

THE ROYAL SCHOOL (CROWN AIDED)

ADMISSION POLICY 2015-2016

The Admissions Policy for The Royal School (Crown Aided) has been designed to comply with the School Admissions Code. It is reviewed annually in consultation with Oxford Diocese, Local Authorities and local schools.

In the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, all parents of children who are due to reach compulsory school age in the academic year 2015-2016, are asked to request the Annual Admissions Booklet and a Primary School Common Application Form [CAF], from the Local Authority [LA]. Applications must be made on the CAF of the LA in which the children live (the home LA).

The Royal School (Crown Aided) is designated a Church of England Voluntary Aided School. This means that the Governing Body, not the Local Authority of The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, is responsible for the final decision on admissions to the school.

The Royal School values highly its Christian ethos, its close links with local churches and the Diocese of Oxford. We provide a distinctively Christian, yet inclusive, environment in which each child is motivated to acquire skills for life and a love of learning. As a church school, we welcome applications from Christian families, and those of other faiths or none. We ask all parents applying for a place at our school to respect this ethos and its importance to the whole school community.

Applications for entry to The Royal School (Crown Aided) for the academic year 2015-2016 must be received by the date advised by the home LA. Applicants are requested to complete a supplementary information form (SIF- available from the school office, the LA or from the school website) if applying under denominational criterion 5 below.

*Decisions on which children are offered a place will be made by the Admissions Committee of The Royal School during March 2015 and offers will be processed by the Local Authority. Parents (see Note 1) will be given 14 days in which to accept an offer. Applications received after the deadline for receipt will only be considered **after** all those received by the deadline. This means that, if no places are left after considering all the applications received by the deadline, even if the applicant fulfils a higher criterion than that under which places have been offered to other applicants, the application will be unsuccessful. (See Waiting List arrangements)*

At The Royal School (Crown Aided), pupils will be admitted on dates set out below, without reference to ability or aptitude.

For the academic year 2015-2016 The Royal School (Crown Aided) will have one date of entry in September 2015 (Term1).

Children born between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2011 are eligible for entry in the academic year 2015-2016. The school does not accept applications for younger children.

Children who are offered a place at The Royal School (Crown Aided) will all be offered a full time place in Reception in September 2015. Parents may request deferred entry until the child reaches statutory school age (the term after his/her fifth birthday where, for this purpose, terms start in September, January and April), any deferred places will be held. However, we would normally expect that all children are in school by the start of Term 3 (January 2016).

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2016 and 31 August 2016 (summer-born children), parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2015-16, but to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2016, should proceed as follows. They should apply at the usual time for a place in September 2015 together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the Reception year in September 2016. NB parents would need to provide strong supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the head teacher as early as possible. If their request is agreed, and this should be clear before the national offer day, their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered and they should reapply in the normal way (no later than 15 January 2016) for a Reception place in September 2016. If their request is refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for any offer of a place in September 2015 (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 summer term 2016 for a Year 1 place in September 2016. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies as it could be full with children transferring from the 2015-16 Reception Year group.

Parents may also request that their child attends part time until the child reaches statutory school age should they feel it is in the child's best interest. In such cases parents should discuss detailed arrangements with the Headteacher.

The schools admission number (AN) for the academic year commencing September 2015 is 20.

In Year Applications –Parents need to contact the school to apply for any places in year. Where there are two or more applications for the same place then the over subscription criteria will be applied. The school follows the RBWM Fair Access Protocol.

Each year group has 20 places. Requests 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, cases will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. The Governors will ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. Those refused places outside the normal age group will be informed of their statutory right to appeal.

Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs or with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan naming The Royal School will always be offered places.

In the event of there being a greater demand for admission than there are places available, The Royal School will offer places, in the following order of precedence

- 1 Looked-after children and children who were previously looked after, 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 Children of parents who are resident within the boundaries of the Crown Estate Windsor and Windsor Castle.
- 3 Children (or a parent) who have exceptional medical or social needs that make it essential that they attend The Royal 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)
- 4 Children with a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application or children with a sibling who has previously attended the school. (see Note 4)
- 5 Children with a grandparent who is or was a resident within the boundaries of the Crown Estate Windsor and Windsor Castle for a period of at least three years.
- 6 Children of parents living outside the perimeter of the Crown Estate Windsor, and Windsor Castle, who wish their child to attend a Church of England School, supported by evidence that a parent has been for at least a year preceding the date of the application a regular worshipper (at least once per month) at any Christian church that is a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. (see Note 5)
- 7 Children of staff who have been employed by The Royal School for at least 2 years prior to application.
- 8 Children of parents living outside the perimeter of the Crown Estate Windsor and Windsor Castle who wish their child to attend The Royal School.

In the case of multiple birth children, should their names fall either side of the admission number of 20 or the number of places available in a year group, the school will offer a place to both/all children irrespective of the Infant Class Size rules.

Within each category all applications will be treated equally, irrespective of need or ability.

Proof of residency will be required upon the request of the Admissions Committee. (Note 6)

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

- any person who has 'parental responsibility' (defined in the Children Act 1989) for the child or young person; or
- 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 accommodation by a Local authority in the exercise of its social services function. An adoption order is one made under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Section 46). A 'child arrangements order' is one settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live (Children Act 1989, Section 8, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014, Section 14).). A 'special guardianship order' is one appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian/s (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. a copy of the adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order).

Note 3; when applying under criterion 3 (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 The Royal 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 sibling, we mean a brother or sister. This means a brother or sister of the whole or half blood, or any other child (including an adopted child) who permanently resides at the same address and for whom the parent has parental responsibility. Please ensure the details of the sibling are entered on your CAF.

Note 5; the Governing Body asks the parents to complete a form confirming church commitment and that this form be countersigned by a priest or minister. In the cases of families who have moved house in the twelve months prior to signing the form it may be necessary to provide more than one form confirming Church attendance.

Note 6; Home Address - place where the family/child resides for the majority of the time i.e. during the school week. In the case of a rented property evidence of a minimum of a 12 month lease is required from the time the child starts school.

Note 7/Tiebreaker; Within each criterion, the child ordinarily living nearest to the school, based on a straight-line measurement using the Local Ordnance Survey Map

from the school gates to the child's house, will be given highest priority. We will use this in the event of oversubscription within any criteria. In the case of two properties being of equal distance from the school a random application process will be administered as follows:

The names of the applicants will be recorded on individual pieces of A4 white paper. The papers will then be folded and put into a box. The box will be closed and shaken. A member of the Admissions Committee will remove one piece of paper at a time and the name will be recorded in the minutes in order of withdrawal. The Chair of the Committee and the Clerk to the Committee will sign the minutes.

In the last 3 years the places accepted were as detailed below.

Criteria	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	0	0	0
2	6	3	5
3	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	8	10	6
5	0	1	0
6	4	5	7
7	N/A	N/A	0
8	2	1	2

Note: Changes in the Admission Policy over the years mean that Criteria have been changed or additional added and consequently some criteria are Not Applicable to previous years.

There are established arrangements for appeals against non-admission. Details are available from the school. It should be noted that, in event of an unsuccessful appeal against non-admission to the school, the school does not consider any further application to the same school year [1st September – 31st August] unless there is a major change in circumstances. The school maintains a waiting list for those children who are not offered a place; the order of priority on the waiting list is the same as the list of criteria for over subscription. No account is taken of length of time on a waiting list. The school periodically seeks confirmation that parents wish a child to be kept on a waiting list. For further information, in the first instance, please contact the school office. Contact details are as follows;

Address The Royal School (Crown Aided)
 The Great Park
 Windsor
 Berks
 SL4 2HP

Telephone 01784 434274

E-mail theroyalschool@rbwm.org.uk