



Sir Robert Geffery's School

ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR 2017/2018

Sir Robert Geffery's School is a Church of England Academy that was founded in 1703 to provide free education for the children living in the Parishes of Landrake and Tideford. The school is also pleased to admit pupils from a wider area whose parents are seeking a Christian Education for their children or who, following a visit, feel that Sir Robert Geffery's would meet the needs of their child.

We pride ourselves in our family atmosphere and to that end our School Aim is:

To provide a living Christian school environment where we strive for each child to develop a passion for learning, and a sense of excitement in their own achievement and that of others

Parental Choice

Parents have a right to express a preference for a particular school, stating their reasons. Admissions to this school will normally be granted, but the Headteacher and Governors reserve the right to refuse admission if the year group is full. The Published Admission Number (PAN) is 30. **If you wish to appeal a decision, please see the section on Appeals below.**

As parents have a choice, we actively encourage and welcome prospective parents to visit the school and meet with the Headteacher when considering admission for their child. Please contact the School Administrator on 01752 851362 to make an appointment.

Arrangements for applications for places at Sir Robert Geffery's School will be made in accordance with the LA's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme, and made on the Common Application Form, which should be completed and submitted online through the LA's website. A paper copy can be obtained from Sir Robert Geffery's School, and should be returned to the LA (Local Authority) or school.

Application for admission to Sir Robert Geffery's School can only be made through Cornwall Admissions. The link for Cornwall Admissions is:

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/school-admissions/>

Sir Robert Geffery's School follows all dates set by the LA for admissions to the Reception Class. At this stage you will have the opportunity to express up to three preferences. The policy regarding late applications for places in Reception Class is as outlined by the LA each year.

Cornwall Council organise all admissions, and parents will be notified of an allocation in line with their timetable.

Admission Priorities

We can allocate up to 30 places each year. If our numbers exceed 30, then the following categories will be used to decide who might be admitted in the event of there being more applicants than places in the school. These categories are listed in order of priority.

Over-Subscription Criteria

Where Sir Robert Geffery's School is named on a pupil's Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan, that child will be admitted by the School. The following priority order will be used to decide which children should occupy any vacant place in our Reception Year 2016/17, if the number of applications for places is greater than the published admissions number.

- (i) Children in care and children who were previously in care but immediately after being in care became subject to an Adoption, Child Arrangement Order or Special Guardianship Order. 'Children in care' are also referred to as 'looked after children' and they are children who are in the care of the Local Authority.
- (ii) Children whose home address in the designated area who will still have siblings on the school register at the proposed date of admission. **
- (iii) Children whose home address is in the designated area. A map showing the designated area of the school can be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions following the link 'what is my designated school'.
- (iv) Siblings of children on the school register at the date of admission. **
- (v) Children of practising Christian families, whose minister supports the application in writing. These will be ranked in the following order:
 - a) *Children from a Christian family at the heart of the Church*, who would be a regular worshipper, usually one who worships at least twice a month. To accommodate difficult patterns of work and family relationships account will be taken of week-day worship. The worshipper could be the child for whom application is made or one or both parents. Greatest priority will be given to these applicants.
 - b) *Children from a Christian family who are attached to the Church*, who would be a regular but not frequent worshipper, by which is meant (for example) one who usually attends a monthly family or church parade service or is regularly involved in a weekday church activity including an element of worship.
 - c) *Children known to the Church*, who would not be a frequent but probably an occasional worshipper, someone who is perhaps known through a family connection, or one or more of whose family would be involved in some church activity, such as a uniformed or other church organisation. In this context 'family' means a parent or sibling.

The letter of support must be submitted directly to the school at the time of application.

- (vi) Children of staff at the school where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two years or more at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made; and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- (vii) All other children.

** '**Siblings**' means brothers or sisters. They are defined as children with at least one natural or adoptive parent in common, living at the same or a different address. Children living permanently in the same household at the same address would also be counted as siblings, regardless of their actual relationship to each other. To qualify as a sibling a child must be on the roll of the school in question at the date of application, allocation and admission.

The Governing Body will maintain a waiting list after the end of the co-ordinated scheme. Should a vacancy arise a place will be allocated using the over-subscription criteria outlined above.

It should also be noted that, under section 2.15 of the School Admissions Code (sub paragraph f), it is stated that children of UK Service Personnel admitted outside the normal round would be “excepted pupils” (from the infant class size regulations).

Tie Breaker

If the criteria above leave more children with an equal claim than places available, the following tie-breaker will be used:

Priority will be given to a child whose home address is closest to the school building (measured to the main school entrance in a straight line using a Geographical Information System). The governing body’s definition of a child’s home address will be as stated by Cornwall Council in their booklet.

If two addresses are an equal distance from the school, the final tie-breaker will be:
Random Allocation, in line with the Admissions Code.

Admission Arrangements

Full Time Admission to Reception Class

Children whose fifth birthday occurs between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 will be offered a full time place in September 2017.

Part time or Deferred Entry

Parents have the right to request part-time or deferred admission until their children are of compulsory school age. However, a school place could not be held open from one year to the next.

Any parent wishing to defer a place needs to talk to the Headteacher.

Waiting List

Sir Robert Geffery’s School encourages parents to register their interest with the school as early as possible by completing the school’s Supplementary Information Form (SIF); so that we can ensure they receive information about applying for a place at the correct time. Applications for all year groups will be considered at any time throughout the year. As highlighted in the LA’s ‘In Year Admission Scheme’, a waiting list is maintained by Cornwall Council for all over-subscribed year groups for the whole school.

For admission to Reception Class, the governing body will adopt the LA’s policy on waiting lists, as outlined in the booklet each year.

All applications for admission to Sir Robert Geffery’s School can only be made through Cornwall Admissions.

Admission of Children Outside Their Normal Age Group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. Parents should contact the Headteacher in the first instance and the admission authority will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.’

Appeals

In accordance with the Admissions Code 2014, you have the right to appeal for a place at Sir Robert Geffery's, if you have been refused a place.

Appeals are heard by an independent panel. A decision by an appeal panel whether or not to offer a school place is binding on the admission authority. If your appeal is unsuccessful, you may not appeal again for the same school within the same academic year unless there has been a change of address or significant material change in your circumstances.

To proceed with the appeals process, contact the Democratic Services at Cornwall Council, who make arrangements for the appeal to be heard on behalf of Sir Robert Geffery's School.