



Frequently Asked Questions.

How do I apply?

Online applications can be made via the Essex County Council Website for a Reception school place between 8 November 2021 and 15 January 2022.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

All applications received after 15 January 2022 will be treated as late and will only be processed after all the on-time applications.

You are significantly less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools if you apply late or forget to apply.

Does it matter what order of preference I choose?

We always suggest that you put your preferred schools in order that you'd like them, there isn't a better way or a strategy to get your first choice of school other than ordering your schools according to your preference.

What transition arrangements do you have for new starters?

This very much depends on the COVID-19 situation next year. Our preference is through a summer term "Prep Group" in which our new starters spend an afternoon a week in school with their new classmates and the teaching staff in the early years environment. Historically, this has always ensured that our new starters are ready to go on a full-time basis when the school year starts in September. We will make a decision based on the safest approach for our whole school community as to what approach we use nearer the time.

What chance have I got of getting a place?

Every year, the profile of the pupils we admit changes – our intake really depends on who applies. Some years, the intake is mostly made up of siblings of existing pupils. In other years, there are very few siblings, so more new pupils come from the priority admission area (catchment area). We can never predict who will apply and therefore have genuinely little idea of what anyone's chances of getting a place are, it is simply a case of applying and seeing who gets the places awarded based on our admission criteria, which can be found in our Admissions Policy, linked below.

<https://www.westwoodacademy.org/admissions/>

What SEN provision do you have?

We identify children who require additional support as soon as possible and use a child centred approach to set targets through termly one plans. Those children with higher needs are supported through the same one planning process. If further support is needed, we will



apply for an education, health and care plan (EHCP) to allow us access to additional support options. Our staff keep up to date with regular training and adapt their practice to support the needs of all pupils. For children with sensory needs we have a newly developed space to meet these needs.

What pastoral care do you provide?

Pastoral support is provided by all staff whatever their roles. We work together to promote a culture of positive communication. Additional to this we have a learning mentor, who works with individuals or groups on specifically identified needs. We also work closely with outside agencies to secure the very best support for all our families should they seek it or if circumstances require it.

Is there a breakfast club and after school club?

Yes. Our out of school provision, Woody's runs daily from 8:00-8:45am and from the end of the school day until 5pm. On a Friday, the school closes at 1:30 so we offer a bridging club from this time until 3:00 followed by after school club until 4pm.

The current costs are:

- Before school club - £2.50 including breakfast
- After school club - £7.50 including snacks
- Friday Bridging club (1:30-3:00) - £4.00 or full after school club until 4:00 - £6.00

Our school dinner.

We offer school dinners from reception to year 6 every day. We run our menus on a 3-week rolling programme and offer varied, balanced and nutritional meals each day. We provide a vegetarian and non-vegetarian option. Children also have access to a salad bar. At different points throughout the year we have themed lunches which the children really enjoy. We also offer a Christmas dinner towards the end of the Autumn term.

Children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal. From year 3 onwards, the daily cost of a meal is currently £2.20

What clubs do we offer?

We work closely with the Castle Point and Rochford School Sports Partnership, which enables us to offer a range of fully funded sports clubs. Examples of our offer are Zumba, street dance, multi-skills, dodgeball, tennis, athletics and football across the school. We change the clubs termly to give a variety of different opportunities, always keeping in mind what the pupils like to participate in most. Additionally, we offer non-funded instrument sessions and "Band It" sessions where pupils can join a band and learn to perform.