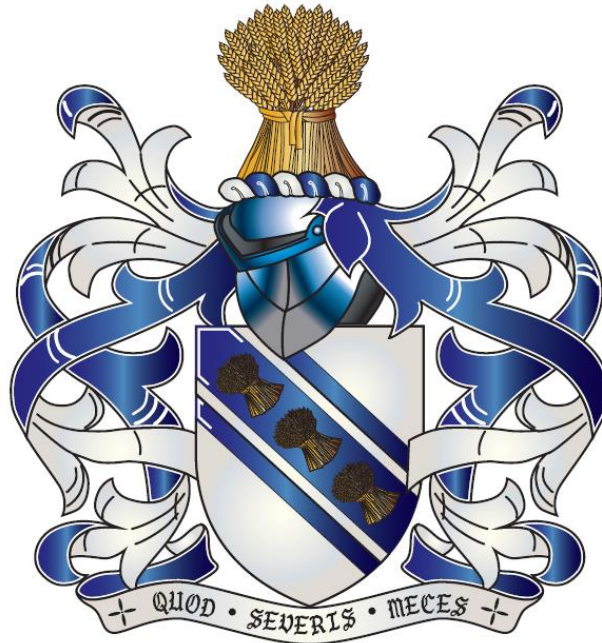


# The Bliss Charity School



*The Bliss Charity School aims to provide a caring, secure and enriching experience; each child is encouraged to develop strong personal, academic, physical and creative skills for lifelong learning.*

## Admissions Policy (2020-2021)

The Bliss Charity School is a nondenominational aided primary school for children aged 4+ to 11.

The planned admission limit, i.e. the maximum number of children it is planned to accept into the 4+ age group in the academic year is 30.

### **The admission oversubscription criteria are as follows:**

Places will be allocated to pupils who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names the school as appropriate provision.

When there are more applications than places available, priority will be given in the following order:

1. Children in Public Care or previously in public care but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements order or special guardianship order
2. Children with specific medical and or social needs, supported by written evidence from an appropriate professional person- see below.
3. Children living in Upper and Nether Heyford. The school reserves the right to request further information from NCC and other agencies to verify the accuracy and permanence of any home address stated in the application.
4. Pupils with an older sibling continuing at the school at the planned start date of the younger child.. The school reserves the right to request further information from NCC and other agencies to verify the accuracy and permanence of any home address stated in the application.
5. Other children.

If the admission number is exceeded within any criterion, applications will be prioritised by use of distance tie break. This is the distance the children live from the school, with priority being given to those who live closest to the school. These distances are measured on straight line basis in line with the NCC measurement systems.

### **Medical or social definition**

The Governors will admit pupils on medical or social grounds, where professionals have clearly identified that the school will best meet the needs of the pupils. These applications should be accompanied by documentary evidence from appropriate professionals within the Health or Social Care services. In each case there must be a clear connection between the child's need and The Bliss Charity School, and an explanation of the difficulties that would be caused if the child were to attend another school. This information will be considered within the School's own admission team and will be treated confidentially.

### **Definition of Siblings**

A brother or sister living at the same address as the applicant (within a family unit) including adopted children, step-brothers, step-sisters and children in foster care.

### **Home address**

When we refer to a child's home address, we mean the permanent residence of the child. This address must be the child's only or main residence that is either:

- Owned by the child's parent, parents or carer/guardian.
- Leased to or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardian under a lease or written rental agreement of not less than six months duration. The property leased should be that in which the family lives.

If you expect to be living at a different address when your child's place is required, and you would like the new address to be considered as your child's place of residence when the application is considered, then written evidence confirming the move will be required before considering any application for a place.

The school would expect to see either a letter from your solicitors confirming exchange of contracts (in the case of the purchase) or written confirmation from your landlord that a tenancy has been granted and in either case that the move will be completed on or before the date the place is required. An official document such as the electoral roll may also be used to check addresses.

If a place is offered on the basis of a fraudulent or misleading application from a parent (for example a false claim to residence in a linked area) which results in a child with a stronger claim being turned down, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

### **Requests for admission out of normal age group (Summer Born children)**

Parents/carers who wish to apply for a place in Reception out of the normal age groups should make a request to the Governing Body of The Bliss Charity School (as they are the admissions authority).

The request needs to be accompanied by the reasons for such a request and should be made by **1<sup>st</sup> December** of the year **prior** to the year the child should enter Reception if they had not requested to defer applying.

The Admissions Committee will consider the request and will make decisions on the basis of the circumstance of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking into account of:

- The parent's/carer's view;
- Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- Where relevant, the child's medical history and views of a medical professional;
- Whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
- The Headteacher's views.

If the Admissions Committee **agrees** to the parent's/carer's request to defer the application for a Reception place, they will inform the Local Authority and the parents/carers will then need to make an application for a place in Reception in the normal round of admissions in the following academic year.

**Please note** – in this following normal admissions round, if The Bliss Charity School is oversubscribed, all applications (including deferred applications) will be ranked in accordance with the School's oversubscription criteria. If the application is not successful, parents/carers will have the right to appeal but, as the purpose of the appeals process is to consider whether a child should be admitted to a particular school, parents/carers 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;

If the Admissions Committee does **not agree** to the application being deferred, there is **no right of appeal** against that decision and the parents/carers will need to make an application to the local authority for a place in Reception by 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**Signature:** ..... (Chair of Governors)

**Print Name:** ..... **Date:** .....

**Signature:** ..... (Headteacher)

**Print Name:** ..... **Date:** .....