



Kings  
Education  
Trust



# Admissions Policy 2026-2027

APPROVED: March 2024

APPROVED BY: LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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### 1. 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

### 2. 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](#)

The school is required to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

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.

### 3. 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.

#### **4. How to apply**

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.

For applicants living in Buckinghamshire, you are required to visit the following website to find school places and complete the application: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/>

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

Please note, pupils already attending our nursery will not transfer automatically into the main school. A separate application must be made for a place in reception.

#### **5. Requests for admission outside the normal age group**

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

Further information can be found here: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/delay-your-childs-school-start-date/>

Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and 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.

## 6. Allocation of places

### 6.1 Admission number

The school has an agreed admission number of 30 pupils for entry in reception. We have 30 places available also in Year 1 and Year 2. At the start of Key Stage two, we increase our admissions number to 32. Therefore, we have 32 places available in years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

### 6.2 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.

<b>Oversubscription Policy</b>	
<b>Criteria 1</b>	<b>Looked after children</b> A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those 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.
<b>Criteria 2</b>	<b>Families who have exceptional medical or social needs</b> These exceptional circumstances make it essential that their child attends Waterside Primary Academy rather than any other. These needs must be fully supported by written evidence from the appropriate professional person involved with the family.
<b>Criteria 3</b>	<b>Children of Staff</b> The member of staff has been employed at the school for one year or more at the time at which the application for admission to the schools is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
<b>Criteria 4</b>	<b>Siblings (who attend our Waterside Cygnets Pre-School)</b> Pupils who are currently on roll at Waterside Primary Academy Pre-School (Waterside Cygnets) and are in attendance for a minimum of 15 hours at the time of application (January 2022) and have a sibling living at the same address who is on the school roll at the time of application and who is expected still to be registered at the school on the admission date.
<b>Criteria 5</b>	<b>Nursery Children</b> Pupils who are currently on roll at Waterside Primary Academy Pre-School (Waterside Cygnets) and are in attendance for a minimum of 15 hours at the time of application (attendance must be 90%+, unless exceptional circumstances are provided e.g. family bereavement or period of hospitalisation).
<b>Criteria 6</b>	<b>Siblings (other)</b> Children who have a sibling living at the same address who is on the school roll at the time of application and who is expected still to be registered at the school on the admission date.
<b>Criteria 7</b>	<b>All Other Children - Children with a normal home address in our catchment area</b>

<b>Criteria 8</b>	<b>All Other Children - Children with a normal home address outside our catchment area</b>
<b>Criteria 9</b>	<b>Any Other Child</b> Proximity of the child's home, as measured by the straight line distance between the home and the school with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority.

*Note: Where applications exceed the limit of places available, the proximity of the child's home, as measured by the straight line distance between the home and the school, with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority. This will be applied for all criteria above.*

### **6.3 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 Blackhorse Avenue. 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. This will involve drawing random sealed envelopes with name of one child per envelope, numbers assigned to pupils then drawn from an electronic randomiser.

### **6.4 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.

### **6.5 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.

### **6.6 Fair Access Protocol**

We participate in Buckinghamshire County 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.

## **7. 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 1 of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6.2 of this policy. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest.

Applications for in-year admissions should be made via Buckinghamshire County Council's website:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/change-schools-in-year/>

Parents will be notified of the outcome of their in-year application by the county's admissions team.

## **8. 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 set out the grounds for your appeal.

Information about the appeals process can be found here: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/school-appeals/>

## **9. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Local Advisory Committee every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the Local Advisory Committee 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.