St Osmund's Middle School

Admissions Policy 2022 - 2023

"St Osmund's is a school built upon Christian values. We aim to inspire and empower all to be active, life-long learners who achieve their potential and contribute positively to the world."

Inspire – Empower – Achieve

Faith-Hope-Love

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians ch13:13

Chair of Governors Signed.....Dated.....

Chair of Directors Signed: Dated: 11/11/20

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Admissions Policy 2022 - 2023

1. Introduction

a. The governing body of St Osmund's School Dorchester is the admission authority and responsible for the admission arrangements of the School. This document sets out the admission arrangements of the School for the academic year 2022/2023.

b. The published admission number (PAN) for entry into the School is 180. The School will admit up to the PAN in the normal year of entry which is Year 5. Where there are more applications for admission than places available at the School, then places will be offered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria at section 3 of this policy.

c. Where a child has an education, health and care plan (EHCP) which names the School, then that child will be admitted to the School and the number of available places in the PAN will reduce correspondingly.

d. When applying to start school in Year 5 in in September 2022 you must apply to your home Local Authority ("LA"). All applications for admission must be received by your home LA by the closing date of 15 January 2022. The home LA will make a single offer of a place on 16th April 2022 (or next working day).

2. Religious Character of the School

a. The School is designated with a religious character. The School's religious authority is the Diocese of Salisbury. The School must have regard to any guidance from its religious authority when constructing the faith based terms of its admission arrangements.

b. Recognising its historic foundation, the School will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the churches at parish and diocesan level. The School aims to support children and their families by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

3. Oversubscription Criteria

Where the School is oversubscribed (there are more applicants than places available) places will be allocated in accordance with the following criteria and in the following order. Please read the explanatory notes for further guidance.

a. Looked After Children or Previously Looked After Children – A child who is in the care of an LA, or was in the care of an LA but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement, or special guardianship order.

b. Vulnerable Children

A child is eligible in this category where the child has an identified social or medical need.

c. Children living in the Catchment Area with a sibling at the School
A child living inside the Catchment Area is eligible for this category where they have a sibling attending the School on the date of application and the sibling will still be attending the School at the time of admission.

d. Children living in the Catchment Area

e. Children living outside the Catchment Area with a sibling at the School
A child living outside the Catchment Area is eligible for this category where they have a sibling attending the School on the date of application and the sibling will still be attending the School at the time of admission.

f. Children living outside the Catchment Area who meet the faith criterion
A child living outside the Catchment Area is eligible for this category where the child is a regular practising Christian at a Recognised Church or Religious Group (Regularly is defined as monthly or more frequently, for at least a period of one year). In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church [or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these [admissions] arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church [or in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

g. All other children

Tie Breaker

If there are not enough places to satisfy all the applications under any one criterion, priority will be given to those living nearest the School. The School will adopt the measurement system of Dorset Council Local Authority to determine the distance from the School to the Home address. Where two or more applicants live an equal distance from the School and it is not possible to differentiate between them, priority will be determined by random allocation through the drawing of lots supervised by someone independent of the School.

Oversubscription Criteria : Explanatory Notes

Catchment Area means the geographical area from which children will be afforded priority for admission to the School. A map indicating the Catchment Area and details of the Ecclesiastical Parish is within this Admission Policy and available to view on the School website. A hard copy is available at the School office.

Vulnerable Children

(i) Medical need means where written evidence has been provided from a senior clinical medical officer or the child's general practitioner / specialist showing that the child's

condition would make it detrimental to the child's health not to admit him/her to the School. This may include written evidence where the parent has a medical need and/or disability which would make it detrimental for the child to attend a different school. Evidence to be relied upon must be submitted with the Supplementary Information Form and sent to the School on or before 15th January 2022.

(ii) Social Need means where the child is of confirmed refugee status. Written evidence of this status from the home LA must be submitted with the Supplementary Information Form and sent to the School on or before 15th January 2022.

Sibling means brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, foster brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom admission is sought is living in the same family unit as that sibling and at the same address.

Faith Criterion Requirements

(i) **Regular practising Christian** means a child who attends a **Recognised Church or Religious Group regularly** prior to application.

(ii) **Regularly** is defined as monthly or more frequently, for at least a period of one year. In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church [or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these [admissions] arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church [or in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

(iii) **Recognised Church or Religious Group** means a church that is the same denomination as (or is in fellowship with or partnership with) a member of: Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (see ctbi.org.uk); the Evangelical Alliance (see eauk.org); the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (see www.fiec.org.uk); Affinity fellowship of Churches (see www.affinity.org.uk).

Home address means the place where the child resides for the majority of the school week (Sunday to Thursday) with the person/s who legally has care of the child (child care arrangements are excluded). The School may require documentary evidence of house ownership or tenancy together with evidence of the child's residency at the property.

4. Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

a. Where seeking priority under the vulnerable children (3b) or faith criterion (3f) parents must fully complete the relevant part of the SIF and provide the required supporting evidence. Where relying on the faith criterion (3f) the SIF must be signed off by the relevant Church representative. Where relying on the vulnerable children criterion (3b) you must supply evidence to support the application.

b. The SIF must be returned to the School office on or before 15th January 2022. The SIF is on the School website or a paper copy may be requested from the School office.

5. Appeals

a. Where an application is unsuccessful the parents/carers have the statutory right to bring an appeal against that decision to an independent appeal panel. Details of how to appeal will be included in the letter advising that the application has been unsuccessful.

b. The admission appeal timetable is published on the School's website by 28th February each year.

6. Important Information

a. Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside their normal age group, for example if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Such requests should be discussed with the Headteacher as early as possible in the admissions process. This will allow the School sufficient time to make a decision regarding the request before the closing date for applications and national offer day.

Decisions to admit a pupil outside their normal age group will be based on the circumstances of each case and based on what is in the best interests of the child concerned. We may request supporting professional evidence to assist in the decision-making. There is no legal requirement for this medical or educational evidence to be secured from an appropriate professional. However, failure to provide this may impede our ability to make an informed decision.

b. Multiple Birth Applications

Where there are multiple birth applications the PAN will be exceeded or increased provided it is practicable at the point of allocation in order to ensure that multiple birth siblings can be allocated places at the School.

c. Waiting Lists

If the School is oversubscribed for September 2022 entry a waiting list will be maintained until 31st December 2022. The position of the child on the waiting list will correspond with the oversubscription criteria; it will not be based on length of time on the waiting list. The right of appeal at Section 5 remains. You may request your child's name be removed from the waiting list at any time. If a place is offered but refused then the child's name will be removed from the waiting list.

7. Withdrawal of an Offer

The School may withdraw an offer in certain circumstances, for example where it has been offered in error, has been made on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application, or a parent has not responded to an offer of a place within a reasonable period of time.

8. In Year Admissions

~~a.~~ Applications for in year admission may be submitted at any time during the school year. The application form is available here: https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/moving-school-part-way-through-the-school-year.aspx .

b. Where the School has no spaces available, because the admission of another child would prejudice the efficient education of others at the School or would prejudice the efficient use of resources, the application will be refused and a right of appeal, as set out in Section 5, will arise.

c. The oversubscription criteria at section 3 will be only used where the School is considering more than one in year application at the same time and there are not enough spaces to accept all applicants.

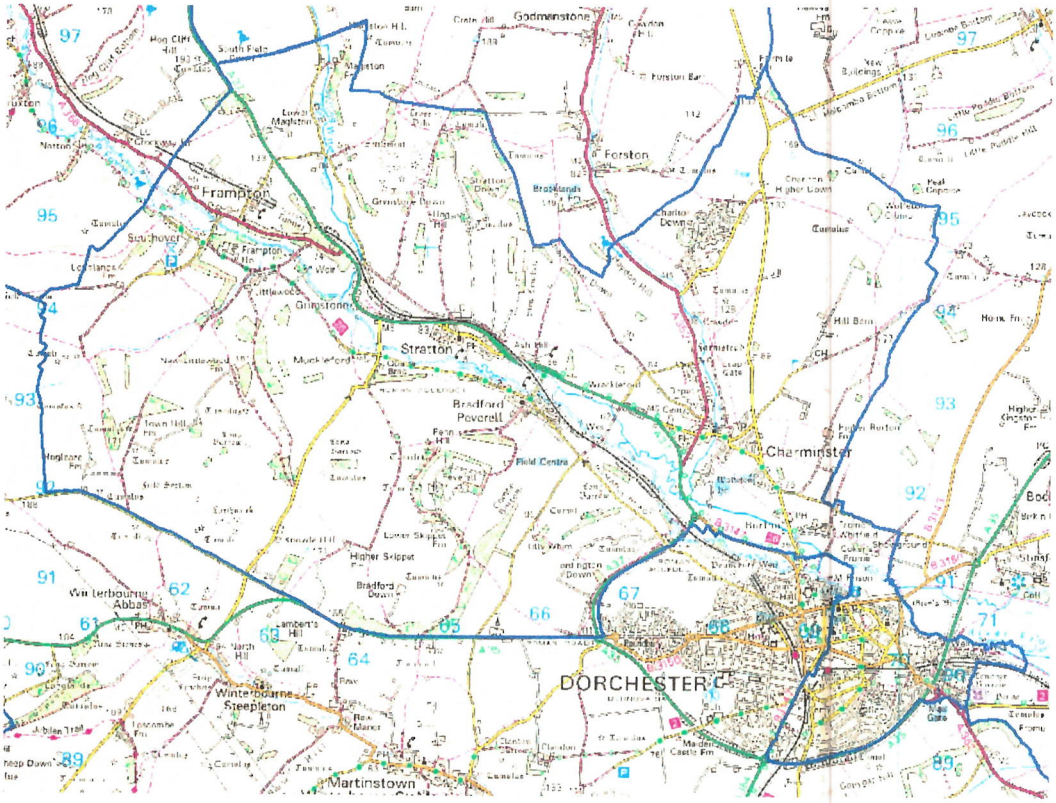
9. Further Information

a. Important information published by the LA applies to some aspects of school admissions. If you are considering applying for a place at the School you are advised to refer to your home LA's website.

b. If you have any questions in relation to these admission arrangements please contact the School office.

c. The School will handle all personal data in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Catchment area



The catchment area for St. Osmund's CE VA Middle School comprises: ? The eastern side of the town of Dorchester (the dividing line being Weymouth Road, Weymouth Avenue, South Street, North Square and Orchard Terrace) AND ? The parishes of Bradford Peverell, Charminster, Frampton and Stratton.