

## **Organisation of Education at the School**

Our school is a mixed lower school for children between the ages of 4 and 9 years. The school is organised into three departments:

Foundation Stage (4+ - age 4-5)  
Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2 – age 5-7)  
Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4 – age 7-9)

Our youngest children follow the DCFS Foundation Stage Curriculum.

In the Autumn after their fifth birthday children join Year 1 and will follow the National Curriculum and Literacy and Numeracy frameworks.

In the Autumn after their seventh birthday children join Year 3, again following the National Curriculum and Literacy and Numeracy frameworks.

Children are placed in class groups according to age. Wherever possible we try to arrange classes so that each class has an age range of one year. On occasions the number of children in a particular year group may make this impracticable.

In the Autumn after their ninth birthday children transfer to Middle School. We have a close liaison with the Middle Schools in the area. During Year 4 children and parents are invited to view all the Middle Schools and all the children will visit their selected Middle School during the school day in the Summer term to meet their new teachers.

## **Current Policy for Admission**

Children can enter the school in the 4+ Unit in the September of the academic year in which they become five years of age. We admit children from both within and outside the catchment area. If the number of places in a particular year group at the school is not sufficient to meet the requests of all the parents then the following County criteria will be applied (in the rank order shown) to determine how the places will be allocated:-

- All 'looked after' children;
- Pupils living in the catchment area;
- 'Very exceptional' medical grounds;
- Siblings of pupils currently attending the school;
- Any other children

We encourage parents to register their children for school as soon as possible, but certainly by the time your child is three years of age. Registration only takes a few minutes and can be done either by calling at the school office or by telephone. Whether you are considering an admission for the 4+ Unit or for another year group, we would be very happy to show you around our school. Please contact the office if you would like to make an appointment.

Open days for prospective parents are held during the Autumn term before the children are due to start school. Application forms from the County Admissions Service will be available in October but parents/carers are encouraged to apply online.

Children are eligible for a place in our 4+ Unit in the Autumn term before their fifth birthday. Towards the end of the term before admission, parents and their children are invited to an induction afternoon to meet staff and other education professionals and find out more about starting school. We will also invite parents and their children into school at the beginning of the Autumn term for a chat to finalise their child's admission arrangements before they start school.

Children are admitted into the 4+ Unit during the first two or three weeks of term in small groups, depending on their age, attending mornings only in the first instance. It is intended that all children will be full-time by the half term holiday at the end of October.

## **Changes from 2011**

The admissions arrangements for Central Bedfordshire Lower Schools changed in September 2011. In line with the new Admissions Code we are able to offer a place for all children in the September following their fourth birthday from the start of the academic year. The place will be full-time unless the parent wishes their child to be part time until they reach statutory age (five years of age). The Local Authority will apply the following criteria (in the rank order shown) to decide the order in which places will be allocated when there are more requests from parents/carers than the number of places available:

- All 'looked after' children;
- Pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school;
- Other pupils living in the catchment area;
- 'Very exceptional' medical grounds;
- Other siblings;
- Any other children.

