


**All Saints' Church of England Primary  
School  
Dovercourt**



**Admission Policy  
2026 - 2027**

Date approved by FGB	Jan 25
Date for review	Sept 25
Signed by COG	



**ADMISSIONS POLICY**  
**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, DOVERCOURT**  
**September 2026 - 2027**

**Policy and Numbers**

Subject to the availability of places within the published admission number of 30 in each class, it is the policy of the Governing Body to admit children of all parents who opt for their children to be educated at this school.

**Applying for a school place in EYFS**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the booklet 'Primary Education in Essex' produced annually by Essex County Council and available from LA, Planning and Admissions Department; School Admissions, Essex County Council, PO Box 4261, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1GS, email [admissions@essex.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@essex.gov.uk) Essex has introduced a coordinated admissions scheme and you must apply on the Common Application Form for Essex Schools. ([www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)) For advice please contact ECC on 0345 603 2200. Where applicable, the school will then request that a Supplementary Information Form be completed in order for the Governing Body to apply the admissions criteria below\*. Where appropriate this will include giving the name and address of a priest, minister or faith leader from whom the Governors may obtain a reference.

**Age of Admission/Deferring Entry into School**

As required by law, all Essex infant and primary schools provide for the full-time admission of all children offered a place in the Reception year group from the September following their fourth birthday. Therefore, if a parent wants a full-time place for their child from September, then they are entitled to that full-time place.

Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in the school year. The law does not require a child to start school until the start of the term following their fifth birthday. Compulsory school age is reached at that point.

Where entry is deferred, All Saints' will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child. The parent would not however be able to 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.

Parents can also request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. Any parents interested in taking up a part-time place initially should contact All Saints' for further details as to what that would entail.

Where parents choose to defer entry, a school may reasonably expect that the child would start at the beginning of a new school term/half term.

Where a parent of a 'summer born' child (22 April – 31 August) wishes their child to start school in the autumn term following their fifth birthday, they will need to apply for a place at the correct time for normal admission round for the following academic year. Supporting evidence from relevant professionals working with that child and family stating why the child must be placed outside their normal age appropriate cohort must be submitted. The



Governing Body will decide whether the application for a Reception place will be accepted or whether it will be treated as an application for a Year 1 place, the child's normal age appropriate cohort. If the application for a Reception place is not accepted this does not constitute a refusal of the place and there is no right to an independent statutory appeal.

**\*Oversubscription**

When applications exceed the intended number the following criteria are used to determine which children are admitted in the order listed:

1. Children who are looked after, or who were previously looked after including 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.
2. Whether the child has siblings on roll at the school at the point of their entry to the school<sup>1</sup>.
3. \*Whether the parents or child are regularly involved in the worship of the Parish churches of Harwich, Dovercourt, Ramsey and Little Oakley to the boundaries to Great Oakley. The Governors will request a supporting statement from the priest or minister.
4. \*Whether the parents or child are involved in the worship of another Christian Church – Christian Church means any church which is designated under the Ecumenical Relations Measure nationally by the Archbishop of Canterbury and York or locally by the diocesan bishop, or as a member of Churches Together in England (CTE), or the Evangelical Alliance or a partner church of Affinity. The Governors will request a supporting statement from the priest or minister.
5. Children of teaching and non-teaching staff who have been employees of All Saints' Church of England Primary School for two or more years at the time of application for a school place. For the purpose of this criterion, 'children of school staff' is taken to include a son, daughter or step-son/daughter, or a child who is adopted or fostered or for whom a special guardianship order is in place, in all cases providing they are living at the same address as the parent who is employed at the school. Parents applying under this criterion must inform the Headteacher in writing.
6. Remaining applications<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> In the event of over subscription in any category, the straight line distance between home and school will be taken into account with those whose habitual home is nearest the school being given priority. All straight line distances are calculated electronically by the Local Authority. The data plots the co-ordinates of each property and provides the address points between which straight line distance is measured and reported to three decimal places.

\*The Governors define regular involvement as attending Church on at least four occasions over the previous 12 months excepting Christmas, Easter, weddings, baptisms and funerals.



### **Siblings**

<sup>1</sup> For applications made in the normal admission round a relevant sibling is a child who has a brother, sister, adopted brother or sister or stepbrother or stepsister living in the same family unit in the same family household and address who attends the preferred school or partner school in any year group excluding the final year. Biological siblings who attend the preferred school in any year group excluding the final year will also be treated as siblings irrespective of place of residence. Children residing in the same household as part of an extended family, such as cousins, will not be treated as siblings. For mid-year applications a sibling is a child who has a brother, sister, adopted brother or sister or stepbrother or stepsister living in the same family unit in the same family household and address as a child who attends or has been offered a place at the preferred school or partner school at the time of application and determination and with a reasonable expectation that the sibling will be attending at the time of admission.

### **Exceptions**

A child with an Educational Health & Care Plan that names All Saints' C of E School as the provider of education will be admitted irrespective of the above criteria.

Looked after children, or a child who was previously looked after, i.e. children in public care, will be accorded the highest priority within each category for admission in accordance with the guidance of the Local Authority.

### **Tie breaker**

All straight line distances are calculated electronically by the LA using data provided jointly by the Post Office and Ordnance Survey. The data plots the co-ordinates of each property and provides the address-point between which straight line distance is measured and reported to three decimal places. In the unlikely event of two applicants with an identical distance competing for a single place at a school, the place will be offered to one applicant on the basis of *lots drawn by any Chair of a Governor Committee not involved in admissions*.

### **Waiting List**

School Admissions will hold a waiting list for all oversubscribed schools until the 31<sup>st</sup> December and continue to allocate places from these lists if spaces become available. Applicants will be ranked on these waiting lists in priority order, according to the school's admission criteria. The Local Authority will not maintain waiting lists beyond the end of the first term, however parents will have the opportunity to register their continued interest in a place.

**Waiting List** (Outside of reception admissions November-January - please refer to Essex.gov for dates)

The school operates a waiting list, for applications that fall outside the reception admissions process. Priority must not be given to children based on the date the application was received, or the name added to the list. Looked after children or previously looked after children allocated a place at the school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol must take precedence over those on a waiting list. Completed applications will be assessed on their ranking, and if required, in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.



### **Late Applications**

Applications received after the published closing date will be treated as late applications unless there is evidence to show that the application or amendment could not reasonably have been made on time. A new preference or change in the order of preferences will not be accepted after the closing date unless the circumstances are deemed to be exceptional. Late applications will be given a lower priority and will be dealt with after all the applications in the first round of offers on 16 April 2026. Where a school is oversubscribed late applications will be refused and ranked according to the admission criteria on any waiting list held for the particular school. All late applications will be considered by the Local Authority to ascertain whether exceptional circumstances for late submission exist. Where that is deemed to be the case the application will be treated as 'on time'. Where a school is oversubscribed late applications received after the first round of offers on 16 April 2026 will be refused and ranked according to the admission criteria on any waiting list held for the particular school.

### **Appeals against admission decisions**

Parents have the right to appeal against admission decisions to an Independent Appeal Panel. Information about how to appeal against a refusal of a school place will be sent with the offer pack. Notice of appeal should be sent to the Clerk to the Independent Appeal Panel, PO Box 11, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX.

### **Mid-year admissions**

All mid-year applications should be made directly to the school, using the mid-year application form available on our website and/or the school office. Mid-year applications (sometimes called in-year applications) are any application for a school place made to a year group, apart from September admissions to EYFS.

For applications into existing year groups, a place will be offered when the number of pupils in the relevant year group is below the admission number for that year group.

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#### **Determination:**

1.46 All admission authorities **must** determine admission arrangements by **15 April** every year, even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not been required.

1.47 Once admission authorities have determined their admission arrangements, they **must** notify the appropriate bodies and **must** publish a copy of the determined arrangements on their website displaying them for the whole offer year (the academic year in which offers for places are made). Admission authorities **must** send a copy of their full, determined arrangements to the local authority as soon as possible before **1 May**. Admission authorities for faith schools **must** also send a copy of their arrangements to the body or person representing their religion or religious denomination.

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