

Powerstock CE VA Primary School



Admission Policy 2027 - 2028

Learning together to be the best that we can be

1. Introduction

The Governing Body of Powerstock CE VA Primary School (“the School”) is the admission authority and is responsible for setting the admission arrangements for the School. This document sets out the admission arrangements for entry in the academic year 2027–2028.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for entry into Reception is 10. The School will admit up to this number. Where there are more applications than places available, the oversubscription criteria in Section 3 will be applied.

The Infant Class Size Regulations apply to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and require that no infant class is larger than 30 pupils with a single qualified teacher.

Where a child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming Powerstock CE VA Primary School, the child will be admitted. The number of remaining places within the PAN will be reduced accordingly. Admission for EHCP pupils is arranged by the home Local Authority (LA).

Applications for entry into Reception in September 2027 must be made to the home Local Authority by 15 January 2027. Decisions will be issued on 16 April 2027 (or next working day) by the LA.

2. Religious Character of the School

Powerstock CE VA Primary School is designated with a Church of England religious character. Its religious authority is the Diocese of Salisbury.

Recognising its historic foundation, the School will preserve and develop its Christian ethos in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. The School provides high-quality education within the context of Christian belief and practice, encouraging understanding of faith and promoting Christian values.

3. Oversubscription Criteria

Where more applications are received than there are places available, the following criteria will be applied in order:

3a. Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

Children who are in the care of a Local Authority, or who were previously in care but were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. This includes children who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside England and subsequently adopted.

3b. Vulnerable Children

Children with an identified *social* or *medical* need.

- *Medical need* means written evidence from a senior clinical medical officer, GP or specialist demonstrating that attending any other school would be detrimental to the child's health. Evidence may relate to a parent's medical condition where this makes attendance at another school detrimental for the child.
- *Social need* refers to children of confirmed refugee status supported by written evidence from the home Local Authority.

Supporting evidence must be submitted with the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) by 15 January 2027.

3c. Children Living in the Catchment Area with a Sibling at the School

A child whose home address lies within the School's catchment area and who has a sibling attending the School at the time of application and expected to remain on roll at the time of admission.

3d. Children Living in the Catchment Area

Children whose home address lies within the School's catchment boundary.

Powerstock CE VA Primary School's catchment area is the current Dorset Council catchment boundary used within the Dorset Council admissions system. A map is available on the School website and as a paper copy from the School office.

3e. Children Attending a Designated Feeder School

(Not applicable — Powerstock CE VA Primary School does not operate a feeder-school criterion.)

3f. Children Living Outside the Catchment Area with a Sibling at the School

Children whose home address lies outside the catchment boundary but who have a sibling already attending the School at the date of application and expected to remain on roll at the time of admission.

3g. Children Living Outside the Catchment Area Who Meet the Faith Criterion

A child living outside the catchment area is eligible where the child is a regular practising Christian, defined as:

- Attendance by the child
- At a Recognised Church or Religious Group
- At least monthly
- For a minimum of 6 months prior to application

A Recognised Church or Religious Group means a church that is the same denomination as (or in fellowship with or partnership with) a member of:

- Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
- Evangelical Alliance
- Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
- Affinity Fellowship of Churches

Evidence must be confirmed on the Faith SIF, signed by the vicar/priest/minister/pastor/church warden.

3h. All Other Children

4. Tie Breaker

If a criterion is oversubscribed, priority will be given to children living nearest the School.

Distance will be measured using Dorset Council's distance measurement system, which measures the straight-line distance from the child's home address to the School.

Where two or more children live an equal distance from the School and it is not possible to distinguish between them, allocation will be determined by random allocation, supervised independently.

5. Explanatory Notes

Catchment Area

The School uses the Dorset Council catchment boundary. A map is published on the School website and available from the School office.

Sibling Definition

Siblings include:

- brothers and sisters
- half, adopted, step, foster siblings

- children of the parent/carer's partner
They must reside in the same family unit at the same address as the applicant child.

Home Address

The address where the child normally resides for the majority of the school week (Sunday–Thursday). The School may request documentary proof of residence.

Faith SIF and Vulnerable Children SIF

To be considered under criteria 3b or 3g, the relevant Supplementary Information Form must be completed and submitted to the School by 15 January 2027.

6. Appeals

Parents whose applications are unsuccessful have the statutory right to appeal to an independent panel. Appeal information will be included with refusal letters. The School's appeal timetable is published on the School website by 28 February each year.

7. Waiting List

If the School is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be maintained until 31 December 2027. Positions on the list are determined strictly in accordance with the oversubscription criteria and not by the length of time a child has been on the list.

Parents may request removal from the list at any time. If a place is offered and declined, the child will be removed.

8. Summer Born Children

Parents of children born between 1 April and 31 August may request delayed admission to Reception (out of year group). Parents must apply for September 2027 entry but state clearly that they wish to defer entry to September 2028. Discussions with the Headteacher are strongly advised.

If agreed, the September 2027 application will be withdrawn, and a fresh application must be made for September 2028. There is no guarantee of a place.

9. Deferred Entry and Part-Time Attendance

Children may attend part-time or defer entry until later in the school year, but not beyond compulsory school age or the start of the final term.

10. Admission of Children Outside their Normal Age Group

Parents may request admission outside normal age group (e.g., for gifted pupils or those with significant medical issues). Requests should be made via the School office as early as possible. Decisions are made by the admission authority in consultation with the Headteacher, based on the best interests of the child.

11. Multiple Births

Where multiple birth siblings apply (e.g., twins) and one child can be offered a place, the School will, where practicable, admit all siblings even if this exceeds the PAN.

12. Withdrawal of an Offer

An offer may be withdrawn if:

- it was made in error
- it was made based on fraudulent or misleading information
- the parent fails to respond within a reasonable time

13. In-Year Admissions

The School participates in the Dorset Council coordinated in-year admissions scheme.

Applications must be made to Dorset Council. The Council will liaise with the School and inform parents of the outcome. If more than one in-year application is received simultaneously and places are limited, the oversubscription criteria will be applied.

Information about in-year admissions is available on both the School and Dorset Council websites.

14. Data Protection

All personal data will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.