

# ADMISSIONS POLICY

The admission process at Good Shepherd Episcopal School (“GSES” or the “school”) seeks to strengthen the overall sense of family and community within GSES itself, and between GSES and The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd (the “Parish”). With this goal in mind, the following criteria will determine the order of priority for the admission of applicants to 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 or former GSES students will be given second priority.
3. Children of parent(s) who are communicants in good standing of the Parish (as defined below), but who have not yet had children attend GSES, will be given the next priority.
4. Children of alumnae of GSES and/or grandchildren of communicants in good standing of the Parish will be given the next priority.
5. Finally, consideration will be given to other applicants from the community at large.

Achieving a balance of gender and age within each class in order to best meet the formational needs of the students is the presiding consideration in the cases where applicants have equal priorities. Additionally, the following may be taken into consideration: parents’ active participation in the life of the Parish; familial relationship with school or Parish faculty and staff; and other factors as determined by the Head of School in collaboration with the Rector of the Parish. For kindergarten admission, academic and developmental readiness will also be considered. Notwithstanding the priorities above, on rare occasions the Head of School, in collaboration with the Rector, in their sole discretion, may make a limited number of special admission decisions based on the best interests of the school and mission of the Parish. The order in which applications have been received will not be taken into consideration.

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 solely by the Head of School and the Rector and will generally be made in the late winter / early spring preceding the applicable academic year.

According to The Episcopal Church, a “communicant in good standing of the Parish” is a communicant who has been faithful in attending worship, unless for good cause prevented, and has been faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God. The Parish has sole responsibility to determine which applicants are considered to be communicants in good standing of the Parish. The Parish 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 Parish 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 communicants in good standing with the Parish as described above) or challenging conditions, except when the school cannot appropriately or adequately meet a child’s personal or developmental needs.