Shine as Lights in the World- Philippians 2.15

At Wychwood we aspire to shine as lights in the world, fostering a life-long love for learning. Building a strong community through loving relationships, together we are curious about the world with an understanding of our responsibility to care for it and in doing so promoting respect for people and the planet.

Admission Statement

Children who live in the catchment area are allocated places until the admission limit in each year is reached. If there are not enough children living in the catchment area to fill all the places, children from outside the catchment area can be allocated a place.

When a year group is full, parents can appeal to the Local Authority. The Authority can direct the school to exceed its admission number and allocate a place. Before doing this, the Authority will consult with the Headteacher and governors to assess the impact on the school of exceeding the admission number, the needs of the child and whether the child could be accommodated at another school. Any parent wishing to make an appeal should contact the school office for information on how to proceed.

For entry to the Foundation Stage, a booklet, 'Starting School' is available for collection in any Oxfordshire Primary School or from the Admissions Team in Oxfordshire County Council. Parents are recommended to apply for a school place using the on-line system by following this **link.** Please remember that it is the responsibility of parents/carers to apply for a school place. Parents can list three different preferences for a school place and it is strongly advised that all three preferences are used.

Here are some common questions parents sometimes ask in connection with admissions:

1. **When do I have to apply for a place for our child?**
   You **must** make an application for your child to start primary school for the first time in the Autumn Term after your child's third birthday (even if your child already attends a Nursery which is part of a school).

2. **Would it be possible for us to come and look around Wychwood CE Primary School before we apply for a place for our child?**

We would be very happy to offer you a tour of our school. Please phone the school office on 01993 830059 and speak to Mrs Witts or Mrs Davies to make an appointment.
You are about to make a most important family decision, and we believe it essential that you visit any school you are considering for your child.

3. How do I apply for a place at Wychwood CE Primary School?

All admissions for primary school places are administered by the Local Authority (LA). Application for the Foundation Stage or for other year group transfers can be completed on-line. The school can provide a copy of the relevant form when you visit, or they can be downloaded from the County Council website.

4. What happens if I move into the area and I would like my child to attend Wychwood CE Primary School?

We are very happy to admit children into the school at any stage in their primary education if a place is available. Application for a place needs to be made through the Local Authority. Please contact the School Office on 01993 830059.

5. How are places at the school decided?

School places are allocated by the LA. Catchment area is one of the ways that places at schools are decided. There are other factors, such as whether a child has a brother or sister at the school, or whether they have special educational needs. The Admission Rules available on the Oxfordshire County Council website give more detail about how places are decided.

6. What happens if there are too many applications?

There are specific criteria published by the LA which apply to the allocation of places in an oversubscribed school. You will find these included in the booklet "Starting School" which is available online. Parents have the right to appeal if their request for a place is turned down – full details are available on the County Council website.
https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place

7. What dates should I be aware of?

For entry to the Foundation Stage in September 2027 the following dates apply:

4th November 2026

Online and paper applications accepted from this date. "Starting School" and "Stepping Up" information available on request from schools and the LA; applications accepted from this date

15th January 2027

National closing date for on-time applications for primary school

16th April 2027

National Offer Day: letters sent (by second class post) and emails (for online applicants) sent detailing the offer of a school place

September 2027

Start of the school year

8. **Can I appeal if my child is not offered a place?**

Yes - you have the right of appeal to a local appeals committee if your application for a place for your child is refused by the LA. Details of how to do this will be sent at the time of notification of places by the LA.

9. **When will my child start school?**

Children are offered full time places in the September of the school year of their fifth birthday. Parents can elect to defer a Reception place until the term a child turns 5 years.

10. **What happens before my child starts school?**

Our aim is to make your child's entry to school as happy and confident as possible. Children are invited to attend the Reception Class for two morning sessions toward the end of the Summer Term, to meet staff and other children, and to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings. Parents are invited to attend an Induction Meeting to meet key staff, find out about routines and the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, and have any questions answered. The PTA welcome new families in September before we start the academic year with a family picnic on the school grounds.