



ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
ACADEMIC YEAR
2021/22



ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACADEMIES IN THE SHIRE LEARNING TRUST

All decisions on admissions are delegated by The Shire Learning Trust Board to the Local Governing Body of the individual academy.

The PAN for The Shire Learning Trust academies is as follows:

Gnosall St Lawrence C.E. Primary Academy & Pre-School– 45
Haughton St Giles C.E. Primary Academy – 15
Woodseaves C.E. Primary Academy – 15

DESIGNATED NURSERY PROVISION: ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22:

As a result of national policy changes and the enhanced package of early educational entitlements now available to parents, Gnosall St Lawrence Primary Academy & Pre-School admit children from their 2nd birthday on a privately paid for basis until the first term after their 3rd birthday when their 15 hours per week funded place becomes available, which ensures flexibility of provision and supports families in the catchment of Gnosall. The 30-hour offer is also available for parents who meet the government's criteria.

In relation to Local Governing Body run nursery provision, the Trust Board of The Shire Learning Trust has

- agreed its own admission arrangements for the nursery at Gnosall
- set its own oversubscription criteria, in line with the Equalities Act 2010
- introduced its own application process; an application form and closing dates can be obtained from Gnosall St Lawrence Primary Academy & Pre-School.

For 15 hour funded places there are three termly points of entry. The deadline for applications is 4pm on the Friday that the Academy finishes for the half term holiday, in the term prior to admission. Parents will be notified of the result of their application within four working weeks of that closing date.

For privately paid nursery places, applications are accepted at any point during term time. These places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and parents are notified of the result of their application within seven working days of the submission of their application.

Designated Nursery Provision

Parents should contact the relevant Academy to determine the nursery provision in that Academy.

It is the Academy's policy to try and meet parents' wishes where possible, however in some cases there may be more applications for a particular setting than there are places. Admission to these settings is determined by the oversubscription criteria detailed below.

Oversubscription Criteria

If the total number of preferences for admission to a nursery age setting exceeds the number of available places, then the following order of priority will be used, by the Local Governing Body, 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 residence order or special guardianship order).
- 2) Children who satisfy both of the following tests: Test 1: the child is distinguished from the great majority of other applicants either on their own individual 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 Shire Learning Trust nursery rather than any other nursery.

Exceptional circumstances must relate to the choice of nursery and the individual child, i.e. the circumstances of the child, not the specific economic or social circumstances of the parent/carer, and be supported by a professional report (obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application), e.g. social worker, justifying why it is better for the child to attend the preferred Shire Learning Trust nursery rather than any other nursery.

and

Test 2: the child would suffer hardship if they were unable to attend the preferred Shire Learning Trust nursery setting.

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 brother or sister in attendance at the preferred Shire Learning Trust Academy and who will still be attending The Shire Learning Trust Academy at the time of the proposed admission date. (For admission purposes, a brother or sister is a child who lives at the same address and either: have one or both natural parents in common; are related by a parent's marriage; are adopted or fostered by a common parent or are unrelated children who live at the same address, whose parents live as partners.)
- 4) Children living within the defined catchment or cluster area of the preferred setting. Cluster areas for nursery age settings will sometimes, but not always, correspond to the catchment area for the main Academy.

- 5) Other children arranged in order of priority according to how near their home addresses are to the main gate of the nursery setting.

Where it is not possible to accommodate all children applying for places within a particular category then the Local Governing Body will allocate the available places in accordance with the remaining criteria. If for instance, all the catchment area or cluster area children cannot be accommodated at a Shire Learning Trust Academy, children who are resident within the catchment or cluster area will be arranged in order of priority according to the remaining criteria.

Additional Notes

Copies of cluster and catchment area maps are available from the individual Shire Learning Trust Academy.

There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to a Shire Learning Trust Academy.

Applications for Shire Learning Trust nursery settings are processed by the individual Academy.

Parents must make a separate application to the Academy for admission to Reception at the appropriate time.

In accordance with legislation, children who have a statutory statement of special educational need or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names a particular nursery setting must be admitted to that nursery. This will reduce the amount of places available to other applicants.

Children in Care means children who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making the application.

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 Local Governing Body will not seek to obtain this information on behalf of the applicant.

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.

If a child's home address changes during the admissions process it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform the Local Governing Body immediately.

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.

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.

It is expected that parents will agree on school places before an application is made, and it may be necessary to request evidence from you to confirm that this is the case. The Local Governing Body is

not in a position to intervene in disputes between parents over school applications and will request that these are resolved privately.

If there are a limited number of spaces available and we cannot distinguish between applicants using the criteria listed, such as in the case of children who live in the same block of flats or are the result of a multiple birth, then the child or children who will be offered the available spaces will be randomly selected. This process will be independently verified by a person/s nominated by the Trust Board.

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. Children will remain on the waiting until the end of May half term of the academic year in which they turn four.

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

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.

There is no statutory right of appeal for admission to a Shire Learning Trust nursery setting. Any disputes over the administration of the policy will be dealt with by the Staffordshire University Academies Trust's complaints procedure.

NORMAL AGE OF ENTRY ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22

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

Although parents have the right to express a preference for The Shire Learning Trust Academy that they wish their child to attend, there is no guarantee of a place being offered at that Shire Learning Trust Academy.

It is The Shire Learning Trust Academy's policy to try and meet parents' wishes where possible, however in some cases there may be more applications for a particular Academy in Shire Learning Trust than there are places available. Admissions to oversubscribed The Shire Learning Trust Academies are determined by the oversubscription criteria detailed below.

Oversubscription Criteria

If the total number of preferences for admission to a Shire Learning Trust Academy exceeds the Academy's Published Admission Number (PAN), the following order of priority is used by the Local Governing Body 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 residence order or special guardianship order). This applies to both children in these categories in England and also to children in these categories previously from outside of England.
- 2) Children who satisfy both of the following tests:

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 Shire Learning Trust academy rather than any other academy.

Exceptional circumstances must relate to the choice of The Shire Learning Trust academy 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 Shire Learning Trust Academy rather than any other Academy.

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 The Shire Learning Trust Academy and who will still be attending the Shire Learning Trust Academy at the proposed admission date; (For admission purposes, a brother or sister is a child who lives at the same address and either: have one or both natural parents in common; are related by a parent's marriage; are adopted or fostered by a common parent or are unrelated children who live at the same address, whose parents live as partners.)
- 4) Children living within the catchment area of the preferred The Shire Learning Trust Academy.
- 5) Other children arranged in order of priority according to how near their home addresses are to the main gate of the Academy, determined by a straight-line measurement as calculated by Google maps or the Local Authority's Geographical Information System (please see additional notes for further details).

Where it is not possible to accommodate all children applying for places within a particular category then the Local Governing Body of that Shire Learning Trust Academy 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 the remaining criteria.

Additional Notes

Copies of school catchment area maps are available from the Local Authority or individual Shire Learning Trust Academies.

There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to a Shire Learning Trust Academy.

Admissions are administered through a coordinated admission scheme and preferences for maintained schools will be processed centrally by the School Admissions and Transport Service. Each child will receive only one offer of a place at a Staffordshire school.

In accordance with legislation, children who have a statutory statement of special educational need or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names a particular school as being the most appropriate to meet the child's needs must be admitted to that school. This will reduce the amount of places available to other applicants.

Children in Care means children who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making the application.

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.

The Shire Learning Trust Academies that have purchased a SLA with the Local Authority use the Local Authority 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 Academy. The coordinates of an applicant's home address is determined and provided by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and OS Address Point data. Those Academies that have not purchased the SLA with the Local Authority use Google maps.

The requirement 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 Shire Learning Trust Academy will give careful consideration to offering places above the Admission Number to applications from children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted even when there are no other vacant places.

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.

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

If a child's home address changes during the admissions process it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform the Shire Learning Trust academy immediately. Where there is a proposed house move taking place during the admissions process the Shire Learning Trust academy will only accept the revised address for purposes of allocation where parents/carers can provide documentary evidence of the move by 12 March 2021. 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.

If there are a limited number of spaces available and 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.

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 academy. 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 Local Governing Body of the Academy concerned. Parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular year group.

Waiting lists

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 the end of the autumn term of admission.

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 of a direction by a local authority 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.

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 local authority 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.

"In-Year Transfer" Arrangements

Parents or carers seeking to transfer to a particular Shire Learning Trust Academy may make an application using the appropriate application form, which can be obtained from Staffordshire County Council Admissions website. This application will be processed in line with the procedure outlined in the determined admission arrangements and parents and carers need to be aware that any date set for joining the new school may be after the next term or half term holiday and those parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their child continues to receive appropriate education in the interim.

In the interests of safeguarding it is Shire Learning Trust procedure to inform the Local Authority that a pupil has left in order to attend another school in the UK or abroad.