



"Let your light shine"

Berkley Church of England (VA) First School

Admission Arrangements for Starting School in September 2023 and Admission during the 2023/24 Academic Year (in year)

Berkley CofE VA First School are consulting on their 2023/24 admissions arrangements. The main proposed changes are as follows;

- The proposed Criteria 3 has been expanded to include practising members of churches within the Benefice of Beckington
- The proposed Criteria 6 has been expanded to include children who live within the Benefice of Beckington



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Berkley Church of England School is a Voluntary Aided School and therefore the governing body is the admissions authority for the school.

The school was established to serve all within its community, those of all faiths and of none, and strives to offer a high quality education underpinned by a distinctively Christian ethos. We have four classes called Rabbits, Squirrels, Badgers and Owls. We have developed creative cross curricular topics which engage the pupils and make learning fun and exciting. We are a dyslexia friendly school and therefore we offer a very wide range of teaching approaches and strategies to ensure all learners engage and succeed with our curriculum. We plan WOW days for every topic, which really enhance learning for all our pupils.

Contact Details

Headteacher

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County Hall
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TA1 4DY

Planned Admission Number (PAN)

Berkley CofE First School has an admission number of 20 for entry in reception in September 2023.

The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils each year if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year group are received, the Governing Body will offer places at the school to all those who have applied.

First Admission Applications

Applications must be submitted to the home LA. If this is Somerset applications can be made on-line at www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions. Paper applications are available to download from the Somerset County Council website at

www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions, or upon request by telephoning Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224. Any supporting information must be received by the closing date for applications using the appropriate Supplementary Information Form (SIF) where relevant.

Applications must be received by 23:59 hours on 15 January 2023, otherwise the application will be recorded as late. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. Please see the Somerset LA Co-ordinated scheme for full details.

Outcomes for on time applications will be sent out by email (for on line applicants) or second class post on 17 April 2023 (or next working day if this falls on a weekend or bank holiday).

In Year Applications

In year applications must be submitted directly to the school using the in-year application form which can be obtained on the school website or by request to the school office.

The Governors' Admissions Committee will consider batches of applications on a weekly basis with a 4pm deadline every Friday (term time only) for receipt of applications. If more applications are received than there are places available, the over-subscription criteria will be applied.

A decision will be notified in writing to the applicant within ten school days.

Proof of address may be required to be submitted with the application. This will be either the formal 'exchange of contracts' letter from the solicitor for a house purchase, a recent utility bill or the signing of a minimum of a six-month tenancy agreement. The Governing body reserve the right to seek further documentary evidence to support a claim of residence.

Where there are more applications than places available within a particular year group, applications will be considered against the published oversubscription criteria and allocated up to the admission number/ limit.

Places will not be allocated more than six school weeks or half a term in advance of being required. The only exceptions are children of UK service personnel and other crown servants (including diplomats) returning to the UK with a confirmed posting to the area (see Children of UK service personnel).

Over-subscription Criteria

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

- 1 Looked After Children (LAC) & Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) 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 (IAPLAC) – Children who are in the care of a Local Authority, or have previously been and are now formally adopted or subject to a residence/child arrangement order or special guardianship order (See important notes).

- 2 Children whose older sibling will be on roll at the time of application.
- 3 Children who themselves or whose parent/carers are practising members of the Anglican Church in Berkley or churches within the Benefice of Beckington (see important notes).
- 4 Children who themselves or whose parent/carers are practising members of any other Christian Church in Frome.
- 5 Children who themselves or whose parent/carers are practising members of any Christian Church outside of Frome.
- 6 Children who live within the school's catchment or within the Benefice of Beckington (A map showing this is available at the school office).
- 7 Children living closest to the school measured by straight line.

Important Notes

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).

For Children Previously Looked After: this includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002(see section 46 adoption orders).

Churches within the Benefice of Beckington are as follows; St George's Parish Church, Beckington, St Mary's, Berkley, All Saints Church, Rodden, All Saints Church, Lullington and St Mary's Church, Orchardleigh.

Tie Breaker

If in categories 1-7 above a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, the child living closest to the school will be given priority for admission. Distance is measured in a straight line by a Geographical information System (GIS) method from the geocoded point of the school site to the geocoded point of the pupil's home.

Random allocation by drawing lots supervised by someone independent of the school, will be used as a tie-break in categories 1-7 above to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between a child's home and the school is

equidistant in any two or more cases.

However, if children of multiple birth (twins and triplets) are tied for the final place, those siblings will be admitted over PAN as permitted by infant class size rules.

Practising

“Practising” is defined as at least once a month for the last six months prior to the application closing date, attendance at church by at least one parent and/or child (where necessary this must be confirmed with a member of the clergy). 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’.

Home Address

The home address is very important, as school places are allocated on the basis of the home address of each child. A child’s home address is considered to be where the child spends the majority of their time with parents or carers.

Documentary evidence of home ownership or suitable rental agreement may be required, together with proof of permanent residence at the property concerned. Places cannot be allocated on the basis of an intended future address, unless the house move can be confirmed through the formal ‘exchange of contracts’ or the signing of a minimum of a six-month tenancy agreement from a letting agency. Please note private letting agreements may not be accepted as proof of residence. An address change due to a move to live with family or friends will not be considered until the move has taken place and suitable proof of residency has been obtained. Proof that a move from the previous address has taken place may also be required e.g. proof of exchange of contracts, a tenancy agreement showing the end date of the tenancy or a notice to quit from the landlord or repossession notice. The Governing Body reserves the right to seek further documentary evidence to support any claim of residence which could include contacting the estate agent, solicitor landlord or relevant professional. A representative of the Governing Body may carry out a home visit/s without prior notice to verify a pupil’s home address.

An address used for childcare arrangements cannot be used as a home address for the purpose of applying for a school place. Fraudulent claims relating to the home address of a particular child may lead to the withdrawal of any offer of a school place.

The Governing Body must be notified of any change of address during the admissions procedure.

Where shared residence arrangements are in place and it is necessary to determine the home address, each parent may be required to write to the Governing Body and inform them of the number of days each week the child spends with them. Where the

child spends equal time with both parents the Governing Body may ask for additional information including evidence of which parent/carer is in receipt of child benefit, and/or the name of the GP surgery at which the child is registered.

Sibling

For the purpose of admissions, the Governing Body defines a sibling as a child living at the same address as a half or full brother or sister, an adoptive brother or sister or children of the same household.

Please see the information on shared residency arrangements which will apply if necessary in order to determine the sibling's permanent home address.

Parent/Carer

Natural parents, whether they are married or not, any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person. Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person (having care of a child or young person means that a person with whom the child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child is considered to be a parent in education law).

Waiting Lists

The school will operate a waiting list for the entry year group until the end of the first term. This will be maintained by the Governing Body and any child refused a place will automatically be placed on the waiting list.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

In order for applications to be considered against criteria 3, 4 and 5, applicants will need to use the appropriate Supplementary Application Form (SIF) to demonstrate their ability to meet the particular criterion. The SIF will need to be completed and signed by a member of the clergy and submitted along with the school place application.

Catchment Map

The Governing Body prioritises some school places on the basis of living within a designated catchment area. Details of the catchment boundaries can be found at: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-learning-and-schools/choosing-a-school/check-catchment-school1/>

Deferred entry for infants

Parents offered a place in reception for their child have a right to defer entry, or to take the place up part-time, until the start of the term beginning immediately after their child has reached compulsory school age. However, places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

Full-time schooling

Parents have a right to a full-time place at school for their child from the September following their fourth birthday.

Summer Born Children

Parents of summer born children may request that they are admitted into reception rather than year one when they become of compulsory school age. Applications will be considered as set out below (see admission of children outside their normal age group)

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range, for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting his or her schooling.

When such a request is made, the Governing Body will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

The parent is required to make an on-time application for the child's normal age group (if relevant) but can submit a request for admission out of the normal age group at the same time. The LA will ensure the parent is aware of whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed before National Offer Day and the reason for any refusal.

Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time. An application from a child who would 'normally' be a year 1 child for a reception place will be considered alongside applications for reception.

If a request for delayed admission is agreed, the school place application may be withdrawn before a place is offered and a new school place application will need to be made as part of the normal admissions round the following year.

If a request for a child to be admitted to school a year early is agreed, the school place application will be processed and an outcome will be sent on the National Offer Day.

If a request for delayed admission is refused, the parent must decide whether to accept the offer of a school place for the normal age group, or to refuse it and make an in year application for admission to year one for the September following the child's fifth birthday.

If a request for a child to be admitted to school a year early is refused, the school place application will not be processed and a new school place application will need to be made as part of the normal admissions round the following year.

There is no right of appeal against the decision not to allow your child to be admitted outside of their normal age group.

One admission authority cannot be required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission out of the normal age group. Parents, therefore, should consider whether to request admission out of the normal year group at all their preference schools, rather than just their first preference schools.

For further information and important things you should consider please visit;

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-learning-and-schools/choosing-a-school/starting-or-transferring-school-early-or-late/>

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code.

Details of how to appeal are included in the outcome email or letter.

Information on the timetable for the appeals process is published on our website by 28 February each year.

Staggered Entry

In recognition of the needs of very young children, the school makes arrangements for a gradual induction, which includes part-time schooling at the beginning of the year.

Normal age of transfer

Children will normally transfer from a first to a middle school at the end of Yr 4, at the age of 9.

Withdrawal of places

The Governing Body will consider withdrawing the offer of a place

- The place has been offered on the basis of an application which is subsequently found to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading.
- The parent/carer has not responded to the offer within a reasonable period of time and a further opportunity has been given for the parent to respond within 10 days having explained that the offer may be withdrawn if they do not.

Children from outside the UK

The Governing Body will treat applications for children coming from overseas in accordance with Home Office rules.

The Governing Body will process applications for children who are UK citizens living abroad. If proof of the Somerset address is not available the application will be considered on the current address. The only exceptions are children of UK service personnel and other crown servants (including Diplomats) returning to the UK with a confirmed posting to the area (see Children of UK service personnel).

The Governing Body will require copies of the passports, appropriately endorsed visas and proof of residency – see home address definition. Applicants should first check that their visas will not be invalidated by taking up a maintained school or academy place before applying. If in doubt, parents should contact the Home Office.

Children of UK Service Personnel

The Admissions Authority endeavour to ensure that their admission arrangements support the Government's commitment to removing disadvantage for service children. In year applications are usually considered for admission up to a maximum of half a term in advance of the place being taken up. An exception is made for children of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area and crown servants returning from overseas to live in the area where a place can be made available up to a year in advance of being required providing the appropriate documentation is provided as proof of posting (an official government letter (e.g. MOD, FCO or GCHQ) declaring a relocation date and intended posting.)

Usually, an in year place may be allocated prior to actual residency, only on receipt of exchange of contracts or a formal signed rental agreement. An exception is made for children of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area and crown servants returning from overseas to live in the area. This means that, providing the application is accompanied by an official government letter (e.g. MOD, FCO or GCHQ) declaring a relocation date and intended posting, The admissions authority will process the application. If a home address is not available at this stage the admissions authority will accept a unit postal address or quartering area address.

If the parent/carer is moving to the area as a result of leaving the armed forces then no special consideration will be given to the application under the grounds of the application being made by a service family.

Berkley Church of England (VA) First School
2023/24 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

Part A – Please ensure that you read before completing

The oversubscription criteria set out in the governors published admission arrangements will be used to prioritise admission to school where there are more applications received than places available. The oversubscription criteria include a priority for:

Children who themselves or whose parents/carers are practising members of the Anglican Church in Berkley or churches within the Benefice of Beckington.

Children who themselves or whose parent/carers are practicing members of any other Christian church in Frome.

Children who themselves or whose parent/carers are practicing members of any other Christian church outside of Frome.

If you wish your admission application to be prioritised on this basis, you must ensure that this Supplementary Information Form is completed by the vicar, priest, minister, pastor or church warden of the attended Church in order to confirm that the requirements of the above statement have been met.

Part B – Submitting your Supplementary Information Form

For a child to start in Reception for the first time in September 2023 - your admission application form and your completed Supplementary Information Form must be sent to the Admissions & Entitlements Team, PPC402C, Somerset County Council, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4DY by the published closing date.

For a child to join any year group during the 2023/24 academic year - your completed Supplementary Information Form must be submitted by post with your admission application form directly to the school office.

Part C – Declaration

I have consulted with the local church leadership team and can confirm that

.....

.....(enter child or parent/s name/s)

attends Church and has done so for at least once per month for the last six months.

Signed.....

Print name.....

Position.....

Date.....

Note: The church leadership team includes clergy, church wardens and those responsible for Sunday School