



The Diocese of Chelmsford

Vine Schools Trust

Admissions Policy

2020-2021



Reviewed and agreed by Mike Simmonds, Chair of Governors on 23rd April 2019

At Bulphan C of E Academy we celebrate the uniqueness of every child of God in a Christian Community and encourage them to flourish and shine in all they do, preparing them for life's journey. Our school has a distinctive Christian ethos which is at the heart of the school and provides an inclusive, caring and supportive environment shaped by our core Christian values of Love, Friendship, Perseverance, Respect, Courage and Wisdom.

The Diocese of Chelmsford Vine School's Trust is the admissions authority for Bulphan Academy and has delegated responsibility for admissions to the Vine Trust South Essex Local Board (LB). In line with Trust policy, this board will try to admit the children of all parents who opt for their children to be educated at this school and will be considered in accordance with the following criteria:

The Local Board of Bulphan C of E Academy will admit 12 pupils into Reception each academic year, this number having been agreed with Thurrock Unitary Authority. There will be one admission date – September 2020 (For children born September 2015 – August 2016).

Preference will be given to applicants according to the following criteria, in the following order:

1. **Looked after children and previously looked after children**

Children in public care and all children previously looked after will automatically be given first priority over other categories where priority is claimed on the application and validated by the relevant local authority. Looked after and previously looked after children will be considered to be:

Children who are registered as being in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a), e.g. fostered or living in a children's home, at the time an application for a school is made; and

children who have previously been in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(a) and who have left that care through adoption, a child arrangements order (in accordance with Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) or special guardianship order (in accordance with Section 14A of the Children Act 1989).

Applications under this criterion can only be considered if supporting documents, in the form of a copy of the adoption order, residence order or special guardianship order, together with a letter from the local authority that states (s)he was looked after immediately prior to the order being made, is submitted with your application.

2 **Special reasons**

Priority for admission may be given where there are exceptional social, medical or educational reasons for admission to a particular school. These reasons must be supported by evidence from a relevant professional (e.g. a doctor or a social worker) and must be submitted with the application for admission. The purpose of this criterion is to give priority to pupils with a specific need that can be met specifically at one school rather than another. The threshold for a

successful application under this criterion is high and such cases are likely to be rare since all schools are able to offer support and facilities for a wide range of needs.

3 Catchment area siblings

Children whose normal place of residence is in the catchment area of the school at the closing date for applications, and who will have a sibling at the school at the point of admission, in distance order with those living closer having higher priority.

4 Catchment area children

Children whose normal place of residence is in the catchment area at the closing date for applications in distance order with those living closer having higher priority

5 Non-catchment area siblings

Children whose normal place of residence is outside the catchment area of the school at the closing date for applications and who will have a sibling at the school at the point of admission in distance order with those living closer having higher priority.

6 Non-catchment area children

Children whose normal place of residence is outside the catchment area at the closing date for applications in distance order with those living closer having higher priority

7. There will be an annual review of this policy by the Trust Board.