



The Castle Partnership Trust

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Orchard Grove Primary School admission arrangements for 2023/24

Introductory statement

Orchard Grove is a new primary school opening in September 2023 and is part of The Castle Partnership Trust. The school serves the growing community of Taunton. The school is committed to ensuring every child achieves their full potential. We foster a supportive, family atmosphere and a strong sense of belonging for every student. Our aim is for every child to achieve, participate and belong, and this is at the heart of everything we do.

Admission number

The school has an admission number of 30 for entry in Year Reception.

The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number for the relevant year group are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at the school to all those who have applied.

Application process

The Academy Trust will process applications outside the normal local authority process for co-ordinating school offers. This means you will need to complete your LA common application form for your other choices of school in addition to a separate application for this school.

Applications for this school should be sent to Miss J Gregory at the following address: The Castle Partnership Trust, Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 5AU, or email: jgregory@castle.somerset.sch.uk

The closing date for applications is 15/01/2023.

Offers will be made on 17/04/2023. If we have not entered into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for opening the school by that date, they will be conditional offers and will be confirmed once we have a signed funding agreement.

The separate application form can be obtained from:

<https://www.orchardgroveschool.co.uk/>

Oversubscription criteria

The criterion in this section apply to entry at all phases of the school.

When the school 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:

1. Looked After children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or a special guardianship order¹, including children who appear (to the Admission Authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted².
2. Priority will next be given to children living within the catchment area with a sibling attending Orchard Grove at the time of application. The catchment area is set out in the map at the end of this policy. Children living on the boundary line will be considered to be living within the catchment area.
3. Priority will next be given to the children of staff at the school who have been recruited to fill a skill shortage area.
4. Priority will next be given to children living within the catchment area, set out in the map at the end of this policy. Children living on the boundary line will be considered to be living within the catchment area.
5. Priority will next be given to the siblings of pupils attending the school at the time the application is received.
6. Other children.

Tie-break

If in categories 2-5 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 from the child's home to the front gates of the school in a straight line.

Random allocation undertaken by the local authority or another body independent from the Academy Trust will be used as a tie-break in categories 2-5 above to decide who has the highest priority for admission if the distance between a child's home and the school is equidistant in any two or more cases.

¹ A looked after child 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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989)

² A child is regarded as having been in 'state care outside of 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. Section 23ZZA(8) of the Children act 1989 (inserted by Section 4 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017).

Random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins, triplets, etc) from the same family tied for the final place. We will admit them all, as permitted by the infant class size rules and exceed our PAN.

Late applications

All applications received by the Academy Trust after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If, following consideration of all applicants the school is oversubscribed, parents may request that their child is placed on the school's waiting list.

Deferred entry for infants

Parents offered a place in Reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or their 5th birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission out of the normal year group is being requested (and the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place).

When such a request is made, the academy trust 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.

Waiting lists

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the first term after the beginning of the school year. This will be maintained by the academy trust and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Children's positions 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.

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.

Appellants should contact The Admissions and Entitlements Team at Somerset County Council, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4DY by 22/05/2023 for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals process can be found on our website: www.castle.trust.co.uk

Notes:

Home address:

The home address is where a child normally lives. Where a child lives with parents with shared parental responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child's residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which residential address should be used for the purpose of admission to the school. If no joint declaration is received where the residence is split equally by the closing date for applications, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor. If the residence is not split equally between both parents, then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week.

Sibling:

'Sibling' means a natural brother or sister, a half brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half brother or sister, a step brother or sister, or other child living in the same household as part of the same family who, in any of these cases, will be living at the same address at the date of their application for a place.

Catchment area map

