

MANOR FARM COMMUNITY JUNIOR SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY



Last Reviewed: October 2015
Next Review: October 2016

Admissions Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The governing body of Manor Farm Community Junior School applies the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend this school. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 introduced a new framework for school admissions as of September 2000. This policy conforms to the regulations that are set out in that Act and also further explained in the statutory School Admissions Code of Practice and the statutory Appeals Code of Practice.

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 We are an inclusive school that welcomes children from all backgrounds and abilities.
- 2.2 All applications will be treated on merit and in a sensitive manner.
- 2.3 The only restriction we place on entry is that of number. If the number of children applying for entry exceeds the places available, we enforce the procedure set out below in order to determine whether a child is accepted or not. It is our wish to allow parents the right to have a place at the school of their choice. However, this is not always possible, due to the excess demand on the school places available.
- 2.4 The level of ability of a child or any special needs that s/he may have plays no part in the admissions policy of this school.

3 How parents can apply for their child to be admitted to our school

- 3.1 As our school is a community school, the school determines the admission arrangements in agreement with the LA. The LA is therefore the 'Admissions Authority' for our school. The regulations for entry to each school, where the Admissions Authority is the LA, are published each year by the LA. Parents can receive a copy of these regulations directly from the LA.
- 3.2 The LA publishes a composite admissions prospectus each year, which gives information about how parents can apply for a place in the school of their choice. Parents have a right to express a preference for the school of their choice and they should do so on the application form. Expressing a preference does not, in itself, guarantee a place at this school. Application forms can be obtained from the Education Department of the LA and should be completed by the date stipulated on the forms. The school notifies parents about the school place as soon as all the applications have been considered.

4 Admission appeals

- 4.1 If we do not offer a child a place at this school, it is because to do so would prejudice the education of other children by allowing the numbers of children in the school to increase too much.

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- 4.2** If parents wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry, they can do so by applying to the LA. An independent appeals panel then meets to consider all appeals by parents who have been refused a place at our school and who wish to appeal against this decision. An appeals panel's decision is binding for all parties concerned. If the appeals panel decides that we should admit a child to our school, then we will accept this and continue to do all we can to provide the best education for all the children at our school. (Details of appeal arrangements are set out in the Code of Practice on School Admissions Appeals, which came into force in September 1999.)

5 The standard number

- 5.1** The standard number is the number of children the school can accommodate. The standard number for our school is 60. We keep this number under review and the governors will apply to change the number if circumstances allow.

6 Fair Access Protocol

The Admissions Code requires each authority to agree and to operate a Fair Access protocol. This is a local agreement amongst all schools to ensure that children without school places, and in particular vulnerable groups, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible, and that all schools in the area admit their fair share of children with challenging behaviour. In certain circumstances, the protocol permits a child to join a school that is already full.

The Fair Access Protocol covers all children who require a school place outside the normal admissions round who may have a difficulty in securing a place. Highest priority is given to the most vulnerable groups, looked-after children and children who have been permanently excluded, but arrangements exist to support all children requiring admission to mainstream school because they have been out of school, perhaps as a result of illness, those who have no school place perhaps because they have moved into the area, and those who for social or educational reasons might have barriers to education, for example children with disabilities, young carers or children of traveller families.

7. Review

- 7.1** This policy will be reviewed annually with the Admissions Authority in the light of any changed circumstances in our school or the local area.

Further information regarding admissions can be found at;

www.buckscc.gov.uk/schools/parents/admissions.