Moorside
Primary School

Admission policy 2020/2021

This Admissions policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of this school. In this school the Governing Body is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for determining the school's admissions policy.

The number of places available in the Reception class 2020/21 is 60.

How and when to apply for places

All applications for school places must be made on Newcastle City Council's school application form and returned to Newcastle City Council.

Applications for Reception places for September 2020 must be submitted by midday on 15 January 2020. Applications for school places in other year groups or after the start of the school year can be submitted at any time.

Late applications

Applications received after the closing date for admission into Reception will be classed as late and processed after all of the applications received on time.

Special Educational Needs

Children who have a statement of Special Educational Need (or an Education, Health and Care Plan) which names the school will be admitted to the school.

How places will be allocated

If there are enough places at the school then every applicant will be offered a place. If more applications are received than the number of places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be used in the order shown to decide which children will be allocated places.

1. First priority for places will go to children who are currently looked after by a local authority (in care) and children who were previously looked after by a local authority and immediately afterwards became subject to an adoption, residence (child arrangements) order or special guardianship order. Evidence of the appropriate order must be submitted before the closing date for applications.

2. 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.

3. Second priority for places will go to children with an older brother or sister (a sibling) who will be attending the school on the date that the younger child will be admitted in September 2020. Sibling can be a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent or carer's partner, as long as the children live at the same address. Nursery children are not eligible as sibling links. For applicants for places in year, the sibling link may be an older or younger child, with the exception of nursery class children.

4. Children with an exceptional medical reason that means they can only attend that specific school (for example, where the child or one or both parents has a disability that means that the child can only go to one school). Strong supporting evidence must be provided from a healthcare professional involved with the child. The professional must be independent of both the family and the school. The evidence must relate specifically to the school for which the application is being made and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that can meet the child's needs

5. Children living nearest to the school as measured in a straight line distance from a single fixed central point at the school to a point in the centre of the home address of the child, using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and British National Grid Easting and Northing co-ordinates.

Parents/carers should note that admission into the nursery class of a school does not guarantee a Reception place in the main school. Allocation of Reception places does not take into account attendance at any specific nursery class or school.

Additional notes

- In the event that more than one child has an equal right to an available place the place will be offered to the older child.
- Parents/carers have two weeks to respond to an offer of a school place. If an acceptance is not received it may be assumed that a place is no longer required and the offer may be withdrawn.
- Parents who share responsibility for the care of their child are expected to reach agreement to a school placement between them. In the event of a dispute the school will accept the application from the parent to whom the child benefit is paid.
- You must give the child's permanent address at the time of application. The address of childminders or other family members who may share in the care of your child must not be quoted as the home address.
- If the child lives part of the week between two parents, the child's address should be the address where the child lives (1) during the school week, or (2) with the parent who receives child benefit, if there is any dispute.

Waiting lists

Children who are refused a place will be kept on a waiting list for a maximum of one school term. Waiting lists are cleared termly and parents will need to re-apply if they still want to be considered for a place at that school. For applications for Reception places, waiting lists are kept until the end of December in the year of admission and will then be cleared. Waiting lists will be ranked using the oversubscription criteria regardless of the date the application was received.

Summer born children and the admission of children below compulsory school age including deferred entry and part time admission

The School Admissions Code requires school admission authorities to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. However, a child is not required to start school until they have reached compulsory school age following their fifth birthday. For summer born children (those born after 1 April) this can sometimes be almost a full school year after the point at which they could first be admitted.

Some parents may feel that their child is not ready to start school in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents are entitled to request in writing that:

- their child attends part-time until they reach compulsory school age, or
- that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the academic year or until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age. The school will hold any deferred place for the child, although in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.
- that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until the term after the child reaches compulsory school age.

The child must, however, start school full-time in the term after their fifth birthday.

If parents of summer born children (born between 1 April 2016 and 31 August 2016) wish them to admitted to the Reception year in the term following their fifth birthday, rather than year 1, then parents should submit a written request providing reasons for seeking a place outside of the normal age group and any supporting evidence from relevant professionals.

Requests must be submitted before the closing date for Reception applications in the child's normal age group in good time for the LA to notify the school, and for the Board of Governors to consider the request and inform the parent of the outcome before the closing date for the normal age group. In other words, for children due to start schools in September 2020 where the parent wishes the child to delay admissions until 2021, parents must submit their requests well before the 15th January 2020. The governing Body will consider each case individually.

If the request is agreed, any application made for the normal age group will be withdrawn before any place is offered and parents will need to reply in the normal way for a Reception place in the following year.

If the request is refused, the parents must decide whether to apply for a Reception place in the current academic year (Note it will still be subject to the over-subscription criteria in this policy) or to withdraw their application and apply for a Year 1 place the following year. Parents should be aware that the year 1 group may have no vacancies as it could be full with children transferring from the previous Reception year group.

Further information and advice on the admission of summer born children is available from Newcastle City Council School Admissions.

Right of appeal

Parents/carers who are refused a place for their child have a statutory right of appeal to an independent appeals panel. Please contact the School Appeals Team for information (phone 0191 277 7427 or email schoolappeals@newcastle.gov.uk). Information is also available at www.newcastle.gov.uk/admissions

Appeals for Reception places should be submitted by 18 May 2020 to ensure that they have heard before July 2020.

Definitions

- A Looked After Child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time the application for admission to school is made and whom the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the date of admission.
- An Adoption Order is an order made under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.
- A Child Arrangements Order (previously known as a Residence Order) is an order outlining the arrangements as to the person with whom the child will live.
- A Special Guardianship Order is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians.

Providing false information to obtain a school place

Anyone who provide false information (or is alleged to have provided false information) in order to obtain a school place will be reported to the LA, which may result in action being taken against them, including the withdrawal of a child's school place.

The Admission Policy 2020-2021 was subject to consultation which ended 31st January 2019. Moorside Primary School did not receive any objections or comments.

"There is a right for people to object about the policy to the Schools Adjudicator (OSA). See the Schools Adjudicator website for more information on how to do this. Objections for the admissions arrangements for 2020/2021 must be made by 15 May 2019".