



Admissions Arrangements for 2022/23 Academic Year

These admission arrangements apply to all applications for admission to St Michael's Academy for year 3 entries in September 2022 and any in year applications from 1st September 2022.

Introduction

St Michael's Academy is a junior school and children attend from year 3 to year 6. The Admissions Authority for St Michael's Academy is the Academy Trust.

An Admissions Committee comprising of Governors is responsible for taking admission decisions for children transferring to the school in year 3 and for joining the school during the academic year.

Somerset Local Authority is responsible for co-ordinating all applications for children who start or transfer school. These admissions arrangements should be read in conjunction with Somerset's published co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for 2022/23.

The Published Admission Number

St Michael's Academy has an admission number of 60 for entry to year 3 in 2022.

The academy will accordingly admit this number of pupils each year if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year group are received, the Governing Body will offer places at the academy to all those who have applied.

Applications for Year 3 in 2022

Applications must be submitted to the home LA. If this is Somerset applications can be made on-line at www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions. Paper applications are available to download from the Somerset County Council website at www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions, or upon request by telephoning Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224. Any supporting information must be received by the closing date for applications.

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Applications must be received by midnight on 15 January 2022, otherwise the application will be recorded as late. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. Please see the Somerset LA co-ordinated scheme for full details.

Outcomes for on time applications will be sent out by email (for on line applicants) or second class post on 16 April 2022 (or next working day if this falls on a weekend or bank holiday).

In Year Applications

In year applications must be submitted directly to the school using the in-year application form which can be obtained on the school website or by request to the school office.

The Governors' Admissions Committee will consider batches of applications on a weekly basis with a 4pm deadline every Friday (term time only) for receipt of applications. If more applications are received than there are places available, the over-subscription criteria will be applied. A decision will be notified in writing to the applicant within ten school days.

Proof of address may be required to be submitted with the application. This will be either the formal 'exchange of contracts' letter from the solicitor for a house purchase, a recent utility bill or the signing of a minimum of a six month tenancy agreement. The Governing body reserve the right to seek further documentary evidence to support a claim of residence.

Where there are more applications than places available within a particular year group, applications will be considered against the published oversubscription criteria and allocated up to the admission number/ limit.

Places will not be allocated more than six school weeks or half a term in advance of being required. The only exceptions are children of UK service personnel and other crown servants (including diplomats) returning to the UK with a confirmed posting to the area (see Children of UK service personnel).

Oversubscription Criteria

When St Michael's Academy is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

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1. Looked After Children – Children who are in the care of a Local Authority or have previously been and are now formally adopted or subject to a residence/child arrangements or special guardianship order. (See important notes).
2. Children identified with a sensory, physical or medical disability (High Needs Pupils), where a multi-agency professional team has identified the School as the nearest school. (See important notes).
3. Children living in the catchment area, with a sibling at the school at the time of admission, and who live at the same address.
4. Children living in the catchment area.
5. Children living outside the catchment area, with a sibling at the school at the time of admission, and who live at the same address.
6. Children not satisfying a higher criterion

Important Notes

A “Looked After Child” means any child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. A child who was “a previously Looked After Child” means a child who after being Looked After became subject to an Adoption Order under Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, a Residence Order under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 or Special Guardianship Order under Section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

Criterion 2 enables schools to plan with SEN Officers for the school entry of children with physical, medical or sensory impairments. This includes children that are in receipt of Early Years High Needs Funding at level 3 and where significant capital works (eg, accessible toilets, changing space, access to classrooms) are required and/or children that are identified as requiring a place at a Resource Base attached to a mainstream school.



Tie Breaker

If in categories 1-6 above a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, the child living closest to the school will be given priority for admission. Distance is measured in a straight line by a Geographical information System (GIS) method from the geocoded point of the school site to the geocoded point of the pupil's home.

Random allocation by drawing lots supervised by someone independent of the school, will be used as a tie-break in categories 1-6 above to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between a child's home and the school is equidistant in any two or more cases.

However, if children of multiple birth (twins and triplets) are tied for the final place, those siblings will be admitted over PAN.

Waiting Lists

The academy will operate a waiting list for each year group until the end of the academic year to which the application applies. This will be maintained by the Governing Body and any child refused a place will automatically be placed on the waiting list.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

Catchment Map

The Governing Body prioritise some school places on the basis of living within a designated catchment area. Details of the catchment boundaries can be found at;

www.somerset.gov.uk/education-learning-and-schools/choosing-a-school/check-catchment=school1/

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Withdrawal of places

The Governing Body will consider withdrawing the offer of a place if;

- The place has been offered on the basis of an application which is subsequently found to be fraudulent or intentionally misleading.
- The parent/carer has not responded to the offer within a reasonable period of time and a further opportunity has been given for the parent to respond within 10 days having explained that the offer may be withdrawn if they do not.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range, for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting his or her schooling.

When such a request is made, the Governing Body will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

The parent is required to make an on-time application for the child's normal age group (if relevant) but can submit a request for admission out of the normal age group at the same time. The LA will ensure the parent is aware of whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed before National Offer Day and the reason for any refusal.

Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time. An application from a child who would 'normally' be a year 4 child for a year 3 place will be considered alongside applications for year 3.

If a request for delayed admission is agreed, the school place application may be withdrawn before a place is offered and a new school place application will need to be made as part of the normal admissions round the following year. If a request for a child to transfer school a year early is agreed, the school place application will be processed and an outcome will be sent on the National Offer Day.

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If a request for delayed admission is refused, the school place application will be processed and an outcome will be sent on the National Offer Day

If a request for a child to transfer school a year early is refused, the school place application will not be processed and a new school place application will need to be made as part of the normal admissions round the following year.

There is no right of appeal against the decision not to allow your child to be admitted outside of their normal age group.

One admission authority cannot be required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission out of the normal age group. Parents, therefore, should consider whether to request admission out of the normal year group at all their preference schools, rather than just their first preference schools.

For further information and important things you should consider please visit;

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-learning-and-schools/choosing-a-school/starting-or-transferring-school-early-or-late/>

Children from Outside the UK

The Governing Body will treat applications for children coming from overseas in accordance with European Union law or Home Office rules for non-European Economic Area nationals.

This is the most recent guidance which takes account of the post-Brexit immigration system.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-admissions-applications-from-overseas-children>

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code.

Details of how to appeal are included in the outcome email or letter.

Information on the timetable for the appeals process is published on our website by 28 February each year.



The Admissions Authority endeavour to ensure that their admission arrangements support the Government's commitment to removing disadvantage for service children. In year applications are usually considered for admission up to a maximum of half a term in advance of the place being taken up. An exception is made for children of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area and Crown servants returning from overseas to live in the area where a place can be made available up to a year in advance of being required providing the appropriate documentation is provided as proof of posting (an official government letter (e.g. MOD, FCO or GCHQ) declaring a relocation date and intended posting.)

Usually, an in year place may be allocated prior to actual residency, only on receipt of exchange of contracts or a formal signed rental agreement. An exception is made for children of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area and Crown servants returning from overseas to live in the area. This means that, providing the application is accompanied by an official government letter (e.g. MOD, FCO or GCHQ) declaring a relocation date and intended posting, the admissions authority will process the application on that address. If a home address is not available at this stage the admissions authority will accept a unit postal address or quartering area address.

If the parent/carer is moving to the area as a result of leaving the armed forces then no special consideration will be given to the application under the grounds of the application being made by a service family.

For further information please refer to the DfE explanatory note on Admission of Children of Crown Servants;

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461481/Admission_of_children_of_crown_servants.pdf

Definitions:

Home Address

A child's home address is considered to be where the child spends the majority of their time with parents or carers.

Documentary evidence of home ownership or suitable rental agreement may be required, together with proof of permanent residence at the property concerned. Places cannot be allocated on the basis of an intended future address, unless the house move can be confirmed through the formal 'exchange of contracts' or the signing of a minimum of a six month tenancy agreement from a letting agency. Please note private letting agreements may not be accepted as proof of residence. An address change due to a move to live with family or friends will not be considered until the move has taken place and suitable proof of residency has been obtained. Proof that a move from the previous address has taken place

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may also be required eg proof of exchange of contracts, a tenancy agreement showing the end date of the tenancy or a notice to quit from the landlord or repossession notice. The Governing Body reserve the right to seek further documentary evidence to support a claim of residence which could include contacting the estate agent, solicitor landlord or relevant professional. A representative of the Governing Body may carry out a home visit/s without prior notice to verify a pupil's home address.

An address used for childcare arrangements cannot be used as a home address for the purpose of applying for a school place. Fraudulent claims relating to the home address of a particular child may lead to the withdrawal of any offer of a school place.

Where shared residence arrangements are in place and it is necessary to determine the home address, each parent may be required to write to the Governing Body and inform them of the number of days each week the child spends with them. Where the child spends equal time with both parents the Governing Body may ask for additional information including evidence of which parent/carer is in receipt of child benefit, and/or the name of the GP surgery at which the child is registered.

The Admissions Authority must be notified of any change of address during the admissions procedure.

Sibling

For the purpose of admissions, a sibling is defined as a child living at the same address as a half or full brother or sister, an adoptive brother or sister or children of the same household who, in any of these cases, will be living with them at the same address at the date of their entry to the school/academy

Please see the information on shared residency arrangements which will apply if necessary in order to determine the sibling's permanent home address.

Parent/Carer

Natural parents, whether they are married or not, any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person. Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person (having care of a child or young person means that a person with whom the child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child is considered to be a parent in education law.

Mathew Vella
Head teacher
November 2020

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