

Terms of Acceptance

Primary Schools

Please take the time to read this guidance, which contains some important and useful information about what happens when you accept or decline the offer of a primary school place.

Terms of acceptance

Please note that there is no right of admission to any school. This means that:

- a child's admission to a school **does not** provide any guarantee that any **other children** you may have will be admitted to the same school either now or in the future;
- there is no right of admission to the school (or schools) that serve the area in which you live;
- when offered a place at a school, any previous offer will be is withdrawn; and
- unless you are entitled to the provision of free school transport (please see below), you are prepared to be responsible for the daily cost and arrangement of your child's travel to and from school until they are due to leave the school.

Transport to and from school

Free transport is normally provided to pupils who attend their designated area school (for the purposes of determining transport entitlement) who live more than two miles for children under eight or three miles for children aged eight or more from the school or a shorter distance where the route is unsafe. There are other circumstances in which free transport may be provided.

For more advice about school transport please e-mail educationtransport@wiltshire.gov.uk. You will need to include your house number, name and postcode, the school your child will be attending from September 2021 and any additional information that you feel may be relevant. Please note that transport application forms are not available until the end of April.

If you wish to obtain a transport application form, or to speak to an entitlement officer, please contact our Customer Services Team on 0300 456 0100.

Accepting a place at the school offered whilst appealing for another school

Accepting the place offered will not adversely affect the chances of winning an appeal. We would recommend that you do accept the place offered for the time being.

When school preferences are refused and waiting lists

If any of your preferences are refused, your child can be added to the waiting list for the school. Some schools that ultimately control their own admissions may ask you to confirm whether you wish your child to be added to the waiting list. (This is known as an *elective* waiting list.) In most schools, including all community and voluntary controlled schools in Wiltshire, all the children refused admission are *automatically* added to the waiting list.

The position of a child on the waiting list is determined by their priority for admission for the school. (By law waiting lists **cannot** be held on a first-come first-served basis.) This means that a child's position on the waiting list *can* change. A child's position can go down if, for example, a later application for another child with a higher priority for admission is refused.

Please note that in Wiltshire you can only have **three** school preferences at **any one time**. In other words, you cannot *accumulate* preferences. If you submit a new application for entirely new schools, then your previous preferences will be withdrawn and your child would be removed from any previous waiting list that they happened to be on. If you wish to make a further application, but wish your child to remain on the waiting list of a particular school for which you'd previously applied, then you'd need to include that school among the preferences on the new application.

Making a further application for an alternative school

It is important to understand that only one offer of a school place for each child can be held at any one time. This means that if you submit a new application for your child, your new preferences will automatically supersede any preferences named on your earlier application. Please note that if any of your new preferences are agreed, the place previously offered will automatically be taken away.

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