

Abbey Woods Admission Policy 2022/2023

Consultation explanatory note

We have updated our admissions policy for admission into our school in September 2022. We are therefore running a consultation on the new admissions policy between 11 November 2020 and 23 December 2020. Comments are sought on any part of the new Admissions Policy. Comments are sought from any interested person or party, but in particular from parents and prospective parents.

The new policy is published on our school website and is also available in hard copy upon request from the school office.

Changes to our policy

We have updated our policy to make it clearer and easier for parents and the rest of the school community to read and use. Our policy is fully compliant with the Schools Admissions Code and local authority guidelines.

The new policy is set out in a new format which makes it easier to follow. The definitions have been amended so that they are easier to understand and fully compliant with the Schools Admissions Code.

PAN

Abbey Woods wish to reduce their PAN from 45 to 30. The main reason for this is financial. Limiting the PAN to 30 enables a more financially efficient pupil teacher ratio because of the requirement that you cannot have any more than 30 children in a class with one teacher in Key Stage 1. A PAN of 45 would only work financially if the school merged year groups, which with the low levels of attainment in the school it would be difficult to raise standards.

The number of students in their Reception class for the last 6 years also supports this change:

- September 2020: 19
- October 2019: 24
- October 2018: 24
- October 2017: 29
- October 2016: 22
- October 2015: 41
- October 2014: 30

Oversubscription criteria

We have added detail as to the oversubscription criteria to ensure the process is as fair and transparent as possible.

We have also made the following amendments to our over-subscription criteria:

- **Children of staff** – We have added this new criterion with the aim of supporting our valuable school staff, helping to better both our recruitment and retention and resulting in the best possible education for our children.

- **Children with medical/social need** - This criterion has been removed as the language was outdated and it is increasingly recognised that this type of criterion can be found to be in breach of the Admissions Code. This is because it can be seen to be unfair to families with low income as the evidence required to prove medical or social need can be expensive to obtain. We wish our policy to be as fair as possible and inclusive to the whole school community so on advice have removed this criterion. As required by law, it remains the case that children with EHCPs are prioritised first above all other criteria.
- **Straight line distance** – we have clarified that we will be using Oxfordshire County Council’s standard method of measurement for home to school distance- straight line distance. We agree this is a transparent and fair method of measurement.

Significant thought and consideration has gone into these suggested changes. We hope you will agree that the new policy is fairer and simpler for the whole school community.

Responses to the consultation should be sent to:

Claire Pannell, Head of Legal, Anthem Schools Trust

cpannell@anthemtrust.uk

All responses must be sent by the end of the consultation period stated above.