



St Albans Girls' School

Learning for Life in a Community where All can Excel

Determined Admission Arrangements for 2020/21

General Principles

St Albans Girls' School is a single sex comprehensive school in St Albans for girls aged 11-18. The sixth form is co-educational. We are a high achieving specialist Business and Enterprise Academy, specialising in educating girls. Girls are admitted at the age of 11+ without reference to ability or aptitude using the criteria below. The main principle of admission to STAGS is to maintain the integrity of the character of the school providing a superb breadth of learning opportunities for young people in the community of St Albans. Applications are welcome from parents whose children are likely to make a full and committed contribution to the life of the school, and to benefit from the extensive additional facilities and opportunities.

The published admission number (PAN) for Year 7 for September 2020 will be **240**.

The Admissions Policy for entrance into our Co-educational Sixth form is given in Section 5.

Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 requires the governing body to admit a girl with a statement of Special Educational Needs that names St Albans Girls' School. We will also admit a girl with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names the school in accordance with Section 43 of the Children and Families Act 2014. These children will count towards the published admission number.

If there are fewer applications than places available all applicants will be admitted. If there are more applications than places available, the criteria outlined below will be used to prioritise applications.

Oversubscription criteria:

Rule 1 - Children looked after and children who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order).

Rule 2

Medical or Social: Children for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a particular medical or social need to go to the school, which includes Children previously from abroad who were cared for by the state because he or she would not otherwise have been cared for adequately, and subsequently adopted.

A panel of Hertfordshire County Council officers will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to meet the requirements for this rule. The evidence must relate specifically to the school applied for under Rule 2 and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that can meet the child's needs.

Rule 3 - Siblings living in the priority area: Children who have a sibling at the school, living in the priority area at the time of application (unless the sibling is in the last year of the normal age-range of the school)
Note: the 'normal age range' for our school is Years 7 to 13 as we are an 11-18 school.

Rule 4 - Children of Staff: Children of members of staff who have been employed at the school, on a permanent contract, for two or more years at the time at which the application is made, whether full time or part time, teaching or education support staff. Children of a member of staff recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

For the purpose of this rule, the child of a member of staff is defined as any child for whom a member of staff has parental responsibility. Parental responsibility is defined as:

- He/She is the child's natural mother, natural father or has demonstrable legal parental responsibility, for which evidence is provided

Further information on parental responsibility can be found at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/ParentsRights/DG_4002954

Girls living in the priority area

Parishes/unparished areas or towns in the school's priority area are: St Albans, Sandridge, Aldenham, Colney Heath, Harpenden, Kimpton, London Colney, Redbourn, Shenley, St Michael, St Stephen and Wheathampstead. See map of Admissions Priority Area Appendix 1, to assist as visual reference.

Girls who live in the priority area on a proportional basis:

Places will be allocated to each parish/unparished area or town in the priority area in proportion to the number of applications made. In the event of there being more applications than places available to a particular parish/unparished area or town, places will be allocated as follows:

Rule 5: To girls in the priority area for whom STAGS is their nearest Hertfordshire maintained school or academy that is non-faith, non-partially selective and makes provision for children of the relevant gender. If more children qualify than there are places available, those living closest to the school will be prioritised

Rule 6: To girls in the priority area for whom it is **not** their nearest Hertfordshire maintained school or academy that is non-faith and non-partially selective and makes provision for children of the relevant gender. These places will be allocated on a random basis.

Any unused places are reallocated to parishes to remain as near to the originally established proportions as possible. This is achieved by considering each place to be redistributed in turn and assigning it to the most under allocated/least over allocated parish.

Girls living outside the priority area

Rule 7: Siblings living outside the priority area: Children who live outside the priority area and who have a sibling at the school at the time of application, excluding sisters who a) first entered the school in the Sixth Form (Year 12) or b) are in Year 13 which is the last year of the normal age range of the school.

Rule 8: Places will be allocated on a random basis.

Random allocations are undertaken independently of the school by Hertfordshire County Council. Every child's preference is allocated an individual random number between 1 and 1 million when their name has been entered onto the county council's admissions database. If a preference is expressed for St Albans Girls' School, this number will be used in the random allocation process, with the lowest number being given priority.

Further details about the parish proportionality calculation are attached at Appendix 2 of these arrangements. Definitions and explanations are attached at Appendix 3.

Tiebreak

These rules are applied in the order they are printed above. If more children qualify under Rules 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 than there are places available, a tie-break will be used by applying the next rule to those children.

Where there is a need for a tie-breaker where two different addresses measure the same distance from a school, in the case of a block of flats for example the lower door number will be deemed nearest as logically this will be on the ground floor and therefore closer. If there are two identical addresses of separate applicants, the tie break will be random. Every child entered onto the HCC admissions database has an individual random number assigned, between 1 and 1 million, against each preference school. When there is a need for a final tie break the random number is used to allocate the place, with the lowest number given priority.

In Year Admissions

The school is part of the Hertfordshire County Council's coordinated In Year admissions scheme. In-year applications should be made online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. A paper application form can be requested from the Customer Service Centre, 0300 123 4043.

Places will first be allocated in accordance with rules 1-4 above and then as follows:

Rule 5: Children who live in the priority area for whom it is their nearest Hertfordshire maintained school or academy that is non-faith, non-partially selective and makes provision for children of the relevant gender.

If more children qualify under rule 5 than places are available, the tiebreak would be those that live closest to the school.

Rule 6: Children in the priority area on a random basis.

Rule 7: Children outside the priority area on a random basis.

Continuing Interest

After places have been offered, Hertfordshire County Council will maintain a continuing interest (waiting) list on behalf of the school. A child's position on a CI list will be determined by the admission criteria outlined above and a child's place on the list can change as other children join or leave it. The county council will contact parents/carers if a vacancy becomes available and it can be offered to a child. Continuing interest lists will be maintained for every year group until the summer term (date to be specified and confirmed to parents at the time of allocation). To retain a CI application after this time, parents must make an In Year application.

Fair Access

The school participates in the Hertfordshire County Council's Fair Access protocol and will admit children under this protocol before children on continuing interest.

Sixth Form admission arrangements

The school will admit up to 50 external students to its Sixth Form.

Minimum academic entry requirements to study A levels are:

Students must have achieved at least 40 GCSE points, calculated as follows, from their best 8 GCSE results:

- a. Grade 9 = 9 points, Grade 8 = 8 points, Grade 7 = 7 points, Grade 6 = 6 points, Grade 5 = 5 points, etc.

Students choosing to study Maths and/or Science at A Level, require Grade 7 or above at GCSE in those subjects. For all other subjects, Grade 6 is required in the subject to be studied at A Level. New subjects available for study at A Level, usually require Grade 6 or above in associated GCSE subjects. Full details are on the school website.

If the school is oversubscribed, priority will first be given to:

- i) Children looked after or previously looked after, who meet the academic entry criteria
- ii) Children living closest to the school

Appeals

Parents wishing to appeal who applied through Hertfordshire's online system should log in to their online application and click on the link "register an appeal". Out of county residents and paper applicants should call the Customer Service Centre on 0300 123 4043 to request their registration details and log into www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals and click on the link "log into the appeals system."

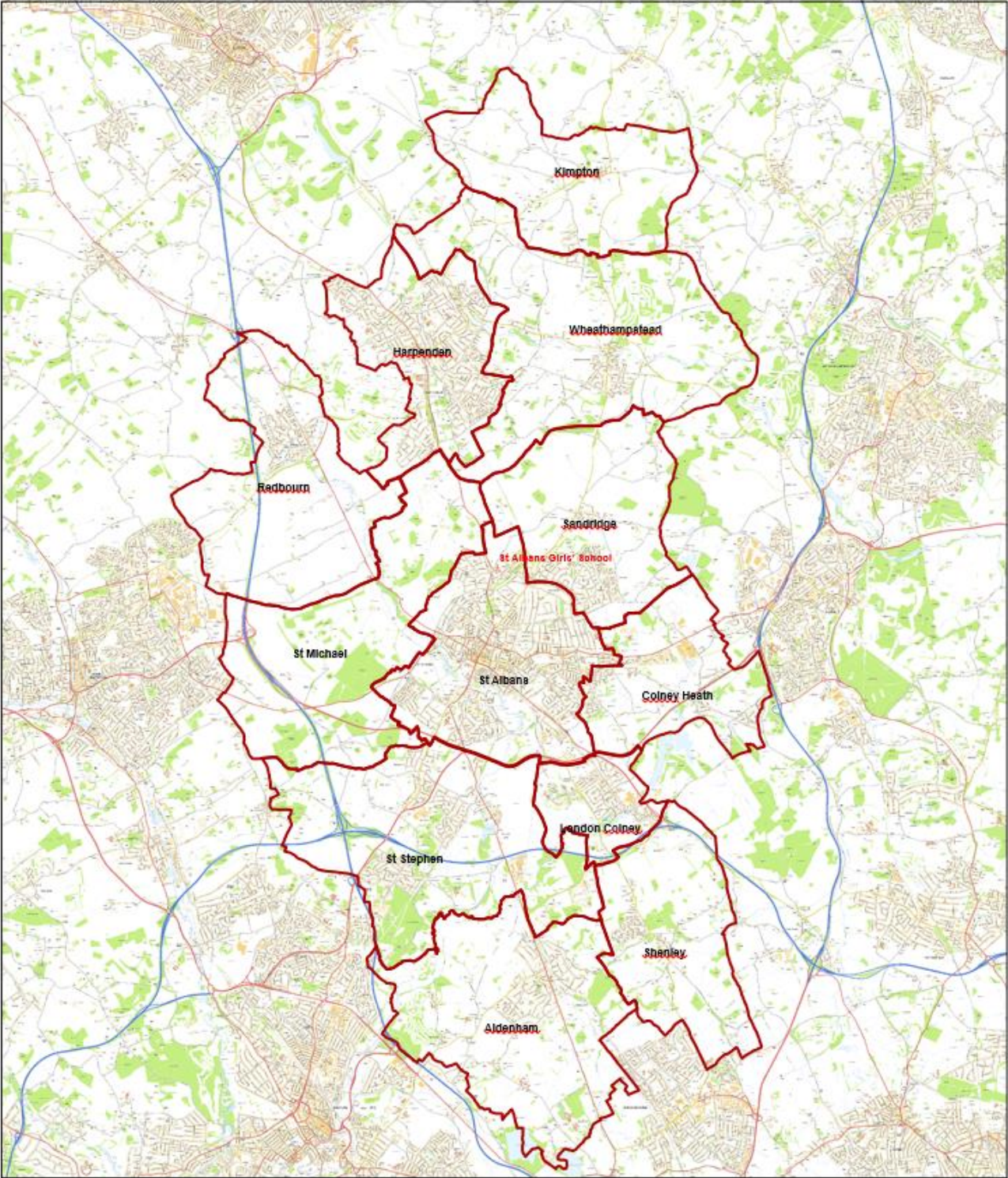
For In Year Admissions:

Hertfordshire County Council will write to you with the outcome of your application and if you have been unsuccessful, we will include registration details to enable you to login and appeal online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolappeals



ST ALBANS GIRLS' SCHOOL
Specialist Business and Enterprise Academy

St Albans Girls' School Priority Area



Key

- St Albans Girls' School
- ▭ Parishes/unparished areas or towns in the Priority Area

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How are places offered under the parish proportionality rules at single sex schools?

Each parish is allocated a number of places using the calculation below:

| | |
|--|---|
| $\frac{a \times b}{c}$ <p style="text-align: center;">per parish</p> | $\frac{\text{places available at school X total number of applications}}{\text{total applications in priority area}}$ |
|--|---|

- a) After places have been offered under any higher rules (e.g. CLA, social & medical, siblings, staff etc) it is calculated how many places are left to offer under the parish proportionality rules.
- b) The total number of applicants living in each parish within the priority area are counted. These are all on time applications and include children qualifying under higher rules.
- c) The total number of applications in each parish in the priority area is then divided by the total number of applications from the whole priority area.

Places are then allocated within each parish:

- First to children for whom it is the nearest school (if applicable) in order of distance.
- Then, if places still remain, to children for whom it is not the nearest school on a random basis. Unused places are reallocated to parishes to remain as near to the originally established proportions as possible. This is achieved by considering each place to be redistributed in turn and assigning it to the most under allocated parish.

Definitions and Explanatory Notes

The following definitions apply to terms used in the admissions criteria:

Rule 1: Children looked after and previously looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order¹ or a special guardianship order²)

Places are allocated to children in looked after (in public care) according to Chapter 7, Section 2 of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012. These children will be prioritised under rule 1.

Highest priority will also be given to children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order.

A “child looked after” is a child who is

- a) in the care of a local authority, or
- b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (section 22(1) of The Children Act 1989)

All children adopted from care who are of compulsory school age are eligible for admission under rule 1¹.

Child Arrangements Order - under the provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amended section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangements orders which settle the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live.

Special guardianship order – under 14A of The Children Act 1989, an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian or guardians.

Children in the process of being placed for adoption are classified by law as children looked after providing there is a Placement Order and the application would be prioritised under Rule 1. Children who were not “looked after” **immediately** before being adopted, or made the subject of a child arrangement order or special guardianship order, **will not** be prioritised under rule 1. Applications made for these children, with suitable supporting professional evidence, can be considered under rule 2.

¹ Child arrangements order Under the provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014, which amended section 8 of the Children Act 1989, residence orders have now been replaced by child arrangements orders which settle the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live.

² Special guardianship order Under 14A of The Children Act 1989, an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian or guardians.

³ This definition has been amended in accordance with paragraph 1.7 (footnote 17) of the School Admissions Code that came into force on 19 December 2014.

Rule 2: Children for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a particular medical or social need to go to the school:

Rule 2 applications will only be considered at the time of the initial application, unless there has been a significant and exceptional change of circumstances within the family since the initial application was submitted.

All schools in Hertfordshire have experience in dealing with children with diverse social and medical needs. However in a few very exceptional cases, there are reasons why a child has to go to one specific school.

Few applications **under Rule 2** are agreed.

Applications for children adopted but previously looked after abroad will be considered under this rule and accepted if the child's previously looked after status and adoption is confirmed. Hertfordshire's "Virtual School" will be asked to verify all such applications.

All applications are considered individually but a successful application should include the following:

- a. Evidence that the child was previously cared for by the state abroad because he or she would not otherwise have been cared for adequately and has been subsequently adopted
OR
- b. Specific recent professional evidence that justifies why only one school can meet a child's individual needs, and/or
- c. Professional evidence that outlines exceptional family circumstances making clear why only one school can meet the child's needs
- d. If the requested school is not the nearest school to the child's home address clear reasons why the nearest school is not appropriate
- e. For medical cases – a clear explanation of why the child's severity of illness or disability makes attendance at only a specific school essential.

Evidence should make clear why only one school is appropriate. A Rule 2 application will generally not be upheld in cases where more than one school could meet the child's need.

In exceptional cases relating to a disability, where more than one school in the county can meet the child's specific needs, a clear and compelling case can be made for the "nearest" school with the relevant facilities, environment or location. You must clearly explain why attendance at the "nearest" school with these facilities is essential.

Applications under Rule 2 can only be considered when supported by a recent letter from a professional involved with the child or family, for example a doctor, psychologist or police officer. The supporting evidence needs to demonstrate why only one named school can meet the social/medical needs of the child.

Applications for children previously "looked after" but not meeting the specific criteria outlined Rule 1, may be made under this rule.

Further details on the Rule 2 process can be found in the “Rule 2 protocol” available at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rule-2-protocol

Definition of sibling:

A sibling is defined as: the sister, brother, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, child of the parent/carer or partner or a child looked after or previously looked after² and in every case living permanently³ in a placement within the home as part of the family household from Monday to Friday at the time of this application.

A sibling must be on the roll of the named school at the time the younger child starts or have been offered and accepted a place.

If a place is obtained for an older child using fraudulent information, there will be no sibling connection available to subsequent children from that family.

Multiple births:

St Albans Girls’ School will admit over the school’s published admission number when a single twin/multiple birth child is allocated the last place at the school. The exception to this is when the last place is offered to a child under the random element of the school’s rules. In these circumstances places will not be offered to the other twin/multiple births because it would compromise the random element of the allocation process. In these circumstances the school will admit above the PAN after the allocation process has been completed.

Home address:

The address provided must be the child’s current permanent address at the time of application. ‘At the time of application’ means the closing date for applications. “Permanent” means that the child has lived at that address for at least a year and/or the family own the property or have a tenancy agreement for a minimum of 12 months.

The application can only be processed using one address. If a child lives at more than one address (for example due to a separation) the address used will be the one which the child lives at for the majority of the time. If a child lives at two addresses equally, the address of the parent/carer that claims Child Benefit/Child Tax Credit will be considered as the child’s main residence.

If a family is not in receipt of Child Benefit/Tax Credit alternative documentation will be requested.

If a child’s residence is in dispute, parents/carers should provide court documentation to evidence the address that should be used for admission allocation purposes.

² Children previously looked after are those children adopted or with a special guardianship order or child arrangements order. This definition was amended following a determination by the OSA in August 2014

³ A sibling link will not be recognised for children living temporarily in the same house, for example a child who usually lives with one parent but has temporarily moved or a looked after child in a respite placement or very short term or bridging foster placement

If two different applications are received for the same child from the same address, e.g. containing different preferences, the application from the parent in receipt of child benefit will be processed if the applications cannot be reconciled.

Fraudulent applications:

The school, in liaison with Hertfordshire County Council, will do as much as possible to prevent applications being made from fraudulent addresses, including referring cases to the Shared Anti-Fraud Services.

Address evidence is frequently requested, monitored and checked and school places will be withdrawn when false information is deliberately provided.

Action will be taken in the following circumstances:

- When a child's application address does not match the address of that child at their current school;
- When a child lives at a different address to the applicant
- When the applicant does not have parental responsibility
- When a family move shortly after the closing date of applications when one or more of the following applies:
 - The family has moved to a property from which their application was less likely to be successful
 - The family has returned to an existing property
 - The family lived in rented accommodation for a short period of time (anything less than a year) over the application period
 - Council tax information shows a different residence at the time of application
 - When a child starts at the allocated school and their address is different from the address used at the time of application

Parents/carers will need to show that they have relinquished residency ties with their previous property and they, and their child(ren) are permanently residing at the address given on the application form.

Home to school distance measurement for purposes of admissions:

A 'straight line' distance measurement is used for all home to school distance measurements for admission allocation purposes. Distances are measured using a computerised mapping system to two decimal places. The measurement is taken from the AddressBase Premium address point of your child's house to the address point of the school. AddressBase Premium data is a nationally recognised method of identifying the location of schools and individual residences.

Priority Areas:

Priority areas are determined by administrative parishes/unparished areas or towns. Your home parish/unparished area or town is clearly identified on your Council Tax statement/bill. If you are unsure which area you live in you can use the "Find Your Nearest School" facility available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

Definition of “nearest school” for secondary/upper admissions:

The “nearest school” definition for rule 5 is “the nearest Hertfordshire maintained school or academy that is non-faith, non-partially selective and makes provision for children of the relevant gender.

Non-partially selective means that the school does not offer any places based on academic ability. “Relevant gender” for St Albans Girls’ School means that the school is either a girls’ school at 11-16 years of age or a co-educational school in the sixth form.

Applications from children⁴ from overseas:

All children of compulsory school age (5 to 16 years) in England have a right of access to education. However, where a child is in England for a short period only, for example less than half a term, it may be reasonable to refuse admission to a school.

An application for a school place will only be accepted for such children currently overseas if, for In Year applications, proof is provided that the child will be resident in Hertfordshire within two weeks. In Year allocations are made on the assumption that the child will accept the school place and be on roll within that timescale.

For the Secondary application process applications will not normally be accepted from, nor places allocated to, an overseas address. The exception to this (for both In Year and transfer processes) is for children of UK service personnel and crown servants (and from military families who are residents of countries with a Memorandum of Understanding with the UK). In these cases HCC will allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a HCC Unit postal address or quartering area address, for consideration of the application against oversubscription criteria.

Applications will also be considered and places offered in advance for these families, if the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date but does not provide a quartering or unit address because the family will be residing in private accommodation. In these cases, if the family does not already have a permanent private address in Hertfordshire, the military base or alternative ‘work’ address in Hertfordshire will be used for allocation purposes. If the family already has an established alternative private address, that address will be used for admission purposes.

The school, in liaison with HCC, will also consider accepting applications from children (as defined in footnote 3) whose family can evidence intent to return to and/or permanently reside in Hertfordshire prior to the start of the new academic year. These applications, if accepted, will be processed from the overseas address until sufficient evidence is received to show the child is permanently resident in Hertfordshire. Evidence must be submitted at the time of application.

Evidence submitted after the date for late applications cannot be taken into account before National Allocation Day. Decisions on these applications will be made by a panel of county council officers and communicated with parents within 6 weeks of the closing date for applications.

⁴ Children who hold full British Citizen passports (not British Dependent Territories or British Overseas passports), or have a UK passport describing them as a British citizen or British subject with the right of abode or are European Economic Area nationals normally have unrestricted entry to the UK.

If an applicant owns a property in Hertfordshire but is not living in it, perhaps because they are working abroad at the time of application, the Hertfordshire address will **not** be accepted for the purposes of admission until the child is resident at that address.

Other children, than those mentioned above, from overseas do not generally have automatic right of entry to the UK. An application for a school place will not therefore be accepted until they are permanently resident in Hertfordshire. Proof of residency such as an endorsed passport or entry visa will be required with the application, in addition to proof of Hertfordshire address, for example a council tax bill or 12 month rental agreement.

Children Out of Year Group:

The school's policy is for children to be educated within their correct chronological year group, with the curriculum differentiated as necessary to meet the needs of individual children. This is in line with DfE guidance⁵ which states that "in general, children should be educated in their normal age group".

If parents/carers believe their child(ren) should be educated in a different year group they should, at the time of application, submit supporting evidence from relevant professionals working with the child and family stating why the child must be placed outside their normal age appropriate cohort. DfE guidance makes clear that "it is reasonable for admission authorities to expect parents to provide them with information in support of their request – since without it they are unlikely to be able to make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case".

The school's governing body, as the relevant admission authority, will decide whether the application will be accepted on the basis of the information submitted. The governors' decision will be based upon the circumstances of each case including the view of parents, the Head Teacher, the child's social, academic and emotional development and whether the child has been previously educated out of year group. There is no guarantee that an application will be accepted on this basis. If the application is not accepted this does not constitute a refusal of a place and there is no right to an independent statutory appeal. Similarly, there is no right of appeal for a place in a specific year group at a school. The internal management and organisation of a school, including the placement of pupils in classes, is a matter for the Head Teacher and senior leadership of the school.