

The Community College

Admissions Policy September 2020

The Community College is a Foundation school and, as such, its Governing Body has responsibility for its own admissions. However, admission processes for Year 7 (starting September) are co-ordinated by Shropshire Council. Application must be made through Shropshire Council's website www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions or by telephoning the School Admission Team on 0345 678 9008 by 31 October in the academic year prior to which your child is due to start school. Please see the Parents Guide to Education booklet on the council website www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

All applications received by this date will be considered and parents will be informed by Shropshire Council on 1st March if they have been allocated a place for their child. Late application will be considered if there are exceptional circumstances, such as a house move or serious illness/bereavement in the family, or if there are still places after all other applications have been considered. Otherwise late applications will be placed on a waiting list and considered at a Waiting List/Review stage after the allocations stage.

Admissions Criteria:

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education and Health Care Plan which names The Community College, Bishop's Castle will be allocated places, after which places are allocated up to the Published Admission Number of 108 according to an agreed set of criteria in strict order of priority as shown below.

1. Looked after Children who are in Public Care or children who were Looked After but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).
2. Children who appear (to the admission authority of the school) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.²
3. Children living inside the designated catchment area (see Appendix 1) will have priority of admission. If there are not enough places for all the children in the catchment area then the following criteria for admission will apply in order:
 - 3a. Priority will be given to children living within the catchment area who will have an older sibling at the school on the day they are due to start school.
 - 3b. After that, priority will be given to other children who live within the catchment area.

² A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

4. If there are spaces still available after the above criteria have been applied, children living outside the designated catchment area will be offered places according to the following criteria in order:

4a. Children who will have an older sibling at the school on the day they are due to start school.

4b. Priority will then be given to children living outside the catchment area without an older sibling at the school, but who have attended a publicly-funded primary school that lies within the secondary school's catchment area (see Appendix 2) for more than a whole academic year immediately prior to transfer.

4c. All other children.

Each category will be rank ordered according to the distance from home to school as a straight-line measurement.

Notes:

By children previously in state care outside of England, we mean children who have been looked after outside of England by a public authority, a religious organisation or another provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. The care may have been provided in orphanages or other settings.

In the case of children adopted from state care overseas, admission authorities will want to satisfy themselves that a child is eligible by asking the child's parents for appropriate evidence of their previously looked-after status.

Where parents are, for good reason, unable to provide clear evidence of their child's previously looked after status, admission authorities will need to use their professional judgement and common sense in deciding whether a child should be regarded as adopted from state care overseas.

A sibling connection is defined as a brother or sister, step-brother or step-sister, half-brother or half-sister, living at the same address as part of the same family unit and of compulsory school age (i.e. 5 – 16 years). Fostered and adopted siblings are also included. Older siblings must be attending the school on the date the younger sibling is due to start there. However, cousins or other relatives who take up residence in a home in order to establish an 'in catchment area' address will not be given priority under the sibling criterion.

For admissions purposes all distances are measured as a straight line distance on a computerised mapping system between the home address and the nearest entrance gate of the relevant school by pinpointing their eastings and northings. The shortest distance being given highest priority. Where two addresses are within the same block of flats, the lowest number of flat nearest the ground floor will be deemed to be the nearest in distance.

In the event that two applications are exactly the same after all other criteria have been taken into account a tie breaker will be used. This will be by random allocation and overseen by an independent party not connected with the admissions process.

If unsuccessful on allocation day, Shropshire Council will offer a review when the waiting list will be formed from those parents who advise the Admissions Team that they wish to pursue a place at the school. At the end of the review period, parents who have still not been successful in securing a place have the right to appeal against the decision. Parents may remain on the waiting list from the review period onwards.

For the first term of Year 7, Shropshire Council will continue to maintain a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants. If any vacancies arise, places will be offered to applicants on the waiting list in strict accordance with normal published oversubscription criteria.

Mid-term or In-Year applications

Mid-term applications will be dealt with using the same admissions criteria given above. To apply for a place other than the start of Year 7, parents should apply directly to the school on a mid-term application form available the Shropshire Council website www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions or from school. If there is a space in the relevant year group a place will be granted. If the application is for a place in an over-subscribed year group then the Headteacher will meet with the Deputy Headteacher and Chair of **Governors** to consider whether additional places can be offered above the published admission number.

If a place cannot be offered, parents will receive a formal letter and information on how to appeal against the decision from Shropshire Council Admissions Team.

Other than the first term of Year 7, the school will maintain a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants. If any vacancies arise, places will be offered to applicants included on the waiting list in strict accordance with normal published oversubscription criteria. If a place can be offered the applicant will be expected to take up the place within 6 school weeks or by the start of the next half term, whichever is the earliest date. If an offer of a place is refused, the name will be removed from the waiting list. At the end of the first term of the academic year of admission, the waiting list will transfer from Shropshire Council to the school.

Allocation of places for children moving into Shropshire Council's designated catchment area can only be considered when formal confirmation (signed tenancy agreement when no property is owned, or exchange of contracts) of the address has been received.

All applicants are required to give correct information about the genuine residential address of the child. Where any information regarding a home address is found to be fraudulent or misleading a school place may be withdrawn even if the child has been admitted to the school.

Applications for children to attend out of cohort will be given equal consideration.