



Farmor's School

Integrity, Fellowship and Endeavour

Admissions Policy for Years 7-11

Admission year 2023-2024

Author:	Matthew Evans
Date of approval:	December 2021
Next Review date:	December 2022
Review period:	Annual
Status:	Statutory- The School Admissions Code which applies directly to the school by virtue of its funding agreement with the Education and Skills Funding Agency

Farmor's School is an Academy school which offers places to children aged between 11 and 19. The school's Governing Board is the Admissions Authority. The school's admission procedures are administered by Gloucestershire County Council.

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to set out the admission criteria and process for entry to Farmor's School in Year 7 for the school year commencing September 2023 and to clarify the order of priority should numbers applying exceed places.
- 1.2 This policy aims to ensure that all applications are dealt with in a fair and equitable manner.
- 1.3 Entries to the Sixth Form are dealt with under the school's Sixth Form Admissions Policy.

2. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES

- 2.1 This policy operates in conjunction with the school's Sixth Form Admissions Policy and Equality and Diversity Policy.

3. PRINCIPLES

- 3.1 Pupils may be admitted at age 11, without reference to ability or aptitude.
- 3.2 The number of intended admissions in **Year 7 for September 2023 is 168.**

4. DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 For the purposes of this policy, terms are defined as follows:

Geographical claim

Geographical claim is calculated by giving priority for admission to children who live nearest to the school as measured by using direct distance, as the crow flies; from the Ordnance Survey address point of the child's primary home to the main entrance gate of the school in Leafield Road.

Looked After Children

A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. In Gloucestershire, such children are referred to as Children in Care.

This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). Under the provisions of s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

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

A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

Previously Looked After Children

Children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

Priority Catchment Area

The civil parishes of Aldsworth, Bibury, Coln St. Aldwyns, Down Ampney, Eastleach, Fairford, Hatherop, Kempsford, Lechlade, Meysey Hampton, Poulton, Quenington, Southrop and Winson.

Siblings

For this purpose, sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner as well as children who are brought together as a family by a same sex civil partnership. In every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address, at the time of application. Where a child lives with both parents on a 50/50 (equal) basis, both parents must agree and confirm the pupil's address, which must be the same address as the preference school has registered for the sibling connection to apply. The parents' agreement and application must be made before the closing dates in order for the sibling connection to apply.

Educational Healthcare Plan (EHCP)

An EHCP is a statement made by a local Authority under Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 specifying the special educational provision required for a child.

5. ADMISSIONS CRITERIA AND PROCESS

5.1 Method of application

- 5.1.1 Anyone wishing to apply for a place in Year 7 during the normal application period must do so via their Local Authority. The application period is published by the Local Authority and is usually between the months of September to the end of October. An application is made by completing and submitting the published common application form, stating the preferred schools, to the Local Authority of which the applicant is resident, no later than the date and time stated by that Local Authority. An offer of a place at Farmor's will be made on the National Offer Day, usually on or about 1 March.
- 5.1.2 The application process for a place outside of the normal application period or for admission to another year group is set out in the policy in paragraph 8.
- 5.1.3 Where the number of applications does not exceed the number of places available all applicants will be offered a place.

5.2. Admissions priority

- 5.2.1. Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available at Farmor's the following criteria, in the order set out below, will be applied to decide which children to admit.
 - a. A 'looked after child' (1) or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption (2), child arrangements order (residency order) (3) or special guardianship order (4) including those 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 (5).
 - b. Children who will have a sibling at Farmor's School when the younger child is admitted.
 - c. Children who have an authenticated medical reason for attending Farmor's School.

Applications under this criterion will only be considered if they are supported by a written statement from a doctor. This must demonstrate that there is a very specific connection between the medical need and the facilities and resources of Farmor's School.

- d. Children living in the Priority Catchment Area with the strongest Geographical Claim.
- e. Children of staff at the school. A child is considered to fall under this criterion where:
 - i. the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
 - ii. the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

If applicants wish to be considered under either of these criteria then a letter from the Head Teacher confirming which of the criteria stated above applies must be provided to The Local Authority with the application.

- f. Children living outside the Priority Catchment Area with the Strongest Geographical Claim.

5.2.2 In the event of oversubscription being reached at any point in the priority list then the subsequent priority would apply. Random allocation will be used as a tie-break in categories d and f above to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and the school is the same. This process will be independently verified.

6. EDUCATION HEALTH AND CARE PLANS (EHCP)

- 6.1 The school is required to admit a child with an Educational Health & Care Plan who is named by the Local Authority, even if the school is full. An Education, Health and Care plan is a plan made by a local authority under Section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014 specifying the special education, health and care provision required for a child. These were previously known as a Statement of Special Educational Needs.

7. FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL (FAP)

- 7.1 The school has signed up to the Gloucestershire County Council *Fair Access Protocol School Admission Arrangements For Vulnerable Children Without A School Place* (FAP). The protocol is devised to ensure that access to education is secured quickly for children who have no school place.
- 7.2 The FAP applies to the placement of vulnerable children outside the normal admissions round and only takes effect when parents/carers have exhausted the normal methods of admission and been unable to find a school place for their child through the in-year application process. Vulnerable children are those as defined in the FAP.
- 7.3 Looked After Children, Previously Looked After Children and a vulnerable child within the FAP requiring a place at the school will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

8. APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL PLACE IN OTHER YEAR GROUPS OR DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR (IN YEAR APPLICATIONS)

- 8.1 Any applications for admission to the school made outside the normal period of entry should be made directly to the school.

9. WHEN THE SCHOOL IS OVERSUBSCRIBED

- 9.1 If the relevant year group is oversubscribed, either for applications for Year 7 during the normal application period or for in-year applications, the child's name can be kept on a waiting list, prioritised according to the admissions criteria on page 3 and 4.

10. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CODE AND CONSULTATION

- 10.1 This policy has been produced and consultation taken place in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2014, as amended in September 2015. The school is bound by and will observe the provisions of the School Admissions Code, as amended from time to time.

11. APPEALS

- 11.1 Applicants refused admission are entitled to appeal to an independent appeals panel. Details of the appeal process are available from the school on request.

12. MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

- 12.1 The Senior Leadership Team of the school will report on the workings of this policy to the Governing Board of the school. The Governing Board will evaluate the impact of and monitor the correct application of this policy.

Headteacher

Date

18th January 2022

Chair of Governors

Date

25th January 2022