

Admissions Policy



Overdale Junior School

Respect • Resilience • Responsibility

Approved by:	Head Teacher and Governing Body	Date: February 2023
Last reviewed on:	February 2023	
Next review due by:	January 2024	

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](#)

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.

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

Please note, pupils attending Overdale Infant School will not transfer automatically into Overdale Junior School. A separate application must be made for a place.

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.

Inform the Local Authority and the Head teacher of this application.

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 120 pupils for entry in Year 3.

6.3 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.

Leicester City Local Authority allocate places for pupils attending Overdale Junior School. All of the admissions information can be found at this website: [School admissions \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/school-admissions/)

Leicester City Council use the following criteria when allocating places:

Places will be allocated to pupils who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the school before any other allocations are made. These allocations will reduce the number of places available.

Criterion

Criterion 1: Children in the care of a local authority within England or who were previously in the care of a local authority within England (see note 1).

Criterion 2: Children who were previously in care outside of England (see note 1).

Criterion 3: Children who are on roll at the linked infant school at the closing date for applications who will still be on roll when the applicant starts school. These schools are:

- Overdale Infant to Overdale Junior

Criterion 4: Children who have a serious medical condition or exceptional social or domestic needs that make it essential they attend the school (see note 2).

Criterion 5: Children living in the catchment area of the junior school with a sibling at the school or the linked infant school, who will still be on roll when the applicant starts school.

Criterion 6: Children living outside the catchment area of the junior school with a sibling at the school or linked infant school, who will still be on roll when the applicant starts school.

Criterion 7: Children living in the catchment area of the junior school.

Criterion 8: Children who are sons / daughters of staff working at the school for at least 2 years at the time of application

Criterion 9: Children living outside the junior school catchment area who have requested a place.

6.4 Tie break

Tiebreaker: Within each criterion priority will be given to children living closest to the school, as measured on a straight line basis using a geographical information system measuring from the Geo-code reference point from the child's home address to the Geo-code reference point for the school for at least two years at the time

6.6 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.

6.7 Fair Access Protocol

We participate in Leicester 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.

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 6.3 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 sent to the following address:

[School admissions \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://leicester.gov.uk/school-admissions)

Parents will be notified of the outcome of their in-year application in writing within 15 school days.

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 in writing and send it to the following address:

[School admissions \(leicester.gov.uk\)](http://leicester.gov.uk/school-admissions)

You can find details of the school's appeals timetable on the following webpage:

[School admissions \(leicester.gov.uk\)](http://leicester.gov.uk/school-admissions)

9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the governing body 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.