ST. NICOLAS' CHURCH OF ENGLAND COMBINED SCHOOL TAPLOW

An Oxford Diocese and Buckinghamshire Academy
ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2027-28

St. Nicolas' CE Combined School Taplow values highly its Christian ethos, its close links with local churches and Oxford Diocese. We provide a distinctively Christian, yet inclusive, environment in which each child is motivated to acquire skills for life and a love of learning. There are daily religious assemblies and Christian teaching permeates all subject teaching. As a church school we welcome applications from Christian families and those of other faiths or none. We ask all parents applying for a place at our school to respect this ethos and its importance to the whole school community.

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2027

At St Nicolas' CE School pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1st September–31st August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2027. There are 30 places (the published admission number or PAN) available.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2027 and 31 March 2028 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2027-28), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2028 and 31 August 2028 (summer born children) who do not reach compulsory school age until September 2028, parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2027-28 but to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2028, should proceed as follows: They should apply at the usual time for a place in September 2027 together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the Reception year in September 2028. NB parents would need to provide supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the head teacher as early as possible. The school will consider the request carefully and if it is agreed this should be clear before the national offer day (16 April 2028), their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered. They should then reapply in the normal way (no later than 15 January 2028) for a Reception place in September 2028. If their request is refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for any other offer of a place in September 2027 (NB it will still be subject to the over-subscription criteria below) or to withdraw their application and apply in the second half of the of the summer term 2028 for a Year 1 place in September 2028. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies and it could be full with children transferring from the 2027-28 Reception Year group. NB agreement by the school in 2027 to defer does not guarantee a place in September 2028 – the normal over-subscription criteria apply.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the Headteacher.

Parents (see note 1) wishing to apply for the Reception Year or Year 3 in September 2027 must complete the common application form provided by their home Local Authority (the home LA). The home LA is the LA in whose area the parents live at the time of the application. The form must be returned to that LA no later than 15th January 2027. Applications received after the deadline for receipt will only be considered after all those received by the deadline. Offers and refusals of places will be sent by the home LA on 16 April 2027.

The Governing Body/Board will not consider applications for admission *before* the school year in which the child reaches his or her 5th birthday.

Entry at all Ages: Over-subscription Criteria

Children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan naming St Nicolas' CE Combined School Taplow will always be offered places. In the event of there being a greater demand for admission than there are places available, then priority will be given in the following order:

(i) Looked-after children and children who were previously looked after, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside England, but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted. (see note 2)

(ii) Families who have exceptional medical or social needs that make it essential that their child attends St Nicolas' School Taplow rather than any other. These needs must be fully supported by written evidence from the appropriate professional person involved with the family. (see note 3)

(iii) a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made; and/or b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

(iv) Children with a normal home address (See Note 4) in the catchment area of the school (see separate map at Annex A) and with a sibling (see Note 5) on the roll of St Nicolas' School at the time of application or whose parent has accepted an offer of a place at St Nicolas' School and who is expected still to be in attendance at the time of entry to the school, or who left Year 6 at the end of the school year prior to the date of entry.

(v) A child with a normal home address (see note 4) in the catchment area of the school (see Annex 1).

(vi) Children with a normal home address outside the catchment area of the school and with a sibling (see Note 5) on the roll of St Nicolas' School at the time of application or whose parent has accepted an offer of a place at St Nicolas' school and who is expected still to be in attendance at the time of entry to the school, or who left Year 6 at the end of the school year prior to the date of entry.

(vii) Other children.

Proximity of the child's home, as measured by the straight-line distance (see Note 6) between the home and the school with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority, will serve to differentiate between children in criteria (i) to (vi) should the need arise. In the event that two distance measurements are identical, the school will use random allocation to decide which child should be offered the place. The process will be conducted in the presence of a person independent of the school.

All Other Admissions

Entry to Year 3

At St. Nicolas" School pupils are also admitted at the beginning of the school year (1st September) in which they reach their eighth birthday, without reference to ability or aptitude. Entry in September 2027 is therefore open to all children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020. The number of intended admissions for the year commencing 1st September 2027 is 2.

In-year applications

Admission to the school during the school year depends on whether there are places available.

In year applications for places in Years 1-6 and for places in the Reception Year after 1st September 2027 should be made directly to the school on the admissions form available from the school website.

If there is a vacancy, and there is no child on the relevant waiting list with a higher priority (according to the over-subscription criteria) a place will be offered.

In year admissions or admissions at the beginning of school years other than Reception and Year 3 will only be considered by the Governing Body/Board up to half a term (using a 3-term year) in advance of the desired date for entry. For example, for entry in January, the application will not be considered until after the October half term break.

If parents are moving house, the school will ask for evidence of the move, when considering any application for a place. Documentary evidence in the form of a solicitor's letter to confirm exchange of contracts, or a rental agreement for at least a period of six months will be required (Armed Forces personnel are exempt). If you are returning from elsewhere, to live in a home that you own, we will require evidence to show that you have returned. We will also ask for evidence that any previous house owned has been sold or is being sold. We would not accept an address where the one given is that of a second home with the main home being elsewhere. If there are two or more homes, we will check which is the main home and may refuse to base an allocation of a place on an address which might be considered only temporary. Nor would we accept an address where the child was resident other than with a parent or carer unless this was part of a fostering or formal care arrangement. We would not normally accept an address where only part of a family had moved, unless connected with a divorce or permanent separation arrangement, in which case we would require proof.

Entry at all Ages: Admission of children outside their normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The Governing Body/Board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

Waiting lists

The school maintains waiting lists for those children who are not offered a place. For those applying through the normal admissions round for entry, the Waiting List will be maintained from shortly following initial allocation in the year preceding the start of the academic year in September until 31 December following the start of the academic year in their Reception year

Multiple Births

In cases where there is one place available, and the next child on the list is a twin, triplet, etc., we would admit both twins (and all the children in the case of other multiple births) even if this meant exceeding the agreed admission number for any class.

Fair Access

The school participates in Buckinghamshire LA's Fair Access Protocol. Children qualifying under the Fair Access Protocol may be offered a place even if there are no places available in the relevant year group, and they will be given top priority for admission over any child on the waiting list.

Appeals

There are established arrangements for appeals against non-admission. Details are available from the school, including the date by which an appeal should be submitted. It should be noted that, in the event of an unsuccessful appeal against non-admission to the school, the school does not consider any further application in the same school year (1 September – 31 August), unless there has been a material change in circumstances, for example a change of address which results in a move from outside the catchment area to inside it.

Admissions to Reception in September 2026 *(These will be updated once the 2026/27 admissions round is completed)*

The school received 72 applications. 30 offers were made.

Applications were as follows:

(i)	Looked after children	0
(ii)	Exceptional medical or social need	0
(iii)	Staff children	0
(iv)	Catchment with sibling	0
(v)	Catchment	11
(vi)	Sibling	11
(vii)	Other	50

There were 0 appeals for Reception Year. There were 0 appeals for Year 3

Further information

Further information can be obtained from the Academy Business Director at St Nicolas' CE Combined School, Mr. S Warren, via the school office at;

Telephone – 01628 603759

Email – schooloffice@stnicolastaplow.com

St Nicolas' CE Combined School, Rectory Road, Taplow, Buckinghamshire SL6 0ET

Consultation

The school is required to consult on its admission policy, even if no material changes are made, at least once every 7 years. St Nicolas' CE Combined School Taplow last consulted on the 6th November 2024 for the 2026-27 Admission.

NOTES

1. 'Parent' is defined in law (The Education Act 1996) as either:

    a) Any person who has 'parental responsibility' (defined in the Children Act 1989) for the child or young person; or

    b) Any person who has care of the child or young person.

2. By a "looked-after child" we mean one in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of its social services function. Previously looked after children are children who have been adopted, subject to child arrangement orders or special guardianship orders. Adopted children are those for whom an adoption order is made under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Section 46). A "child arrangements order" is one settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live (Children Act 1989, Section 8, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014, Section 14). A "special guardianship order" is one appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian/s (Children Act 1989, Section 14A). Applications under this criterion must be accompanied by evidence to show that the child is looked after or was previously looked after (e.g. a copy of the adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order). Evidence that a child from outside England was previously in state care will be required to come within this criterion. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

3. When applying under criterion (ii) (exceptional medical or social needs), you must include supporting evidence from an independent professional person who is aware of the situation and supports your reasons for preferring St. Nicolas' School. The supporting evidence must clearly demonstrate why the school is the most suitable and must illustrate the difficulties that would be caused if your child had to attend another school the person supplying the evidence should be the person supplying the evidence should be a doctor, heath visitor, social worker, etc. who is aware of your child's or your own

case. The school reserves the right to ask for further evidence or clarification where necessary and may seek the advice of an appropriate educational professional where necessary.

4. By normal home address, we mean the child's home address. This must be where the parent or legal carer of the child lives with the child unless it is proved that the child is resident elsewhere with someone else who has legal care and control of the child. The address should be a residential property that is owned, leased or rented by the child's parent/s or person with legal care and control of the child.

To avoid doubt, where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week or month, the address where the child lives will be determined having regard to a joint declaration from the parents stating the exact pattern of residence. If the residence is not split equally, then the relevant address used will be that at which we are satisfied that the child spends the majority of the school week. Where there is an equal split or there is any doubt about residence, we will make the judgment about which address to use for the purpose of determining whether or not to offer a place. We will take into account, for example, the following:

- Any legal documentation confirming residence.
- The pattern of the residence.
- The period of time over which the current arrangement has been in place.
- Confirmation from any previous school of the contact details and home address supplied to it by the parents.
- Where the child is registered with his/her GP.
- Any other evidence the parents may supply to verify the position.

We may ask for evidence of the normal home address in the form of a recent bill. This could be, for example, the most recent Council Tax bill, utility bill no more than three months old, a current TV licence, buildings and contents insurance, mortgage statement or rent book which shows the address concerned. Parents who are unable to provide this evidence should contact the school to discuss what evidence might be acceptable. If it becomes clear or if there is any doubt that the parents and child are not living at the address given on the application form, the school may seek further evidence. The school works closely with the LA to ensure that places are not obtained at the school on the basis of false addresses, and, in cases of doubt, will take steps to verify the information provided. If a place at the school is offered, and it later becomes clear that the offer was made on fraudulent or misleading information (e.g. a false claim to living in the catchment area), and the school has denied a place to a child with a stronger claim, the school will withdraw the offer of a place. The offer can also be withdrawn even after the child has started at the school.

We regard a child's home address to be where he or she sleeps for the majority of the school week (Monday to Friday). We may ask to see official documentation, such as a child benefit book or medical card if there are reasons why a child does not live at his or her parent's address. For example, if he or she is resident with a grandparent, this needs to be made clear on the application form. If such arrangements are not declared or a relative's address is used on the application, we may consider that a false declaration has been made, and withdraw the offer of a place. Childcare arrangements are **not** sufficient reason for listing another address.

If parents move house after the application has been made, but before any offer of a place has been made, the home LA must be informed.

If parents are moving, we will ask for evidence of the move, when considering any application for a place.

We would not accept an address where the one given is that of a second home with the main home being elsewhere. If there are two or more homes, we will check which is the main home, and may refuse to base an allocation of a place on an address which might be considered only temporary. Nor would we accept an address where the child was resident other than with a parent or carer unless this was part of a fostering or formal care arrangement. We would not normally accept an address where only part of a family had moved, unless connected with a divorce or permanent separation arrangement, in which case we would require proof.

5. ‘By sibling we mean a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent’s/carer’s partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling. It is helpful if parents make it clear on the application form where the sibling has a different family name. Where there is more than one sibling at the school, only the youngest should be listed on the application form.

The Governing Body/Board reserve the right to request more information and/or evidence in support of claims made when applying to the school.

The Governing Body/Board has made every effort to ensure that this Policy complies with all relevant legislation, including that on infant class sizes and equal opportunities.

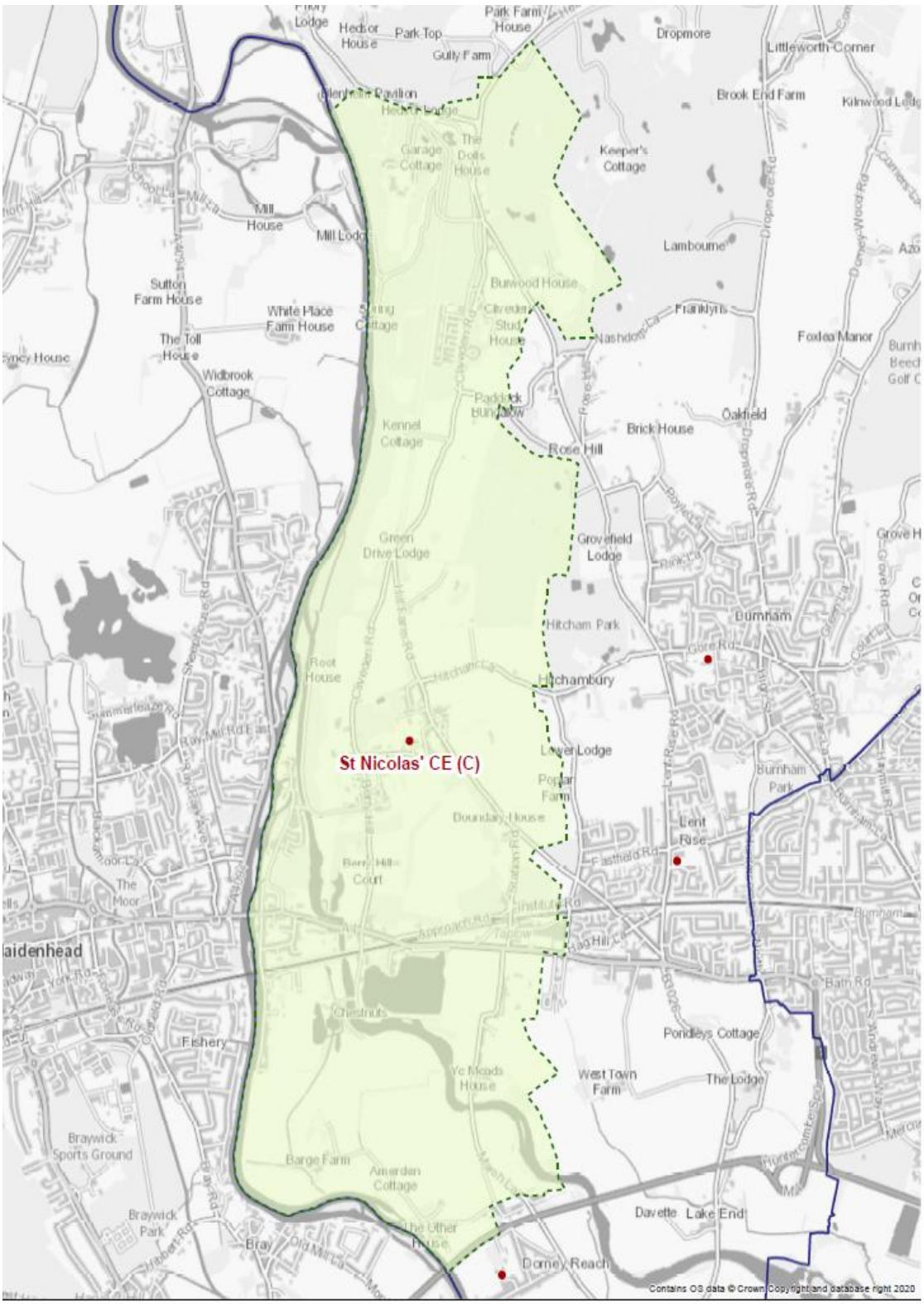
Parents who wish their children to attend the school are most welcome to visit. Arrangements can be made through the school office.

6. We follow the LA straight line distance for admission purposes. This is the distance from your child’s Normal Home Address, as set out by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest open school gate available for pupils to use. We use a computerised system to measure straight line distance.

The point we measure to at your child’s address is determined by the Ordnance Survey AddressBase which is an Ordnance Survey data product that provides a National Grid coordinate and a unique reference for each postal address in Great Britain that is on the Royal Mail’s Post Office Address File.

Full LA admission definitions can be found here

Annex A



Catchment Area for St Nicolas' CE School from 2022

- Primary School
- Catchment area
- Buckinghamshire

N

Produced by
Business Intelligence and Insight, November 2020

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5
Miles

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office© Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
© Copyright Buckinghamshire County Council
Licence No. 0100062456 2020