

1st St Neots Scout Group

Admissions Policy

Version 1

Approved by Group Executive Committee January 2019

Background

Whilst we accept that Scouting should be for all, we also have to accept that we cannot satisfy the demand for scouting in our area. We must therefore apply some sensible and transparent rules that balance supply and demand. Those rules should not violate the Equal Opportunities Policy, but they can be used to preserve the age balance in the sections and thus improve the delivery of the programme for all.

Influences

1. By design, each section has an "optimum joining age" that gives each member the opportunity to complete that section's programme before Moving On to the next section
2. Apart from Beavers, there is little chance of a non-member of Cub age getting into our Cub sections because most places are taken by our own Beavers who are Moving On. Ditto with Scouts.

Policy

Whilst accepting that there will occasionally be slight variations, due to personal development or the desire to coordinate age cohorts Moving On to the next section, **Wherever possible**, new members (those joining scouting for the first time) should join a section at or around the "optimum joining age" for that section - Beavers: 6, Cubs: 8, Scouts: 10 1/2. Members should also Move On to the next section at the appropriate age wherever possible.

This means that, unless considered desirable by the Group Scout Leader on an individual basis: non-members will only be admitted into one of our sections within the following age ranges: Beavers – 6 to 6½, Cubs – 8 to 8½, Scouts – 10½ to 11.

Where there are more candidates than available places, places will be allocated according to a pre-determined set of rules designed to ensure existing members can continue benefiting from scouting and to reward those whose parents or siblings are already actively involved in the Group.

Implementation

1. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will each maintain their own waiting list.
2. Each waiting list will only accept non-members who are within six months (three months for Beavers) of reaching the optimum joining age for that section.

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3. Each section will take in a single cohort at the start of a term.
4. The members of the cohort will all have reached the optimum joining age for that section within the previous 6 months or will do so within the next 2 months.
5. Spaces will filled in the following order:

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| Beavers or Cubs who are ready to Move On from our own Beaver Colonies or Cub Packs (i.e. who are at the optimum joining age for the next section) |
| Existing Beavers, Cubs or Scouts who are currently attending a Group outside of St Neots and who wish to join 1st St Neots because they have moved to the town (relocation transfer) |
| Children of existing volunteers - Leaders, Assistants, Exec Committee members, etc. (but not Occasional Helpers) |
| Siblings of existing members |
| Existing Beavers, Cubs or Scouts who are currently attending another St Neots' Group, but who wish to change group and Move On to 1st St Neots and are of the optimum jioning age (Moving On transfer) |
| Existing Beavers, Cubs or Scouts who are currently attending another St Neots' Group, but who wish to change group and join the same section at 1st St Neots (parallel transfer) |
| Non-members who are on our Waiting List and who are at the optimum joining age for that section |

Note: If there are several non-members who are eligible under the last point, places will be filled according to how close they are to the optimum joining age.

Note: Non-members who are still on a section's waiting list 6 months after they reach the optimum joining age for that section will be removed from that section's waiting list.

Implications

Except for Beavers, this means that very few children will get into Cubs or Scouts from our waiting list. However, it could happen in circumstances where an existing member leaves and there is a gap in the youngest cohort of the section.