



1st Orwell Scouts Admission Policy – March 2026

1st Orwell Scout Group is committed to providing as many young people and adults as possible from within our Catchment Area with the significant benefits that Scouting offers. The Group's popularity means that we are unable to offer membership to all that would like to join and we operate a membership waiting list. This policy outlines how prospective members are prioritized within the membership waiting list. This policy applies only to 1st Orwell Scout Group, other groups within the Royston District will have different policies.

1st Orwell Scout Group will accept and encourage all young people to participate in Scouting activities. No young person will receive less favourable treatment nor suffer disadvantage, harassment or discrimination because of their;

- - Class or socio-economic status
 - ethnic or national origin, nationality, or statelessness or race
 - gender including gender reassignment
 - marital or civil partnership status
 - sexual orientation
 - disability
 - political belief
 - pregnancy and maternity
 - religion, belief or faith including the absence of religion, belief or faith
 - sex
 - age

To become members of 1st Orwell Scout Group, young people must live within the Catchment Area, specifically the villages of Foxton, Fowlmere, Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth and Orwell, and be between 4 and 14.5 years of age. 1st Orwell Scout Group will accept Young Leaders aged between 14 and 18 years of age through the District-led Young Leaders program. Adult members can range from 18 upwards, must undertake a Scout Association Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and complete all required training modules before becoming a full member.

1st Orwell Scout Group maintains a single membership waiting list covering all Sections. Prospective members will be placed on the membership waiting list, provided they are above 3 years of age. Any prospective members under the age of 3 years old who have been automatically or inadvertently added to the waiting list will be held on record and added to the next available position on the waiting list on their third birthday.

When prospective members become eligible for membership they will be offered a place within the relevant section, provided there is a strong likelihood that there is sufficient space for them in subsequent sections. For example, a prospective child of Beavers age will be offered a place in Beavers if it is expected that there will be space for them in Cubs and Scouts when they are due to move up.

Children will generally move up to the next section at the end of term following their reaching the age when they would expect to leave the section (6 for moving from Squirrels to Beavers, 8 for moving from Beavers to Cubs, 10.5 for moving from Cubs to Scouts) in order to free up places for qualifying children

on the waiting list or wishing to move up from the previous section. If there is not space in the next section, or their current section is not full they may move up a term later at the uniformed leaders' discretion.

In the event where multiple Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs or Scout sections operate, the young people moving up will be offered the next available space which may operate on a different night. Should the young person not wish to take this place they will be offered the next available space within their chosen section but this may result in a delay in joining the section until space becomes available.

To be eligible to join a section as a new Group member young people must be able spend **three terms** in any section before they are the age to move up to the section above.

Section Team Leaders in conjunction with the Group Lead Volunteer have sole discretion to determine the number of young people in each section to ensure the safe and effective running of the Sections. The Squirrels Section will have no more than 24 young people at any given time. The Beavers Section will have no more than 24 young people at any given time. The Cubs Section will have no more than 36 young people at any given time. The Scouts Section, whilst not having a stated maximum, will typically look to operate with no more than 36 young people at any given time.

New members are selected from the waiting list when a place, or places, become available, according to the following priorities:

1. Children of the uniformed Scouting leadership teams, e.g. Section Team Leader, Section Team Member, Group Lead Volunteer.
2. Children who are moving up from lower sections (Beavers or Cubs) due to age.
3. Children transferring from other Scout Groups outside Royston District.
4. Children of the current Executive Committee.
5. The length of time the prospective member has been on the waiting list.
6. Children transferring from other Scout Groups within Royston District.

Children of the uniformed Scouting leadership teams have the highest priority due to the critical need of uniformed leaders in Scouting generally and 1st Orwell in particular.

Should any young person require adult accompaniment and support on a 1:1 basis, that adult will **not** be included as a uniformed leader or adult helper when considering safe adult:young person working ratios or priorities

Exceptions to these rules to cater for siblings, safeguarding, being on another Groups' waiting list or other considerations may be made after consultation with the Group Lead Volunteer. Should a parent or guardian wish to appeal against a decision they can contact the Group Trustees whose decision will be final.

Yours sincerely,



Gareth Bolitho
Chairman, 1st Orwell Scout Group