

Admissions Policy and Arrangements

The Admissions Policy of Ardleigh St. Mary's Church of England Primary School is common to all County and Voluntary Controlled Church schools in Essex. The policy is outlined in the booklets 'Primary Education in Essex' and the 'Schools Admission Policies Directory'. Both are published by Essex County Council Planning and Admissions and copies of these can be obtained from School Planning and Admissions, Schools, Children and Families Directorate, Essex County Council, P.O. Box 4261, Chelmsford CM 1 1GS.

In common with other local schools, all children may be admitted at the beginning of the school year in which they will be five years of age. To support their entry to school, children have an opportunity to visit their new class in the previous Summer Term and their new class teacher will arrange to make visits to their Early Years Settings.

As required by law with effect from September 2011, all infant and primary schools provide for the full-time admission of all children offered a place in the reception year group from the September following their fourth birthday. This means that you have the right to a full time place at the school your child is offered from September 2011.

The law does not require a child to start school until the start of the term following their fifth birthday. Compulsory school age is reached at that point. Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in the school year. Where entry is deferred, we will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child. The parent would not however be able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted. Parents can also request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. Where parents choose to defer entry, the school may reasonably expect that the child would start at the beginning of a new school term/half term.

For mid-year applications, please contact the local authority for further information.

Arrangements for Visiting the School

Covid 19 Arrangements – Please Contact the School for the latest information

Parents / visitors are always welcome to visit the School. If you are a parent/carer of a child who will be entering the Foundation Stage (Class 1) you and your child will be invited to attend a series of visits.

- A meeting between the child, parent/carer and class teacher.
- Your child's other visits will enable them to take part in whole class activities such as role play, construction and outdoor activities.
- A meeting just for parents/carers to inform you of the daily routines, look at uniform and find out all about the different aspects of school life.

We are pleased to have a "Buddies" system. New children are paired with another child to help show them around and help them settle into School.