

Admissions Policy

HEALING SCHOOL



A Science Academy

(For the academic year 2023-2024)

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The Harbour Learning Trust is the Admissions Authority for this Academy.

The School Ethos

Our focus at Healing School is to ensure each child reaches their full potential. While academic results are a priority, we are also proud of our commitment to the arts, music and sport. They all play their part in developing well-rounded individuals.

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
- 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.

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). This may be an electronic form. You can use this form to express your preference for a minimum of 3 state-funded schools, in rank order. You will receive an offer for a school place directly from your local authority.

The admission arrangements for the academic year 2023/24 are available from the School and Local Authority Council websites.

If the number of applications for places is within the published admission number set for the School, a place will be allocated to everyone who applies.

If the number of applications for places is higher than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. The following factors, in priority order, will be used to decide which pupils will be given places. After the admission of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where the school is named in the plan, we will use the following factors, in priority order, to decide which pupils will be given places.

(In addition, please note that we will always give priority to those who have actually applied for places over those who fulfil any of the criteria but have not actually made an application.)

- Looked after children (children in public care) or a child who was previously looked after
- Living in the catchment area
- Having brothers or sisters who are already at the school when your child is due to start there
- Children of staff at the school
- The last factor is geographical. We will give priority to those living nearest to the school from the front door of the child's home address (including flats) to the main entrance of the school, using the local authority's computerised measuring system.

Waiting Lists

If the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate. The position of children on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above.

Notes

Children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where the school is named in the plan.

These children will have undergone a statutory assessment of their special educational needs. Where a school is named in the EHCP, the school must admit the child.

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.

A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately afterwards became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order (including those who appear North East Lincolnshire Council to have been in state care outside of England) and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A looked after child is a child who is:

- In the care of a local authority

- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

Rules for siblings

Included in this factor are brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters or the child of the parent/carer's partner living at the same address and who will be attending the school at the expected time of admission. In the event of two applications for one vacancy using the stated criteria, the authority will apply a tie breaker decision based on geographical distance. The special cases of twins and triplets will be referred to the allocation panel if one is eligible for a place and the other(s) is/are not.

Rules for Residence

By home we mean the address where the child lives for the majority of the school term time with a parent who has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act 1989 or any child in the household where an adult in the household is defined as a parent for the purposes of Section 576 of the Education Act 1996. This could include a person who is not a parent but who has responsibility for her or him. It could include a child's guardians but will not usually include other relatives such as grandparents, aunts, uncles etc. unless they have all the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities and authority, which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and their property.

Where your child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of term time. If you can show that your child spends an equal amount of time at both addresses during school term time, you can choose which address to use on the application.

If you have more than one home, we will take the home address where you and your child normally live for the majority of the school term time.

Distance

Distance will be determined using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority from the front door of the child's home address (including flats) to the main entrance of the school.

Children of staff at the School

Included in this factor are children of staff in either or both of the following circumstances:

- where a member of staff has been employed at the School for two years or more at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
- the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Parents are entitled to request a place for their child outside of their normal age group. In addition, the parents/carers of a 'summer born child', i.e. children born between 1st April

and 31st August, may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday.

Parents/carers who wish to make such a request should still make an application for their child's normal age group at the usual time i.e. for entry into Year Reception (and Year 3 for junior schools) and secondary transfer to Year 7. All requests will be considered taking into account the individual circumstances, relevant professional advice where appropriate, including discussion with the parent/carers preferred school/academy, the decision of the relevant admission authority and the best interests of the child.

If, after full consideration of all relevant information, the parents/carers wish to proceed with the request to educate their child outside of their chronological year group, they would need to complete a deferral form accepting parental responsibility for the decision and acknowledging that they would need to complete a further application, at the relevant time, for their preferred school/academy which may not be successful.

It should be noted that a decision to admit, and educate, a child outside of their chronological age year group may affect their education placement in both primary school and on later transfer to secondary school.

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.

Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces)

For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area, or crown servants returning to live in the area from overseas, the Admissions Authority will:

- Allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address to use when considering the application against the school's oversubscription criteria.
- Accept a Unit postal address or quartering area address for admissions purposes for a service child. The Admissions Authority will not refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area.

Fair Access Protocol

The Fair Access Protocol ensures that unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school, academy or educational provision as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the Published Admission Number (PAN) to schools / academies that are already full.

Allocation of Places

Admission Number

The Published Admission Number for Healing School is 200 pupils.

Appeals against a decision not to admit a child to the school

Parents have a legal right to appeal against a decision not to admit a child to the school. The school will be happy to provide information about this on request. Appeals should be addressed to the school, contact details available below.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Harbour Learning Trust will review this policy on an annual basis and will consult the admissions arrangements every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during the period, in line with the School Admissions Code 2014.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you require any further advice or assistance, please contact the school.

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