

Admissions Policy

EYFS – see separate admissions policy.

Admission Arrangements for Lower Fields Primary Academy

2026/2027

ENTITLEMENT

All three- and four-year-olds are entitled to a free early education place before they reach statutory school age (the beginning of the school term immediately following the child's fifth birthday). Some two-year-olds are also entitled to free education if they meet the entitlement criteria.

Children are admitted into Reception in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to the school is deferred until later in the school year or until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age.

Parents can request that their child takes up the place part time until the child reaches compulsory school age. The admission criteria will apply to all children seeking a school place, whatever their term of entry. The place offered will be reserved on condition that it is taken up within the same school year.

Admissions of summer born children may be deferred to the following September but in those cases, children may be offered a place to enter Year 1 unless an application has been made and agreed by the LA or the admitting authority in advance. The Local Authority will consider any application for a deferred entry into Reception of summer born children for the September following their fifth birthday. Such requests will be considered in accordance with the Local Authority's 'Guidance on the admission of summer born children' and DfE Advice.

Children attending a school's nursery are not guaranteed a place in the reception class and a separate application must be made.

PUPILS WITH AN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is dealt with by a separate procedure. Such children are dealt with through a separate legislative process and without reference to the oversubscription criteria below. Children who have an EHCP which names a specific school, will be admitted to that school.

TIE BREAK

When demand exceeds places in any of the following policies, the distance between the child's home and school, measured by a straight-line distance from the Ordnance Survey address point of the home to the main entrance to the school building, will be used to decide who is given a place; those living nearest being given the available places. Where the offer of places to applicants with equi-distant addresses would lead to oversubscription, the decision of who will be offered the place will be made by random selection.

MULTIPLE BIRTHS

Where a parent of multiple births (twins, triplets etc) request admission and only one of the siblings can be offered a place, the remaining siblings will also be offered places above the admission number.

ADMISSION POLICIES

Where the number of preferences for a school exceeds the number of places available, priority will be given to children in the following categories:

1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. (Note 1).
2. Children who have exceptional social or medical needs, supported by a written recommendation from the child's paediatrician/consultant or professional from Children's Services. The letter must explain why the school is the only suitable school to meet the child's needs and why no other school could provide the appropriate support for the child.
3. Sisters and brothers of children living at the same address, who are at present on roll at the school, and will still be attending the school at the time of admission (see Note 3).
4. All other children.

NOTES

1. A 'looked after child' is a child who is in the care of the local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (as defined in the Children Act 1989). Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order) immediately following having been looked after and those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. (in accordance with 1.8 School Admissions Code of Practice.)
2. The terms "siblings" refers to children who live with the same family at the same address. Children living with the same family e.g. foster children and step-sisters and brothers are also included. Cousins are not siblings.
3. 'Home address' refers to the child's permanent home at the date of admission. Where the child lives with split parents who have shared responsibility, it is for the parents to determine which address to use when applying for a primary school. Proof of residency may be required at any time during or after the allocation process.