



The Holme Church of England Primary School ***An Academy in The Good Shepherd Trust***



Admissions Policy 2025-2026

The Holme Church of England Primary School aims to prepare every child for their future through a fun, dynamic and creative learning environment, underpinned by a nurturing Christian ethos in which expectations are high and all success is celebrated.

We welcome applications from children of other faiths or of no faith, but we ask all parents applying for a place here to respect our Christian ethos and its importance to the whole school community.

As an Academy in **The Good Shepherd Trust**, the Trust is the Admission Authority for the school and has agreed a Published Admission Number (PAN) of **30** children at the age of 4+ with the Local Authority (LA). Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school will be admitted. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN. In addition, the Trust has determined the following over-subscription criteria in consultation with the Diocese of Guildford, which will be strictly applied in the order shown below, as soon as the number of applications exceeds the PAN.

Over-Subscription Criteria

- 1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children, including those who appear (to the Admission Authority) to have been in state care outside England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (see note 1)**
- 2. Exceptional Medical or Social Circumstances (see note 2)**
- 3. Children living *inside* the catchment area of The Holme (see note 3)**
 - (i) Children who, at the time of application, have a sibling (see definitions) on roll at the school, who will still be on roll at the time of admission
 - (ii) Children with a parent (see definitions) who is an active member of the Church of England (see note 4). A **Supplementary Information Form (SIF)** must be completed at the time of application (see note 5)
 - (iii) Other children living in the catchment area of the school (see note 3)
- 4. Children living *outside* the catchment area of The Holme (see note 3)**
 - (i) Children who, at the time of application, have a sibling (see definition) on roll at the school, who will still be on roll at the time of admission.
 - (ii) Children of staff (see note 6) who have *either* been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application is made; *or*, who have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage. A SIF must be completed at the time of application (see note 5).

- (iii) Children with a parent (see definitions) who is an active member of the Church of England (see note 4). A SIF must be completed at the time of application (see note 5)

5. Any other children whose parents wish them to attend The Holme CofE Primary School.

Application Process for September 2025

Applications from Hampshire residents for Reception in September 2025, should be made in accordance with Hampshire County Council's (HCC) co-ordinated admissions scheme. They should be completed on-line via the HCC www.hants.gov.uk/admissions or if a paper copy is required, please contact the school office or telephone the County Admissions Team on 0300 555 1377. Completed forms must be returned directly to the LA by **15th January 2025**.

Children start school in September following their 4th birthday. However, parents may defer entry to the beginning of the term after their child's 5th birthday, but not beyond the beginning of the final term in the academic year for which the application is made. A child may also attend part time until compulsory school age is reached.

Summer Born Children/Out of Chronological Age Education

For children born between 1st April and 31st August, parents may decide to delay admission to school until the term *after* their child turns 5, i.e. when statutory school age is reached. In such a scenario a child would normally start school the following year in Year 1, missing out on Reception. However, a parent may request that their child is admitted to Reception instead, meaning that the child would be educated outside their correct year group. Applications outside the normal age group can be made to other year groups at the school. If parents wish to apply for their child to be placed within a different year group, they should discuss their wishes with the Headteacher, stating clearly why they feel admission to a different year group would be appropriate, including any supporting documentary evidence if they wish. The local committee will then make a decision as to which year group the child should enter in the following year, based on the particular circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. The Headteacher's views will be taken into account and reasons for the decision shared in writing with parents. However, please note that the school cannot 'reserve' a place either in Reception or Year 1 for the following year, when a fresh application must be made.

Notes

1. Looked After and previously Looked After Children, including those who appear (to the Admission Authority) to have been in state care outside England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted – children who are in the care of the LA or provided with accommodation by a LA in accordance with S.22 of the Children Act 1989; or children who were in the care of the LA or provided with accommodation by a LA and who left that care through adoption, Child Arrangement Order or Special Guardianship Order. Official confirmation of the child's status must be submitted at the time of application.

2. Exceptional Medical or Social Circumstances – a child who has a serious medical condition or if there are sensitive family circumstances which make it *essential* that the child attends The Holme CofE Primary School rather than any other. Appropriate documentary evidence from a Consultant Doctor (a letter from a General Practitioner alone will not suffice) or from the relevant support services must be submitted at the time of application, making clear why attendance at this school is essential. The local committee will assess such evidence and make a decision on each individual case.

NB. All schools are expected to support children with more common medical conditions such as asthma, nut allergies and stress-related symptoms.

3. Children living in the catchment area of The Holme – this can be viewed on-line via <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/findaschool/schooldetails?dfesno=2032> or in the school office or on the school website.

4. ‘Active member of the Church of England’ – a parent attending worship within the Church of England at least twice a month for two years immediately preceding the deadline for applications. Parents applying under criteria 3(ii) or 4(iii) must also complete a Supplementary Information Form (Part A) which asks for declaration and verification (Part B) of such active membership (see note 5).

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship, the church 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 alternative premises have been available for public worship.

5. Supplementary Information Form (SIF) – this is available from the school office, the school website or from www.hants.gov.uk/admissions. It must be completed for applications under criterion 3ii), 4ii) or 4iii) and returned to the school by 15th January 2024. Failure to do so will mean that your application cannot be considered under these criteria.

6. Staff – a full or part-time member of staff on the payroll of the school who has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application is made; *or*, who have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.

Definitions

Sibling – brother/sister, half-brother/sister, step brother/sister, adoptive brother/sister or foster children, living as part of the same family unit at the same address.

Parent – a natural, adoptive, step or foster parent or other legal guardian.

Home Address – the child’s permanent address or where the child lives for the majority of the school week. The address used for the initial allocation of places will be the child’s address at the closing date for applications.

Tie-Breaker – if the school is over-subscribed within any criterion, places will be allocated to the child living closest to the school. Distances are measured using Hampshire’s Geographical Information System (GIS) in a straight line from the address point of the child’s home as set by Ordnance Survey, to the school address point. Where there are two or more applicants who live equi-distant from the school, or multiple addresses with the same address point, priority will be decided by an independently supervised lottery.

Multiple births – if the final place is offered to such a child, the school will admit any other consecutively ranked siblings from the same multiple birth, even though this may exceed the PAN. However, no further children will be admitted until the number drops below PAN.

Waiting list – if there are more applicants than places, the school will hold a Waiting List (WL), which will be ranked strictly in accordance with the over-subscription criteria, taking no account of the date that a child’s name was added to it. The WL will be maintained until the last day of the academic year, after which an in-year application should be completed if parents still wish their child to be considered for a place.

In-year Applications – in-year applications are dealt with by the LA - please contact the school if you require further information.

Late Applications – these will be considered in accordance with the LA’s co-ordinated admissions scheme.

Right to appeal – if your application is unsuccessful, you have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. Please contact the school office for details.

All Applicants to Note – *The Trust reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place if an application has been made which is fraudulent or intentionally misleading and which has effectively denied a place to another child.*