

Gwinear School



GWINEAR SCHOOL **ADMISSIONS POLICY** **2025 – 2026**

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Reviewed: October 2019. December 2021 December 2022

Head Teacher: Lee Gardiner

Agreed with: Full Governing Board

Next Review Date: March 2025

Admissions Policy 2025 - 2026

Introduction

Gwinear School is a foundation primary school and the Governing Body are the Admission Authority for the school.

The school will participate fully in the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol and the Local Authority's Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes for starting school and applying for a place during the school year. Details of these schemes are available on the Council's website (www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions) or on request from the Local Authority. Closing dates and other details about the application process will be stated in those schemes.

Applying for a place

All applications for places in Reception or during the school year must be made directly to the applicant's home authority on the appropriate application form. The application form and supporting information will be available electronically on the Local Authority's website or in paper form on request from the Local Authority.

However, if your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan you **do not** need to complete an application form as a school place will be identified through a separate process. Please contact the Statutory SEN Team for more information by telephone on 01872 324242 or email specialeducation@cornwall.gov.uk.

Please note that if a request has been made for an EHC needs assessment for your child, or your child is currently being assessed to decide whether an EHC Plan is necessary, you will need to make an application using the normal process.

Places in Reception will be allocated as full time from September. (Please see paragraph below on deferred/delayed entry.)

Allocation of places

Children in care or children that were previously in care but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and cased to be in care as a result of being adopted. (*Subject to parliamentary approval of the School Admissions Code 2021.*)

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school will be admitted regardless of the number on roll in the year group.

The published admission number (PAN) for Reception in 2025/26 will be **15**. Places will be allocated up to this number. In the event that more applications are received than places available, the oversubscription criteria below will be used to decide on allocations. If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be admitted.

Children are not of compulsory school age until the beginning of the term after they have their fifth birthday. This means that:

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- i) Children born between 1 September and the 31 December are of compulsory school age from January.
- ii) Children born between 1 January and the 31 March are of compulsory school age from April.
- iii) Children born between 1 April and the 31 August are of compulsory school age from September.

Deferred/delayed entry

All children are entitled to start school full-time in the September following their fourth birthday. However, parents may choose deferred or part-time entry to the reception year for their child, bearing in mind that by law children have to be in full-time education by the start of the term following their fifth birthday – when they reach ‘compulsory school age’. Parents of summer-born children may also seek a place for their child outside their normal age group i.e. entry to reception a year later than normal, for example if the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. Parents choosing part-time or deferred entry or wishing to delay entry to the reception year must contact the Headteacher.

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. Those wishing to request placement outside the normal age group should contact the Headteacher. Such requests will be considered on a case by case basis and in the best interests of the child concerned. Guidance can be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions or on request from the School Admissions Team.

Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent admission appeal panel. However, they do not have the right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like.

Appeals

Applicants refused a place at the school have the right of appeal. Appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel arranged by the Local Authority on behalf of the Governing Body. Further details and a timeline can be found in the Local Authority’s Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. Applicants can only appeal again for a place in the same school within the same academic year if the admission authority for that school has accepted a further application because there has been a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent or carer, child or school (e.g. a change of address into a school’s designated area), but has determined that the new application must also be refused.

Waiting lists

If the school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held from when allocations have been made and parents/carers can request that their child is added to this list if they are refused a place. A pupil's position on the list will be determined by the criteria set out below. Children’s places on a waiting list are subject to change according to additional information received about applications or children being added to the list. No priority is given to the length of time that a child has been on the list. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan and children in care or children that were previously in care will take precedence over those on the waiting list. Children admitted under the Fair Access Protocol will also be given priority over children on the waiting list.

Oversubscription Criteria

In the event of there being more than 15 applications for places in reception for the 2025/26 academic year or more applications than places for any year group during the school year, the

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following oversubscription criteria will be used to prioritise applications, after the admission of children whose Education, Health and Care Plan names the school:

1. Children in care and children who were previously in care but immediately after being in care become subject to an Adoption, Child Arrangement, 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 care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children who live within the designated area of the school, as defined by the Local Authority, or whose parents/carers can provide evidence that they will be living in the designated area of the school by the beginning of the autumn term of the 2025/2026 school year.

If there are more designated area children wanting places at the school than there are places available, the following criteria 3 to 5 will be used to decide which of these children will have priority for admission. If there are still places available after all the designated area children have been allocated places, criteria 3 to 5 will be used to decide which of the remaining children should have the priority for any remaining places.

3. Children with an unequivocal professional recommendation from a doctor, school medical officer, educational psychologist or education welfare officer that non-placement at the school would not be in the best interest of the child. Such recommendations must be made in writing and must give full supporting reasons and will be reviewed by the LA.
4. Children with siblings who will still be attending the school at the time of their admission.
5. All other children.

Notes and definitions

Children in care

A 'child in care' may also be referred to as a 'looked after child' and is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority, (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 arrangement order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

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 organization, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society (see Section 23ZZA(8) of the Children Act 1989 (inserted by Section 4 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017))

Designated areas

Cornwall Council has divided the County into geographical areas. Each of these areas is served by a specific primary school, or in some cases, groups of schools. These areas are called 'designated areas' (you may also have heard these areas referred to as 'catchment' areas). The designated area used in Gwinear school's oversubscription criteria will be as defined by Cornwall Council. NB: not all schools prioritise on the basis of the designated area or use the Local Authority's defined area, however, entitlement to home to school transport will still be based on these areas. Your designated school will not always be the one nearest to your home address. Maps are available for all designated areas online at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions or by calling the Admissions and Transport Team on 0300 1234 101 or emailing schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk.

If you are planning to move into the designated area of a school, your application for a place for your child at that school will not be given the priority accorded to designated area pupils without firm evidence of your new address and moving date, such as a copy of a signed and dated tenancy agreement or confirmation that contracts have been exchanged.

Children with an unequivocal professional recommendation

Applicants will only be considered under this criterion where the parent/carer can demonstrate that **only** the preferred school can meet the exceptional medical or social needs of the child, supported by a recommendation from, for example, a doctor, school medical officer or educational psychologist. Such recommendations must be made in writing to the Schools Admission Team and must give full supporting reasons. The admission authority will make the final decision on whether or not to accept an application under this criterion.

Siblings

‘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.

If a child is a sibling of a multiple birth (e.g. twins, triplets, etc.) and has been offered a place at the requested school, every effort will be made to offer places to siblings at the same school, which may mean allocating places above the Published Admission Number (PAN) where this is possible. However, where this is not possible, parents will be invited to decide which of the children should be allocated the available place(s).

Summer Born Children

Children born between 1 April and 31 August.

Tie-breakers

If any of the criteria outlined above leave more children with an equal claim than places available, priority will be given to the child who lives nearer to the preferred school.

Final tie-breaker

Should the tie-breakers above still leave children with an equal claim because distances are exactly the same, random allocation will be used to decide on priority. The school will use the Local Authority’s Random Allocation Protocol, supervised by an independent person, which is available on request.

Distances

Home to school distances used for tie-breaking will be measured by a straight-line measurement as determined by Cornwall Council’s nominated Geographical Information System. Measurements will be between your home address (the centre of the main building of the property) and the main gate of the school (as determined by Cornwall Council).

Distances used to determine nearest school with room (i.e. where it is not possible to offer a place at a preferred school) and for establishing transport entitlements will be measured by the nearest available route as determined by the Cornwall Council’s nominated Geographical Information System.

Home address

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Each child may have one registered address only for the purposes of determining priority for admission and transport entitlement. This address should be the place where the child is normally resident at the point of application or evidence of the house purchase or a formal tenancy agreement. Exceptional circumstances in relation to the provision of a home address will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If there is shared residence of the child or a query is raised regarding the validity of an address, the LA will consider the home address to be with the parent with primary day to day care and control of the child. Residency of a child may also be clarified through a Child Arrangement Order where it is shown who has care of the child. Evidence may be requested to show the address to which any Child Benefit is paid and at which the child is registered with a doctor's surgery.

It is expected that parents will submit only one application for each child. Any disputes in relation to the child's home address should be settled before applying, the admission authority will not become involved in any parental disputes. If agreement cannot be obtained before an application is made then parents/carers may need to settle the matter through the courts. Where no agreement is reached or order obtained, Cornwall Council will determine the home address.

For information on disputes between persons with parental responsibility in relation to school preferences please see the LA's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for the relevant year.

Service Families

Applications for children of Service Families will be processed and places allocated based on the proposed address (with supporting evidence) or, if the family are not able to confirm a proposed address and a unit or quartering address is provided, an allocation will be made based on the unit or quartering address. Until a fixed address is available, the unit postal address or quartering area address will be used to determine allocation of a school place. For purposes of measuring distances, the main entrance of the unit will be used.