

# ADMISSIONS POLICY

Applicants to Good Shepherd Episcopal School (“GSES” or the “School”) will be admitted to the school subject to the achievement of a careful balance of gender and age within each class. In addition, a primary goal of the admission process at Good Shepherd Episcopal School is to strengthen the overall sense of family and community within GSES itself and between GSES and the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd (the “Church”). With this goal in mind, the following priorities have been established for admissions at GSES:

1. Active GSES students (i.e. students who are already admitted and in attendance during a regular school year) will have first priority.
2. Siblings of active GSES students whose parent(s) are confirmed communicants in good standing of the Church (as defined below) will be given second priority.
3. Siblings of active GSES students whose parent(s) are not confirmed communicants in good standing of the Church will be given third priority.
4. Siblings of former GSES students will have fourth priority.
5. Children of parent(s) who are confirmed communicants in good standing of the Church, but who have not yet had children attend GSES, will be given the next priority.
6. Children of alumnae of GSES and grandchildren of confirmed communicants in good standing of the Church will be given the next priority.
7. Children of parents who are confirmed communicants in good standing with an Episcopal parish other than the Church will be given the next priority.
8. Finally, consideration will be given to other applicants from the community at large.

In the case of applicants having equal priorities, the chronological order in which the applications have been received will be taken into consideration, as will other factors as determined by the Admissions Committee. For kindergarten admission, academic and developmental readiness will also be considered. Notwithstanding the priorities above, the Head of School at his or her sole discretion may make a limited number of special admission decisions based on the best interests of the School and mission of the Church, which include opportunities for financial outreach.

The priorities stated above apply only to admission to the School and do not apply to particular classroom or requested teacher placements. The Head of School has sole authority with respect to these placements. Admission decisions are made by the Admissions Committee, which will be made up of GSES staff and faculty and chaired by the Head of School. All admissions decisions will be made in the late winter /early spring preceeding the next academic year.

According to the Church, a “confirmed communicant in good standing of the Church” is a communicant who has been confirmed by a bishop of the Episcopal Church or the Bishop of a church in Communion with the Episcopal Church or has been received into the Episcopal Church by a Bishop of the Episcopal Church. A “communicant in good standing of the Church” is a communicant who for the previous year has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and has been faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God. The Church has sole authority as to the determination of which applicants are considered to be confirmed communicants in good standing of the Church. The Church will confirm the status of all applicants who claim such status and appropriately notify the School. Any applicants with questions concerning their status should contact and confirm with the Church prior to submitting an application.

Good Shepherd Episcopal School admits applicants without discrimination in favor of, or against, any child on the basis of race, national origin, religion (except to the extent the school favors confirmed communicants in good standing with the Church as described above) or challenging conditions, except when the school cannot appropriately or adequately meet a child’s personal needs.