

Admissions Policy

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Owner:	Tracy Lawson
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Aims

This policy aims to:

- Explain how to apply for a place at the school
- Set out the school's arrangements for allocating places to the pupils who apply
- Explain how to appeal against a decision not to offer your child a place

Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [School Admissions Code 2021](#)
- [School Admission Appeals Code](#)

As an academy, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Definitions

The **normal admissions round** is the period during which parents can apply for state-funded school places at the school's normal point of entry, using the common application form provided by their home local authority.

Looked after children are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

- In the care of a local authority, or
- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

- Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or
- Became subject to a child arrangements order, or
- Became subject to a special guardianship order

This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care due to being adopted.

A child reaches **compulsory school age** on the prescribed day following his or her fifth birthday (or on his or her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

How to apply for your child to be admitted to Reception

For applications in the normal admissions round you should use the application form provided by your home local authority (regardless of which local authority the schools are in). You can use this form to express your preference for a minimum of 3 state-funded schools, in rank order. Forms can be found on the Peterborough City Council Website www.peterborough.gov.uk/admissions.

You will receive an offer for a school place directly from your local authority.

Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Parents are entitled to request a place for their child outside of their normal age group.

Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, this will include taking account of:

- Parents' views
- Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development
- Where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional
- Whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group
- Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- The headteacher's views

Wherever possible, requests for admission outside a child's normal age group will be processed as part of the main admissions round. They will be considered on the basis of the admission arrangements laid out in this policy, including the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6. Applications will not be treated as a lower priority if parents have made a request for a child to be admitted outside the normal age group.

Parents will always be informed of the reasons for any decision on the year group a child should be admitted to. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

Allocation of places

Admission number

The school has an agreed admission number of 30 pupils for entry in each year group from Reception to Year 6.

Oversubscription criteria

All children whose education, health and care (EHC) plans name the school will be admitted before any other places are allocated.

If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be offered a place.

In the event that the school receives more applications than the number of places it has available, places will be given to those children who meet any of the criteria set out below, in order until all places are filled.

Highest priority will be given to looked after children and all previously looked after children who apply for a place at the school.

The order of priority for all other children is as follows:

1. Children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceases to be in state care as a result of being adopted
2. Children who are both living in the catchment area served by the school and have siblings of compulsory school age still attending the school at the time of their admission;
3. Other children living in the catchment area at the time of admission;

4. Children of members of staff, provided that they have been employed for a minimum of two years and/or are recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
5. Children who do not live in the catchment area served by the school, but who have siblings of compulsory school age;
6. Other children whose parents have requested a place who live outside the catchment area of the school.

Tie break

In the case of 2 or more applications that cannot be separated by the oversubscription criteria outlined above, the school will use the distance between the school and a child's home as a tie breaker to decide between applicants. Priority will be given to children who live closest to the school. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address to the school's front gates on Goodwin Walk. A child's home address will be considered to be where he/she is resident for the majority of nights in a normal school week.

Where the distance between 2 children's homes and the school is the same, random allocation will be used to decide between them. This process will be independently verified.

Children below compulsory school age

Where children below compulsory school age are offered a place at the school, they will be entitled to attend the school full-time in the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents may defer their child's entry to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age, and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year the offer was made for.

Where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Delaying admission

If a child is "summer born" and parents prefer to delay admission to the following September, the child would normally be considered for admission into Year 1, rather than the Reception year. In exceptional circumstances, summer born children may be admitted to school in a different year group. This will require the admission authority to take account of the child's individual needs and abilities and to consider whether these can best be met in Reception or Year 1. It will also involve taking account of the potential impact on the child of being admitted to Year 1 without first having completed the reception year. The views of the head teacher will be an important part of this consideration

Accelerated admission

There are some circumstances which mean that parents might feel that their child should start school a full academic year earlier, this is known as an accelerated admission into school, however the academy does not encourage this. In accordance with the Schools Admissions Code, all requests will be considered on the basis of the circumstances of each case, and in the best interests of the child, taking account of the child's educational and social development.

Challenging behaviour

We will not refuse to admit a child on behavioural grounds in the normal admissions round or at any point in the normal year of entry. We may refuse admission in certain cases where the specific criteria listed in the School Admissions Code (paragraph 3.8) apply, i.e. where section 87 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 is engaged.

We may refuse admission for an in-year applicant for a year group that isn't the normal point of entry, only in such a case that we have good reason to believe that the child may display challenging behaviour that may adversely affect the provision we can offer. In this case, we will refer these pupils to the Fair Access Protocol. We will not refuse admission on these grounds to looked after children, previously looked after children and children with EHC plans listing the school.

Fair Access Protocol

We participate in Peterborough City Council's Fair Access Protocol. This helps ensure that all children, including those who are unplaced and vulnerable, or having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, get access to a school place as quickly as possible.

Admissions to Welbourne ASD Hub

There are spaces for 8 children in the ASD hub at Welbourne. These spaces are allocated by the Local Authority SEND panel. For a child to be considered for a place in the hub, they must have an EHCP, with Autism named as their primary need. For more information and the full list of entrance guidance please refer to the Peterborough Local Offer.

In-year admissions

Parents can apply for a place for their child at any time outside the normal admissions round. As is the case in the normal admissions round, all children whose EHC plans name the school will be admitted.

Likewise, if there are spaces available in the year group you are applying for, your child will be offered a place.

If there are no spaces available at the time of your application, your child's name will be added to a waiting list for the relevant year group. When a space becomes available, it will be filled by one of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6.3 of this policy. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest.

Information regarding applications for in-year admissions can be found on the Peterborough City Council Website www.peterborough.gov.uk/admissions

Appeals

If your child's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, you will be informed why admission was refused and given information about the process for hearing appeals. If you wish to appeal, you must complete the Primary School Appeal form that can be found on the Peterborough City Council Website: www.peterborough.gov.uk/admissions.

You can find details of the school's appeals timetable on the Peterborough City Council Website: www.peterborough.gov.uk/admissions

Late Applications

For late applications, the Local Authority will offer places in the same order of priority as above, once all the 'on time' requests have been considered.

The Academy will follow the Local Authority's co-ordinated scheme with regard to the closing date for the receipt of the admission form.

Unsuccessful applicants have the right to appeal, and details of the Appeals procedure can be found on the Peterborough City Council website in the School admissions appeals section.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Welbourne Primary Academy Committee every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the governing board will publicly consult on these changes. If nothing changes, it will publicly consult on the school's admission arrangements at least once every 7 years.

Definitions

Distance

Distance is measured in a straight line using the Local Land Property Gazetteer (LLPG) provided from the seed point located at the child's home address to the seed point for the school. The seed point is taken from the ordinance survey (OS) address files. The address point for a property does not change.

Home Address

The home address is the address of the parent with whom the child normally lives from Monday to Friday. When parents live separately, the application must be based on the address at which the child usually lives. When parents live separately but the child lives with both parents at different addresses, the child's home address will be taken to be the address where the child lives for most of the week. If the child spends an equal amount of time with each parent, the address will be taken to be that of the main parent / carer eligible to receive Child Benefit for the child. As part of the admissions process a parent may be asked to provide proof of address. To ensure that offers of school places are made fairly, the Academy is committed to following strict address verification procedures. In cases of flats the priority is that of floor level i.e. ground, first, second etc., in that order. In cases of exactly the same measurement where no differentiation can be established, a lottery will be used to decide the allocation of a place.

Siblings

Are defined as children aged between 4 and 16, living together in the same family unit, who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application and admission to the school. Sibling includes brother or sister, half-brother, or sister, adopted brother or sister, child of the parent/carer or their partner, children looked after, or previously looked after. This doesn't include children temporarily living in the same family unit - for example a looked after child in the short-term, or interim, foster placement. In every case, the sibling must be living permanently in the same family home (at least Monday to Friday) and must be on the roll of the school, or have been offered and accepted a place at the school at the time of application and when the child starts. Every effort will be made to ensure that twins and those from multiple births can be admitted together.

Children In Care

Children in Care – Looked After Children' and children who were previously looked after, but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order. Also, children who appear to the Admission Authority to have been in state care (i.e., in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider whose sole/main purpose is to benefit society) outside of England but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted only.

State Care

A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.