



Sir Robert Geffery's School

A School for Enthusiasts

Where we 'live life in its fullness' (John 10.10)

Knowing that God is our strength and with

His help we will be the best we can

ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR 2024/2025

Sir Robert Geffery's School is a Church of England Academy and the Academy Trust is the Admission Authority for the school. The school 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

Applying for a Place

All applications for places in Reception, or during the school year, must be made direct to the applicant's home local authority on the appropriate application form. The application form and supporting information will be available on Cornwall Council's website. A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) is available on the School website.

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.

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) for Reception in 2024/25 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 Office on 01752 851362 to make an appointment.

Sir Robert Geffery's School will participate fully in the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol and the Local Authority's Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes. 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.

Application for admission to Sir Robert Geffery's School can only be made through Cornwall Admissions (or the local authority of your home address), and not directly with the school.

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.

Allocation of Places

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.

Children in Care who are directed to the school by Cornwall Council (or Secretary of State in the case of academies) will be admitted to the school regardless of the number on roll in the year group.

The published admission number (PAN) for Reception in 2024/25 will be 30. Places will be allocated up to this number. In the event that more applications are received than places available, the oversubscription criteria listed below will be used to decide on allocations. These categories are listed in order of priority. If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be admitted.

Over-Subscription Criteria

In the event of there being more than 30 applications for places in Reception Class for the 2024/25 academic year or more applications than places for any year group during the school year, the following oversubscription criteria will be used to prioritise applications, after the admission of children whose Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school:

- (i) Children in care or children who 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 ceased to be in care as a result of being adopted.**
- (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, who have attended for a period of at least one year preceding the date of application, 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 over the preceding year. 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 over the preceding year.
 - 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 over the preceding year, such as a uniformed or other church organisation. In this context 'family' means a parent or sibling.

The supplementary information form (SIF) must be submitted directly to the school at the time of application.

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church [or, in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] 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 in relation to those of other faiths, relevant place of worship] or alternative premises have been available for public worship”.

- (vi) Children of all 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.

Tie Breaker

If any of the criteria 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-breaker 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 Cornwall Council's Random Allocation Protocol, supervised by an independent person, which is available on request.

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 organisation 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 area** Cornwall Council has divided Cornwall 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 Sir Robert Geffery's School oversubscription criteria will be as defined by Cornwall Council. NB: not all schools prioritise on the basis of 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 School Admissions Team on 0300 1234 101 or emailing: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk.

If you are planning to move into the designated area of Sir Robert Geffery's School, your application for a place for your child 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 School Admissions 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'** 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, or due to be on the roll, of the school in question at the date of 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).

**** Home address** Each child can have only one registered address 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 address from which a child will attend school, in the form of written confirmation of a 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, Cornwall Council 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 Cornwall Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for the relevant year.

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 the purposes of measuring distances, the main entrance of the unit will be used.

**** 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 Cornwall Council's nominated Geographical Information System software.

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.

Waiting List

If the school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held for the whole of the academic year for all year groups and parents/carers can request that their child is added to this list if they are refused a place. The waiting list will be based on the school's oversubscription criteria and a child's place on a waiting list is subject to change according to additional information received about applications or children being added to the list – so their place on the list might move up or down. **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."

All applications for admission to Sir Robert Geffery's School can only be made through Cornwall Council 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. 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 also 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 a 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 to appeal.

Appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel arranged by Cornwall Council on behalf of the Governing Board. Further details and a timeline can be found in Cornwall Council'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.

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

Policy agreed by the Governing Board on 12th January 2023

To be reviewed Autumn Term 2023