Shocklach Oviatt
C.E. Primary School

"We aim high in our hearts and minds as we blossom in God's garden."

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ADMISSIONS POLICY – For September 2026

1 Introduction

1.1 The governing body of Shocklach Oviatt CE Primary 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 in year applications will be dealt with by the school and applications for Reception class will be dealt with by the Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) admissions team.

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

3.1 Reception Admissions

Applications for Reception class (September Start) can be done online via the CWAC website: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-admissions/school-admissions.aspx

CWAC 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 guarantee a place at this school. Application forms can be obtained online. The CWAC admissions team notifies parents about the school place as soon as all the applications have been considered.

In this catchment area, children enter school in the academic year they become five. There is one admission date per year, early in September (i.e. at the start of the school year). Therefore, parents who would like their child to be admitted to this school during the year their child is five, should ensure that they complete the necessary application form by the date published by CWAC.

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Address: Green Lane, Shocklach, Nr Malpas, Cheshire. SY14 7BN **Fax:** 01829 250673
Email: admin@shocklachoviatt.cheshire.sch.uk

3.2 All Other Admissions

Applications for places in all year groups, including reception during the school year, are made through the school. This can be done online through the CWAC admissions website. Once an application has been received, a response will be issued within 5 school days advising you of the outcome. If you are offered a place, you will receive a letter giving a start date. If you are refused a place, you will receive a letter stating the reasons why and the procedure should you wish to appeal the decision.

4 Admission appeals

4.1 If CWAC or the school 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.

4.2 If parents wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry, they can do so by applying to CWAC. 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 pupil admission number (PAN)

5.1 The pupil admission number is the number of children the school can accommodate. The standard number for our school admissions is 12 in each year group.

6 Infant class size

6.1 EYFS and KS1 children (aged five to seven) are in classes that have a maximum number of 30 children on the register.

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.

Cathy Davies
Reviewed: March 2025

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APPENDIX 1

Information regarding mixed age classes and split year groups

What is a mixed age and split year group class?

A mixed age class is defined to be a class in which there are children who are from more than one-year group of the primary school.

Why are mixed age and split year group classes formed?

Mixed age classes are formed in most schools partly because of the way in which the pupil roll is configured in any given year (i.e. the number of pupils in each year group). It is not uncommon for this situation to change from year to year, as the class sizes can vary quite dramatically.

Will my child be held back if placed in a mixed age or split year group class?

No. The ways in which learning and teaching are organised in primary schools means that teaching and work is tailored to the needs and current achievement levels of individual pupils. Teachers provide challenge for the more able children and support for those needing more help, whichever year group they are currently in.

Why is the situation different in this school from that in others?

Different situations pertain in all schools. The overwhelming majority of primary schools in Cheshire West and Chester, that have formed mixed age classes, show there is no evidence to suggest that being in a mixed age class has any detrimental effect whatsoever on the education of children in that class.

I am concerned that forming a mixed age or split class may mean my child's friendship grouping is being broken up.

Although care is taken in allocation of pupils to classes, their social needs are not ignored. There are many opportunities for pupils to maintain contact with friends who have been allocated to other classes, such as lunchtimes, playtimes, special activities, trips and school performances. When children transfer to secondary school, new friendship groupings in different subject areas become a fact of life, and this situation is generally welcomed by many children.

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If a mixed age or split year class is formed, how are decisions taken about which children should be allocated to which class?

We take a number of influences into consideration and make a professional judgment based on this. Split year groups are considered very carefully, depending on each cohort of children. The main considerations are:

- age and gender (balance of class and year group)
- additional needs
- social learning group

All these factors will be taken into consideration by the headteacher and class teachers when making a decision. Parents are informed about the new organisation and opportunities are available for any family wishing to discuss their child's learning. However, it is the headteacher who makes the final allocation based on their professional judgement of where the child will best flourish in both their personal, social and academic achievements.

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