



# WOODFORD

PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Admissions Policy – 2024/25

### Introductory statement

Woodford Primary School is a non-selective, non-denominational, one form entry primary academy school and part of The Laurus Trust. Our vision is that, 'Every child, regardless of background or circumstance, will flourish, enjoy their education and succeed. Their experience at primary school will pave the way for success at secondary school and beyond and will ultimately open the door to the future of their choice.'

### Admission number(s)

Woodford Primary School has a Published Admission Number of 30 for entry in Reception.

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 Trust will offer places at the school to all those who have applied.

### Application Process

The Laurus Trust is the Admissions Authority for Woodford Primary School and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions. The Laurus Trust has elected to use the Local Authority's admission process, therefore the co-ordination and administration of admissions is undertaken by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council's Admissions Support & Advice Team based at 3rd Floor Stopford House, Piccadilly, Stockport, SK1 3XE

The closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Local Authorities have a system of co-ordinated admissions. You will need to apply using the Local Authority form for the area in which you reside. Parents seeking a place for their child must include Woodford Primary School in ranked order of preference on their Local Authority's application form.

If you live in Stockport, you must apply using the on-line system which will be available from mid-August 2023. A description of the process and the application form are available at: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/nursery-and-school-admissions>

Offers will be made on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 by the Local Authority.

## Oversubscription criteria

When Woodford Primary 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:

- A. Looked after children, and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child care arrangements order, or special guardianship order, 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\*
- B. Children considered to have 'highly exceptional medical/social reasons'\*
- C. Children with a sibling at Woodford Primary School at the time the application is received
- D. Children of staff where 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 is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
- E. Other children

\*definitions of terms can be found at the end of this document

## Tie-break

If in criteria B-E 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. For the purpose of allocating school places, distance will be measured as a straight line between the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address points for the respective home address and school, using the Easting and Northing for each address point.

Random allocation undertaken by the local authority will be used as a tie-break in categories B-E 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.

Random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family tied for the final place. We will admit them all, as permitted by the infant class size rules and exceed our PAN.

## Late Applications

All applications received by the Local Authority after the closing date above will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If, following consideration of all applicants the school is oversubscribed, parents may request that their child is placed on the school's waiting list.

## Deferred entry for infants

Parents offered a place in Reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age.

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 5<sup>th</sup> birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31<sup>st</sup> August, 31<sup>st</sup> December and 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission out of the normal year group is being requested. When such a request is made, the Trust 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 Head and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

Guidance for parents/carers wishing to request consideration outside of the chronological age group:

1. It is advised that all parents who submit a request still make an application for a school place at the normal time
2. Requests should be made in writing to the Trust
3. Parents may provide any supplementary documentary evidence to support their request
4. Decisions are made by the Trust on an individual case basis and the Trust will consider:
5. The views and wishes of the parents/carers
6. The views of the prospective Head/Local Academy Committee
7. Evidence indicating academic, social and emotional development to date
8. Where relevant, the child's medical history
9. Whether the child has previously been educated out of chronological age group
10. If the child would have fallen into another age group if it were not for the child being born prematurely

Decisions will be communicated in writing.

Should a request be granted, it does not indicate a formal offer of a school place instead it is an agreement to consider the child's application for a school place outside of their normal chronological age group.

Should the request be granted but your child is unsuccessful at obtaining a place at the school, the agreement made by the Trust cannot be extended to other schools. This could result in your child being considered for a school place elsewhere in their normal chronological age group.

Should the request not be granted, your child could still be considered for a place at the school in their normal chronological age group.

The Trust may share details of your request with the Local Authority in order to seek advice. Permission will be obtained prior to the exchange of any information.

## Waiting lists

Woodford Primary School will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where in any year the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the academic year. This will be maintained by Stockport LA on the Trust's behalf and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

A child'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.

## Appeals

All applicants refused a place at Woodford Primary School have a right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admissions Appeals Code.

Appellants should contact [admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk) by the published date or within 20 school days of receipt of the refusal. Full details of the appeals procedure and how to apply are available at: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/admission-appeals>.

## Definitions of Terms

### Explanation of LAC/PLAC/IAPLAC

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).

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** are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because immediately after, they became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or a special guardianship order.

**Adopted children** include 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).

**Child arrangements orders** are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders regulate (a) with whom a child is to live, spend time or otherwise have contact, and (b) when a child is to live, spend time or otherwise have contact with any person. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

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

### **Explanation of medical and social reasons**

Where applicants wish to be considered under the medical or social reasons criterion they should indicate this on application and state the nature of the condition and/or circumstances.

The applicant must also provide the LA with written evidence from a recognised professional such as a consultant, doctor or social worker in support of their application. The supporting evidence must relate specifically to the child or family and this school and must clearly demonstrate why this is the only school that could cater for the child's specific requirements/needs. It should also explain any difficulties that would arise if the child had to attend an alternative school. This evidence must be submitted along with the application to the LA by the closing date for applications at the latest.

If evidence is not submitted with the application, a child's medical or social needs cannot be considered.

### **Sibling**

'Sibling' means a natural brother or sister, a half brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, a step brother or sister or other child living in the same household as part of the same family who, in any of these cases, will be living at the same address at the date of their application for a place.