Date of last review:	February 2025	**Review period:**	Annual
Date of next review:	February 2026	**Owner:**	CEO

Admissions Policy 2026/2027

Empowering a future generation

Admission Arrangements 2026/2027

1. Introduction

a. Magna Learning Partnership is the admission authority and responsible for the admission arrangements for Amesbury Archer Primary School. This document sets out the admission arrangements for the school for the academic year 2026/2027.

b. The published admission number (PAN) for entry into the school is 60. The school will admit up to the PAN in the normal year of entry which is the Reception year. Where there are more applications for admission than places available at the school, then places will be offered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria at Section 3 of this policy.

c. Infant Class Size Regulations apply to the normal year of entry (and Year 1 and Year 2). These regulations require classes to be no bigger than 30 children although the PAN may be much lower than 30.

d. Where a child has an education, health and care plan (EHCP) which names the school, then that child will be admitted to the school and the number of available places in the PAN will reduce correspondingly. Admission of children with an EHCP is dealt with by the home Local Authority (LA) (which is where you reside).

e. When applying to start school in Reception in September 2026 you must apply to your home LA. All applications for first admission must be received by your home LA by the closing date of 15 January 2026. The home LA will make a single offer of a place on 16 April 2026 (or next working day). Parents will be able to make an online application at www.wiltshire.gov.uk. If an online application has been submitted, a written application is not necessary. The online facility will be available from 1 September 2025 up until the deadline of 15 January 2026.

2. Religious Character of the School

a. The school does not have a religious character.

3. Oversubscription Criteria

Where the school is oversubscribed (there are more applicants than places available) places will be allocated in accordance with the following criteria and in the following order. Please read the explanatory notes for further guidance.

a. Looked After Children or Previously Looked After Children

A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked became subject to an adoption, child arrangement, or special guardianship order including those who appear (to Magna Learning Partnership) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. 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). Proof will be required and must be submitted by the deadline date.

b. Vulnerable Children

Children from families registered with the National Asylum Support Service; children or families with a serious medical, physical or psychological condition where written evidence is provided at the time of application from a senior clinical medical officer, general practitioner or specialist showing that it would be detrimental to the child or family not to be admitted to the preferred school. For the purpose of the criteria the word 'family' is determined as living at the same address at the time of the application and also living at the same address on a permanent basis. Proof will be required and must be submitted by the deadline date.

c. Children living within the Catchment with a Sibling at the School

A child living inside the catchmment area is eligible for this category where they have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and the sibling will still be attending the school at the time of admission. Catchment is highlighted in red on the map.

d. Children living within the Catchment

A child living within the geographical area, which is drawn on the map in red.

e. Children living outside the Catchment with a Sibling at the School

A child living outside the catchment area is eligible for this category where they have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and the sibling will still be attending the school at the time of admission.

f. Children of Staff at the School

Children of all staff employed at Amesbury Archer Primary School for two or more years at the time at which the application to the school is made and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

g. All other children

Tie Breaker

If there are not enough places to satisfy all the applications under any one criterion, priority will be given to those living nearest the school. The school will adopt the measurement system of Wiltshire LA to determine the distance from the school to the home address**.** Where two or more applicants live an equal distance from the school and it is not possible to differentiate between them, priority will be determined by random allocation through the drawing of lots supervised by someone independent of the school.

Oversubscription Criteria: Explanatory Notes

Catchment Area means the geographical area from which children will be afforded priority for admission to the school. A map indicating the catchment area is included below and is available to view on the school website. A hard copy is available at the school office.

Sibling means brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, foster brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom admission is sought is living in the same family unit as that sibling and at the same address.

Home address means the place where the child resides for the majority of the school week (Sunday to Thursday) with the person/s who legally has care of the child (child care arrangements are excluded). The school may require documentary evidence of house ownership or tenancy together with evidence of the child's residency at the property.

4. Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

The school does not use a SIF.

5. Appeals

a. Where an application is unsuccessful the parents/carers have the statutory right to bring an appeal against that decision to an independent appeal panel. Details of how to appeal will be included in the letter advising that the application has been unsuccessful.

b. The admission appeal timetable is published on the school's website by 28 February each year.

6. Important Information

a. Waiting Lists

If the school is oversubscribed for September 2026 entry a waiting list will be maintained for the entire academic year. The position of the child on the waiting list will correspond with the oversubscription criteria; it will not be based on length of time on the waiting list. The right of appeal at Section 5 remains. You may request your child's name be removed from the waiting list at any time. If a place is offered but refused then the child's name will be removed from the waiting list.

b. Summer Born Children

Summer born children (which refers to children born from 1 April to 31 August) are not required to start school until a full year after the point at which they could first have been admitted – the point at which other children in their age range are beginning year 1. Should the parent wish their child to be admitted to reception, rather than year 1, they may request that the child is admitted out of their normal age group. Please note the following:

(i) **You must make an application for admission to the school for September 2026 entry but make it clear on the application form that you wish your child to enter the reception class in September 2027.**

(ii) Discussions with the school are strongly recommended prior to making a decision to decline entry for an entire year **and** to be admitted to reception in September 2027. Any decision will be on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

(iii) If the request is agreed the September 2026 application may be withdrawn before a place is offered **but a fresh application will need to be made** for September 2027 entry **which will be processed as a fresh application along with all other applications and in accordance with the school's admission arrangements**. PLEASE NOTE that it is possible even if the request is agreed that the child may not be admitted in September 2027 as there is no guarantee of a school place.

(iv) If the request is refused the parent must decide whether to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group, or to refuse it and make an in year application for admission to year one for the September following the child's fifth birthday.

c. Deferred Entry and Part Time Attendance below Statutory School Age

A child may start at the school in the academic year in which he/she reaches the age of 5. Where the child has not yet reached statutory school age (5 years old), the child is entitled to a full time place and parents may choose for their child to attend full time. Alternatively parents may choose for their child to attend part time until their child attains compulsory school age. If parents do not consider their child is ready to start school then they may defer entry altogether to later in the school year but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age or not beyond the beginning of the final term in the school year (whichever is the sooner).

d. Admission of Children Outside their Normal Age Group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside their normal age group, for example if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Such requests should be discussed with the Headteacher as early as possible in the admissions round associated with that child's date of birth. This will allow the school sufficient time to make a decision regarding the request before the closing date for applications and national offer day. Decisions to admit a pupil outside their normal age group will be based on the circumstances of each case and based on what is in the best interests of the child concerned. We may request supporting professional evidence to assist in the decision-making. There is no legal requirement for this medical or educational evidence to be secured from an appropriate professional. However, failure to provide this may impede our ability to make an informed decision.

e. Multiple Birth Applications
Where there are multiple birth applications the PAN will, provided it is practicable, be exceeded or increased at the point of allocation in order to ensure that multiple birth siblings can be allocated places at the school.

7. Withdrawal of an Offer

The school may withdraw an offer where it has been offered in error, has been made on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application, or a parent has not responded to an offer of a place within a reasonable period of time.

8. In Year Admissions

a. Applications for in year admission may be submitted at any time during the school year. Magna Learning Partnership is part of the LA co-ordinated in-year scheme as outlined in their policy. Applications for a place required during the academic year may be submitted to the LA (through their Parent Portal or via paper form) at any time, but will not be administered more than a term in advance of a place being required.

b. Where the school has no spaces available, because the admission of another child would prejudice the efficient education of others at the school or would prejudice the efficient use of resources, the application will be refused and a right of appeal, as set out in Section 5, will arise.

c. The oversubscription criteria at Section 3 will be only used where the school is considering more than one in year application at the same time and there are not enough spaces to accept all applicants.

9. Further Information

a. Important information published by the LA applies to some aspects of school admissions. If you are considering applying for a place at the school you are advised to refer to your home LA's website.

b. If you have any questions in relation to these admission arrangements please contact the school office:

Amesbury Archer Primary School
Shears Drive
Archers Gate
Amesbury
Wiltshire
SP4 7XX

Telephone: 01980 625944

Email: admin@amesburyarcher.wilts.sch.uk

c. The school will handle all personal data in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018.