Arrangements for applications for places in Reception at Fairfield Academy will be made in accordance with North East Lincolnshire Council's co-ordinated admission arrangements; parents resident in North East Lincolnshire can apply online at [https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place/](https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place/). Parents resident in other areas must apply through their home local authority.

Fairfield Academy will adhere to the timescales outlined in the North East Lincolnshire Council’s Co-ordinated admissions scheme available at [https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place/](https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place/) for these applications and the relevant Local Authority will make the offers of places on our behalf as required by the School Admissions Code (2014).

**Published Admission Number (PAN)**

The PAN for Reception is 45. If there are fewer applicants than places available all applicants will be admitted.

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.

**Special Educational Needs**

In accordance with legislation the allocation of places for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (Children and Families Act 2014) naming the school in the plan will take place first. Remaining places will be allocated in accordance with this policy.

**Oversubscription Criteria**

If there are more applications than places available we will apply the oversubscription criteria listed below. The oversubscription criteria are listed in the order we apply them. If it is necessary to distinguish between more than one applicant in any criteria, the next criteria will be applied until the tie-breaker is used.

1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children. 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). (see definitions)
2. Living in the catchment area. (see definitions)
3. A child with a sibling on roll at the time of admission. (see definitions)
4. Children who live closest to the preferred school than any other. (see definitions)

**Tie-breaker**

Where there are two or more applications that cannot otherwise be separated, a randomiser will be used to decide who is allocated a place.
Multiple Births and Brothers and Sisters in the Same Year Group

If twins or multiple birth children are split by operation of the oversubscription criteria, the school will go above its published admission number to accommodate all children unless this would make the class too large and prejudice the education of the other children. Multiple birth children are ‘excepted pupils’ to infant class limits if allocated in this way.

If brothers and sisters in the same year group are split by operation of the oversubscription criteria, the school will go above its published admission number to accommodate all children unless this would make the class too large and prejudice the education of the other children or when this would breach infant class size limits.

Fraudulent or Misleading Applications

We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly. As an admission authority we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about your application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence that you have made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information, for example if a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim.

Fair Access Protocol

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children who live in the home local authority, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full. Students allocated under fair access protocols will take precedence over those on a waiting list. Fairfield Academy will participate in North East Lincolnshire Council’s fair access protocol.

Deferred Entry to School

In accordance with the requirements of the Admissions Code, if your child has been offered a place:

a) your child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday;

b) you can defer the date your child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which your child reaches compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made; and

c) if you wish, your child may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which your child reaches compulsory school age.

Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group (not summer born)

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. It is important for parents to note that they will have responsibility for providing evidence to support their request.

If parents wish for their child to be considered for admission to a year group which is outside their normal age group, then they must:

a) In advance of completing the LA common application, send in writing directly to the school, a letter outlining reasons for the request and all supporting letters and/or documentary evidence in support of the application.

The academy’s admissions committee will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

This will include taking account of:

• the parent’s views;
• any available 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;
• any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
• the views of the head teacher.

b) Complete the LA common application form or the in-year admission form, as appropriate. Parents/carers should ensure that the written outcome from the academy’s admissions committee outlining the decision is attached to the application.

Requests for admission out of normal age group (Summer Born children)

Parents/carers who wish to apply for a place in Reception out of the normal age group should make a request to the School. The admissions committee will then consider the application. The request needs to be accompanied by reasons for such a request and should be made by 1 December of the year prior to the year the child should enter Reception if they had not requested to defer applying.

The admissions committee will convene a meeting to consider the request and will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of:

• the parent’s/carer’s views;
• information about the child’s academic, social and emotional development;
• where relevant, the child’s medical history and the views of a medical professional;
• whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group;
• whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
• the Headteacher’s views.

What happens next?

The admissions committee will inform the parents/carers of its decision on the Year group the child should be admitted to when they have to start school (i.e. Reception or Year 1) and will set out clearly the reasons for their decision.

If the admissions committee agrees to the parent’s/carer’s request to delay the application for a Reception place, they will inform the local authority and the parents/carers will then need to make an application for a place in Reception in the normal round of admissions in the following academic year.

Please note – in this following normal admissions round, if the School is oversubscribed, all applications (including delayed applications) for the School will be ranked in accordance with the School’s oversubscription criteria. If the application is not successful, parents/carers will have the right to appeal but, as the purpose of the appeals process is to consider whether a child should be admitted to a particular school, parents/carers do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like. In this case the parents may make a complaint to the Trust.

If the admissions committee does not agree to the application being delayed, there is no right of appeal against that decision and the parents/carers will need to make an application to the local authority for a place in Reception by 15 January or make an in-year application for a Year 1 place at the appropriate time.
In-year admissions

Applications should be made via North East Lincolnshire County Council. Fairfield Academy will accept admissions up to the Published Admission Number of the respective year group at the point of entry. In the event that this would cause prejudice to the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources it may be necessary to refuse a place although the year group has not reached the school's published admission number. If there are more applications than places then the oversubscription criteria will be used to decide who should be offered the place. If it is necessary to refuse a place then you will be informed of your right of appeal. Parents can apply online at https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place/

Waiting List

Any child refused a place at the school will automatically be put on the waiting list unless a higher preference school has been offered. A waiting list will be maintained until the end of the academic year after which it will be cleared. If you would like your child to be placed on the waiting list for the following academic year please contact the school.

The waiting list is maintained in the order of the oversubscription criteria. This means that names can move down the list if, e.g. someone moves into the area and is higher placed under the oversubscription criteria.

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 in writing. You are required to fill out an appeals form, details of which can be found on the North East Lincolnshire Council website.

You can find details of the form and the appeals timetable on the following webpage:

https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/school-admissions-appeal/

Definitions

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

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

Looked after children

A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) 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) at the time of making an application to a school. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Childrens Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a ‘special guardianship order’ as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian (or special guardians).

Rules for Siblings

Included in this factor are stepbrothers and sisters and 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 academy at the expected time of admission. The special cases of twins and triplets will be referred to the allocation panel if one is eligible for a place and other(s) is/are not. In the case of first admission to school the panel would have to have regard to Infant Class Size Legislation.
Rules for Residence

On 31 December of the year before your child is due to start at the academy, your child must be living in the academy’s catchment area. If you move to the academy’s catchment area after this date, we will not consider your request until we have firm proof (documentary evidence) that you are about to move (for example, a solicitor’s letter confirming that exchange of contracts has taken place or a rental agreement). We have the right to investigate whether you live at the address you say you do and we may change any offer if incorrect information has been given. Where parents have shared access to a child only one address can be accepted, parents must agree which address is to be used for the purposes of allocating a place. If parents cannot agree on an address the local authority will use the address to where the Child Benefit is paid.

Geographical Distance will be measured by the shortest walking route 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, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Home Address is where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the permanent home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of school nights Sunday – Thursday.

Policy Determined: 24 February 2020