THE WEALD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

An Academy in The Good Shepherd Trust

ADMISSIONS POLICY for 2027 - 2028

The Weald Church of England Primary School has a strong Christian ethos which underpins all that we do. We believe in tolerance, respect; personal responsibility; recognition of the contribution that each individual makes; fairness and justice; a willingness to acknowledge others' points of view; empathy; cooperation and consideration for other people. In addition, each child will be given daily opportunities through assemblies, events and religious education to learn about the Christian way of life.

We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this school, to apply for and be considered for a place here; our admissions policy is inclusive, and we welcome children from all faiths or none.

As an Academy in **The Good Shepherd Trust**, the Trust is the Admission Authority for the school and has agreed a Published Admission Number (PAN) of **30** children at the age of 4+ (year R) and **34** children at the age of 7+ (year 3) with the Local Authority (LA). Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school will be admitted. Where possible such children will be admitted within the PAN. In addition, the Trust has determined the following over-subscription criteria in consultation with the Diocese of Guildford, which will be strictly applied in the order shown below as soon as the number of applications exceeds the PAN.

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Over-Subscription Criteria

1. **Looked After Children and previously Looked After children, including those who appear (to the Admission Authority) to have been in state care outside England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted** (note 1)

2. **Children with exceptional medical or social circumstances** (note 2)

3. **Siblings** (see definitions) **of children who will still be in attendance at the school on the date of admission**

4. **Children who live within the ecclesiastical parish boundaries of South Holmwood, Newdigate or the parish of Capel and Ockley** (note 3) **AND who attend Newdigate CofE (A) Infant School**

5. **Children who live within the ecclesiastical parish boundaries of South Holmwood; Newdigate or the parish of Capel and Ockley** (note 3)

6. **Children who live outside the ecclesiastical parish boundaries of South Holmwood; Newdigate or the parish of Capel and Ockley** (note 3) **AND who attend Newdigate CofE (A) Infant School.**

7. **Any other children whose parents wish them to attend The Weald Church of England Primary School.**

Application Process for September 2027

Applications from Surrey residents in September 2027 must be made in accordance with Surrey County Council's (SCC) co-ordinated admissions scheme. They should be completed on-line via the SCC website www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions or if a paper copy is required, please contact SCC on 0300 200 1004 or request a hard copy from the school office. Completed forms must be returned directly to the LA **by 15th January 2027**.

Notes

1. **Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children, including those who appear (to the Admission Authority) to have been in state care outside England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted -** children who are in the care of the LA or provided with accommodation by a LA in accordance with S.22 of the Children Act 1989; or children who were in the care of the LA or provided with accommodation by a LA and who left that care through adoption, Child Arrangement Order or Special Guardianship Order. Official confirmation of the child's status must be submitted at the time of application.

2. **Children with exceptional medical or social circumstances –** a child who has a serious medical condition or if there are sensitive family circumstances which make it ***essential*** that the child attends The Weald Church of England Primary School rather than any other. Appropriate documentary evidence from a Consultant Doctor (a letter from a General Practitioner alone will not suffice) or from the relevant support services must be submitted at the time of application, making clear why attendance at this school is essential. The local committee will assess such evidence and make a decision on each individual case.

   NB. All schools are expected to support children with more common medical conditions such as asthma, nut allergies and stress-related symptoms.

3. **The Ecclesiastical Parishes** consist of the parishes of St. Mary Magdalene South Holmwood, St. John the Baptist Capel and St. Peter's Church Newdigate, in addition to the parish of Capel & Ockley. Parish boundary maps can be viewed in the school Entrance Lobby and on the school website www.wealdprimaryschool.co.uk.
   Applicants living within the parish of Ewhurst, Okewood and Forest Green, will be considered under criterion 7.

Definitions

Sibling – brother/sister, half-brother/sister, step-brother/sister, adoptive brother/sister or foster children, all living as part of the same family unit at the same address.

Parent - a natural, adoptive, step or foster parent or other legal guardian.

Home Address – the child's permanent address or where the child lives for the majority of the school week. The address used for the initial allocation of places will be the child's address at the closing date for applications.

Tie-Breaker – if the school is over-subscribed within any criterion, places will be allocated to the child living closest to the school. This is measured using Surrey's Geographical Information System (GIS) in a straight line from the address point of the pupil's home as set by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest school gate available for pupils to use. Where there are two or more applicants who live equidistant from the school or multiple addresses with the same address point, priority will be decided by an independently supervised lottery.

Multiple Births – if the final place is offered to such a child, the school will admit any other consecutively ranked siblings from the same multiple birth, even though this may exceed the PAN. However, no further children will be admitted until the number drops below PAN.

Waiting List - Where the school is oversubscribed, a waiting list (WL) will be maintained until at least 31 December in the admission year. Children who are refused admission will be automatically placed on the waiting list, in accordance with the School Admissions Code. Parents do not need to make a separate request for their child's name to be added. The waiting list will be ranked in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in this policy and not in the order in which applications were received. Whenever a place becomes available, it will be offered to the child at the top of the waiting list at that time. Parents may request that their child's name is removed from the waiting list at any time. The Trust may also contact parents to ask whether they wish their child to remain on the waiting list. The WL will be maintained until the last day of the academic year, after which an in-year application should be completed if parents still wish their child to be considered for a place.

Out of Chronological Age Education - parents may wish to seek places outside their child's chronological year group although in the first instance, this should be discussed with the Headteacher. Applicants must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group would be appropriate and submit supporting documentary evidence if they wish. The local committee will make their decision in the best interests of each child, taking into account the particular circumstances of the case, including the views of the Headteacher. Reasons for the decision will be shared in writing with parents but please note that there is no right of appeal if a place is offered that is not in the parents' preferred age group. For more information, please see www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions

In Year Applications - In-year applications are dealt with by the LA - please contact the school if you require further information.

Late Applications - these will be considered in accordance with the LA's co-ordinated admissions scheme.

Right to Appeal – if your application is unsuccessful, you have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. Details are available from the school office or by contacting SCC on 020 8541 8092. The right of appeal is entirely separate from the operation of the waiting list. A child's position on the waiting list will not be affected by whether or not an appeal is lodged, heard, or decided.

All Applicants to Note *– The Trust reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place if an application has been made which is fraudulent or intentionally misleading and which has effectively denied a place to another child.*