

Admissions Policy 2026-2027

This policy will be used during 2026/2027 for allocating places in the main admission round for entry to Year R in September 2026. It will also apply to in-year admissions during 2026/2027. It does not apply to those being admitted to nursery provision.

On 1 November 2025, the Shropshire Gateway Education Trust is merging with the Four Stones Multi-Academy Trust to form a new Trust 'Four Stones Gateway Trust'.

The Trust Board of 'Four Stones Gateway Trust (FSGT)' will be the new admissions authority from 1 November 2025.

Published Admission Number (PAN)

The published admission number (PAN) for entry to Year R is 20. The school will admit this number of children if there are sufficient applications. Where there are fewer applications than the published admission number, places will be offered to all applicants

Admissions to Nursery

Please refer to the school's Nursery Admission Policy.

Admissions to Reception

Children in England are entitled to start school full time in the September following their fourth birthday and must start their education by the beginning of the term after their fifth birthday*. For admissions to the Reception, application must be made through Shropshire Council (or the home local authority) by 15th January in the academic year prior to which your child is due to start school. All applications received by this date will be considered and parents will be informed by Shropshire Council (or the home local authority) on 16th April if they have been allocated a place for their child.

Contact address	Admissions Team, Learning and Skills, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. SY2 6ND.
Tel.	01743 254211 and 0345 678 9008
Or email:	school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk
Website:	www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Parents who wish for their child to start Reception with a younger cohort, should make their application and a deferred transfer request to Shropshire Council's Admissions Team before 15th January in the application year.

*Most parents will be happy for their child to start school in the autumn term, but some may have concerns. If this is so please contact the school to discuss concerns or deferring entry for very young children (summer born).

Admissions Criteria:

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education and Health Care Plan which names Clee Hill Community Academy will be allocated places, after which places are allocated up to the Published Admission Number of 20 according to an agreed set of criteria in strict order of priority as shown below:

1a: Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangement order, or a special guardianship order. ¹

1b: Children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. ²

2. Children living inside the designated catchment area will have priority of admission. If there are not enough places for all the children in the catchment area then the following criteria for admission will apply in order:

2a. Priority will be given to children living within the catchment area who will have an older sibling at the school on the day they are due to start school.

2b. After that, priority will be given to other children who live within the catchment area.

3. If there are spaces still available after the above criteria have been applied, children living outside the designated catchment area will be offered places according to the following criteria:

3a. Children who will have an older sibling at the school on the day they are due to start school.

3b All other children.

Notes

- ¹ A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in England, or is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions.
- ² A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society
- Each category will be rank ordered according to the distance from home to school as a straight line measurement.
- A sibling connection is defined as a brother or sister, step-brother or step-sister, half-brother or half-sister, living at the same address as part of the same family unit and of compulsory school age (i.e. 5 - 16 years). Adopted siblings are also included. Older siblings must be attending the school on the date

the younger sibling is due to start there. However, cousins or other relatives who take up residence in a home in order to establish an 'in catchment area' address will not be given priority under the sibling criterion.

For admissions purposes all distances are measured as a straight line distance on a computerised mapping system between the home address and the nearest entrance gate of the relevant school by pinpointing their eastings and northings. The shortest distance being given highest priority. Where two addresses are within the same block of flats, the lowest number of flat nearest the ground floor will be deemed to be the nearest in distance.

The Admissions Committee are responsible to ensuring that applicants are ranked in accordance to our admission's policy and reported at the following Full Governor's meeting.

In the event that two applications are exactly the same after all other criteria have been taken into account a tie breaker will be used. This will be by random allocation and overseen by an independent party not connected with the admissions process.

If unsuccessful on allocation day, Shropshire Council will offer a review when the waiting list will be formed from those parents who advise the Admissions Team that they wish to pursue a place at the school. At the end of the review period, parents who have still not been successful in securing a place have the right to appeal against the decision. Parents may remain on the waiting list from the review period onwards.

For the first term of Reception Shropshire Council will continue to maintain a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants. If any vacancies arise, places will be offered to applicants on the waiting list in strict accordance with normal published oversubscription criteria.

Mid-term or In-Year applications

From 1st September 2024, Shropshire Council will be coordinating and allocating requests for places at our school. If you wish to apply for a place at our school, please complete the online application form via this link - [Synergy Homepage](#).

Your application will be processed by the School Admissions Team at Shropshire Council in accordance with our published oversubscription criteria. You will then be notified via letter of the outcome of your application.

If the application is for a place in an over-subscribed year group, then the Headteacher will meet the Chair of Governors to consider whether additional places can be offered above the published admission number. The decisions should then be reported back to the Admissions Committee and shared at the next Full Governors Meeting.

If a place cannot be offered, parents will receive a formal letter and information on how to appeal against the decision from Shropshire Council Admissions Team.

Other than the first term of Reception, admissions will maintain a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants. If any vacancies arise, places will be offered to applicants included on the waiting list in strict accordance with normal published oversubscription criteria. If a place can be offered the applicant will be expected to take up the place within 6 school weeks or by the start of the next half term, whichever is the earliest date, with the exception of Reception children who have deferred entry until later in the same academic year. If an offer of a place is refused, the name will be removed from the waiting list. At the end of the first term of the academic year of admission, the waiting list will transfer from Shropshire Council to the school.

Parents seeking a place for their child outside of their normal age group should put their reasons for the request in writing. The school will consider the such requests with reference to parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The school will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. The application will then be considered in accordance with the in-year application process outlined above. If refused a place, parents have a statutory right to appeal against the decision, unless they are offered a place other than in their preferred age group

Applicants are considered to be resident within the designated catchment area (See Appendix 1) when formal confirmation (e.g. signed tenancy agreement when no property is owned, or exchange of contracts) of the address has been received.

All applicants are required to give correct information about the genuine residential address of the child. Where any information regarding a home address is found to be fraudulent or misleading a school place may be withdrawn even if the child has been admitted to the school.



