

Smithy Bridge Foundation Primary School

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ADMISSION OF PUPILS to the **RECEPTION CLASSES** of the school in **SEPTEMBER 2017**

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Smithy Bridge Foundation Primary School

Admissions to the Reception Classes in September 2017

If your child was born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013, you need to apply for a place in a Reception Class for him or her.

You have until 15th January 2017 to make your choice of schools, and to submit the on-line form to Rochdale Admissions Team. You are strongly advised to ensure you do not miss the deadline, as late applications may significantly disadvantage your child from being allocated your choice of school.

After the closing date, the process of allocation of places will begin, and any late requests for places will not be considered until the first offer of places has been made.

You will receive a letter from Rochdale Education Dept in March 2017, letting you know at which school your child has been offered a place. All children applying for reception class places across the borough will be notified on the same date. You will only have one offer of a place.

If your child has been unsuccessful, you will also be asked if you wish to appeal against the decision on allocation of school.

Below is the Admissions Policy for Smithy Bridge School, which explains the method used by the School Governors in allocating places at the school, and your right of appeal against the decision.

We are aware that many people select their child's school based on the recommendation of friends and family, we would strongly advise you to make an appointment to visit the school and meet the head teacher in order to be sure about your choice.

The school is proud of the academic standards achieved by its pupils. The last inspection of the school took place in February 2009 and the ensuing report describes the high standards of the school in very complimentary terms. Details of this inspection report are available on the school inspection (Ofsted) website at www.ofsted.gov.uk under Rochdale Local Education Authority – primary schools section, or ask at the school office for an official summary of the document.

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Admissions Policy

Method of Allocating Places at Smithy Bridge School

(approved by the Secretary of State for Education in April 1992 and amended in 1996, 1999, 2003 & 2004)

There are 60 Reception Class places available for the September 2017 intake. If the number of applicants does not exceed this number, then all applicants will be admitted. However, parents/guardians should be aware that in recent years, places have been insufficient to meet demand.

Therefore the Governors have determined that if the demand for places at Smithy Bridge School exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated in accordance with the following categories, listed below in priority order, until all the available places have been allocated:

(a) Social, Medical and/or Psychological grounds

This includes –

Children with a statement of special educational needs naming Smithy Bridge School or a Health Care Plan from Rochdale L A

Children in Care to the Local Authority

Children with Medical or Psychological grounds for being allocated this school

Please note: Governors need to be provided with evidence of special needs of either a medical or a learning type by the closure date for applications.

Should there be insufficient places to meet applications made under this priority, then the children will be admitted in age order, the oldest first, to the available places.

(b) Sibling Priority

Children who have an elder brother or sister attending Smithy Bridge Primary School who will still be at the school when they commence in Reception (i.e. years R to 5). (Please note that attendance at Smithy Bridge Primary School Nursery by the child or by a sibling does **not** give an automatic right of a place in the school's Reception Class.) Brother or sister in this context means a child who is living full time in the same family home as the sibling(s). Part-time residence does not count.

Should there be insufficient places to meet applications made under this priority, then the children will be admitted in age order, the oldest first, to the available places.

Proximity of child's home address to the school

After the above priority cases, all other children, will be allocated places according to the relative proximity of where they live to the school. with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority until the reception class places are all allocated.

Proximity is not deemed to be a simple measurement of distance radiating out from the school either as the crow flies or as a walking route. It is moderated by the principle of ease of access, which takes account of relative distance to schools as a whole and means those living furthest from an alternative school will have priority. Inevitably, a decision can come down to a distance of a few metres, but it is this kind of measurement, which is required to make an objective decision.

It should be noted that in looking at ease of access bus routes are not used. Nationally, walking distance for primary aged pupils is deemed to be up to two miles, so there is an assumption that up to this distance the journey can be on foot. Walking routes are deemed to be along recognised lit, paved routes which in general, are overlooked by houses and as such are likely to be relatively safe to walk. Unlit, unmade-up short cuts are not taken into account in calculating walking distances.

Walking distances are measured using a computerised application that uses Mapinfo Professional to calculate walking distances based on Ordnance Survey Maps.

Please note that the governors are unable to take into account the proximity to the school of another relative who is not the parent or any other person who provides care for your child.

Families of UK Service Personnel

Children of armed forces families and crown servants returning to the UK or the Rochdale Metropolitan Borough at the end of their service, a school place can be allocated in advance of their return, even if there is uncertainty about the exact future address and the child is not yet in the UK. The place can be held open until the family arrive in the UK or return to the area, until the start of the following term.

Accuracy of Information:

Failure to disclose a change of address, or the giving of any false or misleading information in order to procure a place at the school may result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place at the school. You may not use any address on the application form other than the one at which your child normally lives. Therefore a relative's address or a child-minder's address cannot be given on the form as the child's home address. Proof of address will be required.

Maximum Class Size Regulations:

Under recent government regulations, infant class sizes cannot go over 30 pupils, save in the most exceptional of circumstances. Under Section 1 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, no infant child (i.e. Reception Year, Year 1 or Year 2) can be in a class of more than 30 pupils from September 2001. This means that it is unlawful for any admission authority to allow infant class sizes of more than 30 from that date.

Appeals for places

If your child is not allocated a place, then parents/guardians have the right of appeal against the decision, to an independent Appeals Panel as laid down in Government regulations. Details of how to appeal are available from the education dept. or the school office, and will be sent to parents on request. Please note however, that the class size rule above dictates how many children can be accepted by the school. The Governors of Smithy Bridge Foundation Primary School consider that to admit additional pupils to the School would cause class size prejudice under Section 86 (4) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 by causing the statutory limit of 30 pupils in infant classes (i.e. Key Stage 1) to be exceeded.

Further Help:

If you require any help with making an application for a Reception Class place for your child, please contact the Headteacher at the school.