# **Admissions Policy**

Set out below are the general principles and criteria we use to determine Admissions to our Beaver, Cub and Scout Sections, and to manage a Waiting List. This Policy is based on our experience and the current circumstances for 4th Knowle Sea Scout Group. Parents should note that other Groups’ Admissions Policies may differ in detail, but all should comply with Scout Association PORs (Policies and Regulations). There is no “automatic right” to membership. Any final decision rests with the Group Scout Leader, but still in compliance with the Association’s Equal Opportunity Policy. In instances of dispute there can be a reference to the DC (District Commissioner). Personal data relating to current and prospective members is held in compliance with GDPR regulations.

1. **Waiting List**
2. **Criteria considered for Admission**
3. **Capacities and flexibilities**
4. **Other options**

We don’t own our premises, so capacities are set by the size of halls we use, the terms of our Let, and the length of time spent in each Section. In addition we have to comply with the limits set by the ratio of Leaders to Members that apply for each Section.

**Waiting List**

Our Waiting List is managed via Online Scout Manager by the GSL, albeit through discussion with the Section Leaders. Parents of prospective Members may lodge names of their children on the waiting list at any time. The Beaver Section is ongoingly managed at or near an upper level of 30 between two sections. There will be two main times of entry at the start of the Spring term and the Autumn term to the Beaver section, although if spaces occur at other times then entry is possible at other times. Movement between sections will also occur at this time and entry from the waiting list to other sections can only occur if spaces are not used by current members.

**Criteria considered for Admission**

**Beavers**

* Parent already in Leadership, Executive or Volunteer role
* Parent undertaking to take on Leadership or Executive role
* Older siblings already in our Group
* Time on Waiting List & match with starting age (5 yrs 9 months or 6 years during that forthcoming term).
* Already in Scouting and moved into area

**Cubs**

* Already in 4th Knowle Beavers
* Parent already in Leadership, Executive or Volunteer role
* Undertaking to take on Leadership, Executive or Volunteer role
* Older siblings already in our Group
* Time on Waiting List
* Already in Scouting and moved into area

**Scouts**

* Already in 4th Knowle Cubs
* Parent already in Leadership, Executive or Volunteer role
* Undertaking to take on Leadership, Executive or Volunteer role
* Older siblings already in our Group
* Time on Waiting List
* Already in Scouting and moved into area

The GSL and Section Leaders will use the above, and in this order, when making a choice for limited places in the Sections. Parents and families of applicants will be advised that it is an expectation that if they help in one of the fashions suggested above, and that this is likely to advance the case for their child.

**Capacities and flexibilities**

With the size and matching of the Halls used by the various Sections, and the length of time in each, we have developed a good understanding of optimum Section size :

* Beavers : Managed to an upper level of at or around 30 Beavers at any one time divided equally between 2 colonies.
* Cubs : Upper limit of 30 Cubs, though experience shows this varying +/- 5 but will not be allowed to exceed 30.
* Scouts : 36 Scouts.

Places are guaranteed within our Group for Beavers moving up to Cubs, and then to Scouts. However, when spaces arise in Cubs and Scouts, through members giving up or moving away, there will be opportunities for these Section Leaders to fill them with “outside” candidates. The Section Leader will consider these candidates against the **Criteria** above and by review with the GSL.

**Other options**

The Scout Association tries to offer the complete Scouting experience to as great a number as possible. 4th Knowle have lived up to this over the years as we are regularly at capacity; so therefore, some applicants have to wait, or are disappointed. However, we operate in an area with at least 2 other Scout Groups within easy travelling distance, so liaising with these could be an option. To assist those in this position we will direct them to the District Website which details other local Groups, their Locations, the Sections they run, and identify a Contact for each. Otherwise, we would suggest they make representation to the District Commissioner.