

MENHENIOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Admissions Policy 2027-2028

Introduction

Menheniot Primary School is a foundation primary school and the Governing Body are the Admission Authority for the school.

The school will participate fully in the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol and the Local Authority's Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes for starting school and applying for a place during the school year. Details of these schemes are available on the Council's website (www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions) or on request from the Local Authority. Closing dates and other details about the application process will be stated in those schemes.

Applying for a place

All applications for places in Reception or during the school year must be made direct to the applicant's home authority on the appropriate Common Application Form (CAF). The CAF and supporting information will be available electronically on the Local Authority's website or in paper form on request from the Local Authority. There is no supplementary information form required by the Governing Body.

All children are entitled to start school full-time in the September following their fourth birthday. However, parents may choose deferred or part-time entry to the reception year for their child, bearing in mind that by law children have to be in full-time education by the start of the term following their fifth birthday – when they reach 'compulsory school age'. Parents of Summer-born children may also seek a place for their child outside their normal age group i.e. entry to reception a year later than normal, for example if the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. Parents choosing part-time or deferred entry or wishing to delay entry to the reception year must contact the Headteacher.

Allocation of places

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school will be admitted regardless of the number on roll in the year group.

All requests for a change of school during the school year ('in-year' admissions) and all requests for entry into school at the normal point of entry (starting in the reception year, transferring from infant to junior school or transferring from primary to secondary school) will be handled by the **SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TEAM** with the exception of applications for children with an EHC plan.

Parents will be able to discuss the educational options with a member of the SEN Team to enable them to make an informed decision regarding their preferred school.

Where a request for an EHC needs assessment has been made or where a child is under assessment (but no decision has yet been made about issuing an EHC Plan) an application for a school place must be made through the normal school admissions process (schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk , www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions).

If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan), you **do not** need to complete an application form as a school place will be identified through a separate process. Please contact the SEN Assessment and Provision Team for more information:

Tel: 01872 324242 Email: specialeducation@cornwall.gov.uk

However, **if a request has been made for an EHC needs assessment** for your child, or your child is **currently being assessed** to decide whether an EHC Plan is necessary, you will need to make an application using the normal process.

The process for SEN admissions can be found in the Local Authority's Local Offer: www.supportincornwall.org.uk

Children in Care who are directed to the school by the Local Authority will be admitted to the school regardless of the number on roll in the year group.

Attendance at a particular nursery class or early year's provider does not give a pupil any priority within the admissions policy for admission to a primary school. Parents/carers must still submit an application for a place in Reception.

The published admission number (PAN) for Reception in 2027/28 will be 28. Places will be allocated up to this number. In the event that more applications are received than places available, the oversubscription criteria below will be used to decide on allocations.

Oversubscription Criteria

In the event of there being more than 28 applications for places in reception for the 2027/28 academic year or more applications than places for any year group during the school year, the following oversubscription criteria will be used to prioritise applications, after the admission of children whose Education, Health and Care Plan names the school:

1. Children in care and children who were previously in care but immediately after being in care became subject to an Adoption, Child Arrangement or Special Guardianship Order, including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children who live within the designated area of the school, as defined by the Local Authority, or whose parents/carers can provide evidence that they will be living in the designated area of the school by the beginning of the autumn term of the 2027/2028 school year.

If there are more designated area children wanting places at a school than there are places available, the following criteria 3 to 5 will be used to decide which of these children should have priority for admission. If there are still places available after all the designated area children have been allocated places, criteria 3 to 5 will be used to decide which of the remaining children should have priority for any spare places.

3. Children with an unequivocal professional recommendation from a doctor, school medical officer, educational psychologist or education welfare officer that non-placement at the school would not be in the best interest of the child. Such recommendations must be made in writing and must give full supporting reasons and will be reviewed by the LA.
4. Children with siblings who will still be attending the school at the time of their admission.
5. All other children.

Notes and definitions

Children in care

'Children in care' are also referred to as 'looked after children' and they are children who are in the care of the Local Authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions.

Child Arrangement Order

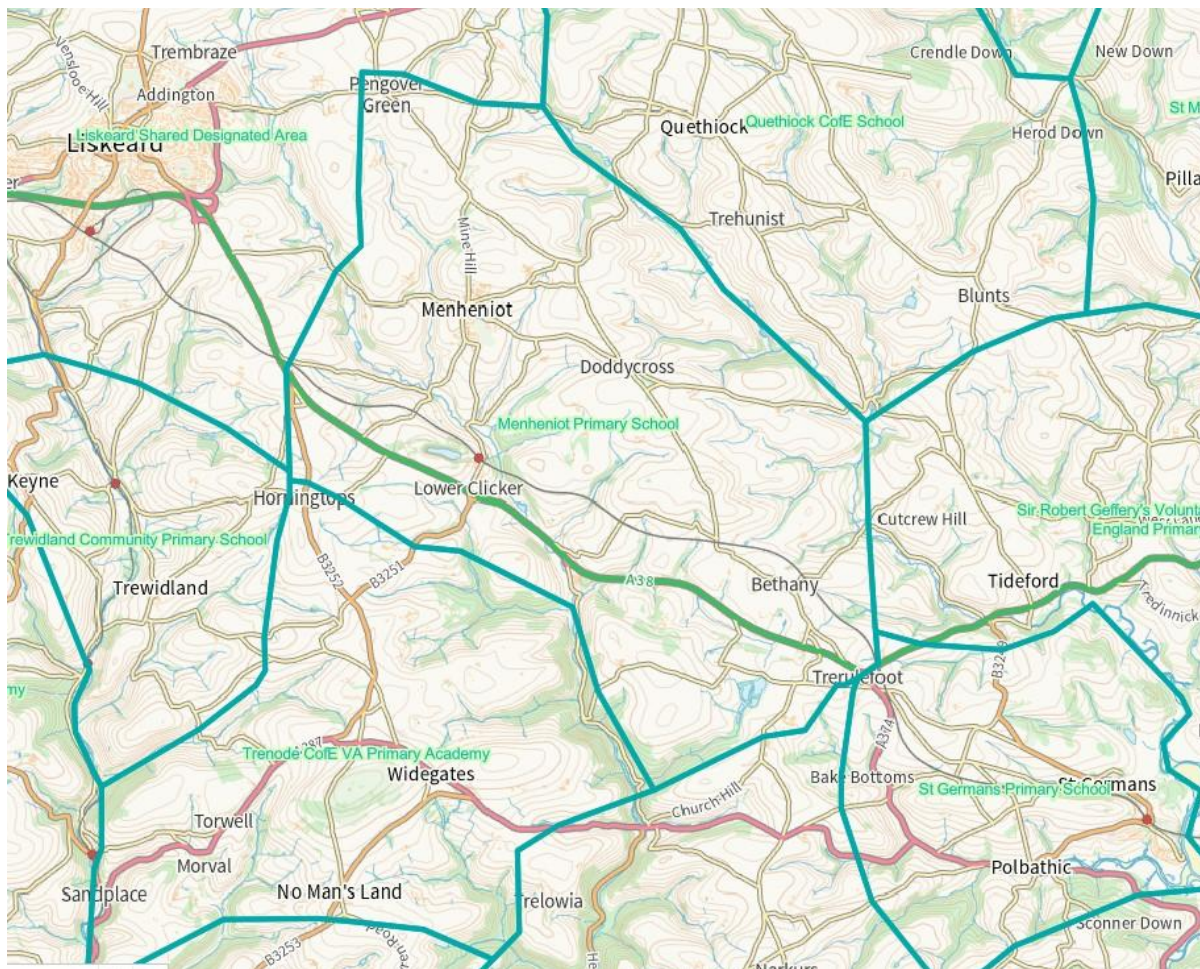
A 'Child Arrangement Order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'Special Guardianship Order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

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 (see Section 23ZZA(8) of the Children Act 1989 (inserted by Section 4 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017)).

Designated areas

Cornwall Council has divided the County into geographical areas. Each of these areas is served by a specific primary school, or in some cases, groups of schools. These areas are called 'designated areas' (you may also have heard these areas referred to as 'catchment' areas). Your designated school will not always be the one nearest to your home address. Maps are available for all designated areas online at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions or by calling the Admissions and Transport Team on 0300 1234 101 or emailing schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk.

If you are planning to move into the designated area of a school, your application for a place for your child at that school will not be given the priority accorded to designated area pupils without firm evidence of your new address and moving date, such as a copy of a signed and dated tenancy agreement or confirmation that contracts have been exchanged.



Professional recommendation for admission

If you think your child meets this criterion, as described in the Oversubscription Criteria, you must send the relevant written evidence to the Local Authority.

Siblings

'Siblings' means brothers or sisters. They are defined as children with at least one natural or adoptive parent in common, living at the same or a different address. Children living permanently in the same household at the same address would also be counted as siblings, regardless of their actual relationship to each other. To qualify as a sibling a child must be on the roll of the school in question at the date of application, allocation and admission.

Tie-breakers

If any of the criteria outlined above leave more children with an equal claim than places available, priority will be given to the child who lives nearer to the preferred school.

Final tie-breaker

Should the tie-breakers above still leave children with an equal claim because distances are exactly the same, random allocation will be used to decide on priority. The school will use the Local Authority's Random Allocation Protocol which is available on request.

Distances

Home to school distances used for tie-breaking will be measured by a straight-line measurement as determined by Cornwall Council's nominated Geographical Information System. Measurements will be between your home address (the centre of the main building of the property) and the main gate of the school (as determined by Cornwall Council).

Distances used to determine nearest school with room (i.e. where it is not possible to offer a place at a preferred school) and for establishing transport entitlements will be measured by the nearest available route as determined by the Cornwall Council's nominated Geographic Information System.

Home address

Each child may have one registered address only for the purposes of determining priority for admission and transport entitlement. This address must be:

- the child's principal permanent residence at the point of application and the address from which they will attend school; or
- a future address from which the child will attend school, supported by a form of evidence from the list in Cornwall Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme.

An admission authority may refuse to accept an address if an applicant still owns or rents an address at which their child previously lived. It is for the admission authority to determine:

- if the address given on an application is a child's current or future principal permanent residence and the address from which they attend school; and
- which address should be used to determine eligibility for a place.

Exceptional circumstances in relation to the provision of a home address will be considered on a case by case basis. If there is shared residence of the child or a query is raised regarding the validity of an address, the home address will be considered to be with the parent with primary day to day care and control of the child. Residency of a child may also be clarified through a child arrangement order where it is shown who has care of the child. Evidence may be requested to show where the child resides.

It is expected that parents will submit only one application for each child. Any disputes in relation to the child's home address should be settled before applying, the admission authority will not become involved in any parental disputes. If agreement cannot be obtained before an application is made then parents/carers may need to settle the matter through the courts. Where no agreement is reached or order obtained, Cornwall Council will determine the home address.

For information on disputes between persons with parental responsibility in relation to school preferences please see Cornwall Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for the relevant year.

Applications for children of Service Families will be processed and places allocated based on the proposed address (with supporting evidence) or, if the family are not able to confirm a proposed address and a unit or quartering address is provided, an allocation will be made based on the unit or quartering address. Until a fixed address is available, the unit postal address or quartering area address will be used to determine allocation of a school place. For the purposes of measuring distances, the main entrance of the unit will be used.

Multiple birth siblings

Where applications are received on behalf of 'multiple birth siblings' (i.e. twins, triplets, etc.) or siblings whose dates of birth place them in the same chronological year group, every effort will be made to offer places at the school, which may mean allocating places above the Published Admission Number (PAN) where that is possible. However, where this is not possible, parents/carers will be invited to decide which of the children should be allocated the available place(s).

Placement outside the normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a Summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request they are admitted out of their normal age group – to Reception rather than Year 1. Parents should contact the Headteacher in the first instance and the admission authority will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

Appeals

Applicants refused a place at the school have the right of appeal. Appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel arranged by Cornwall Council on behalf of the Governing Body. Further details and a timeline can be found in Cornwall Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. Applicants can only appeal again for a place in the same school within the same academic year if the admission authority for that school has accepted a further application because there has been a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent or carer, child or school (eg a change of address into a school's designated area), but has determined that the new application must also be refused.

Waiting Lists

If the school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held for the whole of the academic year for all year groups and parents/carers can request that their child is added to this list if they are refused a place. The waiting list will be based on the school's oversubscription criteria and a child's place on a waiting list is subject to change according to additional information received about applications or children being added to the list – so their place on the list might move up or down. **No priority is given to the length of time that a child has been on the list.** Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan and children in care or children that were previously in care will take precedence over those on the waiting list. Children admitted under the Fair Access Protocol will also be given priority over children on the waiting list.

Policy agreed by the Governors on: 24th April 2026

Contact details for the School Admissions Team

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