception class

Parents may request that their child be admitted to reception class on a part-time basis, or that their child be admitted to school later in the **same** academic year until the child reaches compulsory school age (i.e. beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday). The effect is that the place will be held for the child in reception and is not available to be offered to any other child **within the same academic year** in which it has been offered.

Before deciding whether to defer their child's entry to school, parents should visit their preferred school(s) to clarify how they cater for the youngest children in reception and how the needs of these children are met as they move up through the school.

Admission outside of the normal age group

Parents may seek to apply for their child's admission to school outside of their normal age group, for example if the child is exceptionally gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of summer born children may choose not to send

their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted outside of their normal age group to reception rather than Year 1.

These parents will need to make an application alongside children applying at the normal age which should explain why it is in the child's best interest to be admitted outside of their normal age which may include information such as professional evidence as to why this is the case and why an exception should be made in the case of the child. A decision as to whether this is an appropriate course of action will be made by the Trust who will take into account the circumstances of the case and views of the Headteacher of the community or voluntary controlled school concerned. Parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular year group.

Waiting lists for Admissions and Normal Point of Entry

Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria stated above and not based on the date their application was received. There will be a period of two weeks after the national offer date whereby available places will not be reallocated. If places become available after this date they will be offered according to the child at the top of the waiting list.

For cases where the infant class size regulations apply, the waiting list will operate until the cohort concerned leaves year 2 and parents will be written to each year to ask whether or not they wish their child's details to remain on the list.

For all other cases, waiting lists will be kept until **31 December of the entry year**.

Inclusion on a school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available at the preferred school.

A child's position on a waiting list is not fixed and is subject to change during the year i.e. they can go up or down the list since each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the oversubscription criteria.

Children who are subject to a direction by a Trust to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with the fair access protocol will take precedence over those on the waiting list.

Late applications

Preferences received after the closing date will be considered alongside those applicants who applied on time wherever possible. Where it is not practicable because places have already been allocated, or are shortly to be allocated, then late preferences will be considered only after those that were made before this point.

A late application does not affect the right of appeal or the right to be placed on a school's waiting list.

For late applications made after the time that is practicable because places have already been allocated, are shortly to be allocated, there will be a period of two weeks after the national offer date whereby available places will not be reallocated. If places become available after this date they will be offered according to the child at the top of the waiting list.

Repeat applications

Parents do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the Trust has accepted a second application from the appellant because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission.