

# WADDINGTON ALL SAINTS ACADEMY

## POLICY DOCUMENT: *ADMISSIONS POLICY for 2020/21*

### **Introduction**

Arrangements for applications for places in Reception at Waddington All Saints Academy will be made in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council's co-ordinated admission arrangements; parents resident in Lincolnshire can apply online at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions), parents resident in other areas must apply through their home local authority. Waddington All Saints Academy will use the Lincolnshire County Council's timetable published online for these applications and the relevant Local Authority will make the offers of places on their behalf as required by the School Admissions Code.

For a midyear place, an application can be made on the midyear application form. Applications are usually made through the child's home local authority. Lincolnshire residents should contact Lincolnshire County Council for an application. Applications can be made directly through Lincolnshire by out of county residents if their home local authorities do not co-ordinate this process. The governors will accept a midyear admission if there are places.

The published admission number for Waddington All Saints Academy is 60.

For entry into Reception children usually start in the September following their fourth birthday. However, parents can request a part time placement until later in the academic year or until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age. Parents can also request their child takes up the place part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

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

For entry into reception in September we will allocate places to parents who return an application before we consider any parent who has not returned one.

If there are more applications than places then the oversubscription criteria will be used to decide who should be offered the place. The oversubscription criteria are listed in order. Words marked with a number, for example 1, 2 and 3 are explained separately in the definition and notes section.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

- A. The child is in the care of the local authority or had previously been in care. (1)
- B. There is a brother or sister (2) on roll at the academy at the time of application (3)
- C. A child whose parent is a member of staff and has been employed at the academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the academy is made **or** a member of staff who has been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage.
- D. The academy is the nearest school to the home address, as defined in note (4)
- E. The distance from the home to the academy, priority will be given to the child living closest the academy, as defined in note (5).

If the distance criterion is not sufficient to distinguish between two or more applicants for the last remaining place then a lottery will be conducted. This will be drawn by an independent person not employed by the academy or working in the Children's Services Directorate of the Local Authority.

## **Definitions and Notes**

**1.** 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.

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). 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 Children's 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).

**2.** Brother or sister attending the school at the time of application, or who will be attending the school at the expected time of admission. In all cases both children must live at the same address. We include in this criterion:

- a brother or sister who shares the same biological parents
- a half-brother, half-sister, step-brother or step-sister
- a legally adopted child, a child legally adopted by a biological or step-parent

### **Twins and other siblings from a multiple birth**

In these cases all the children will be considered together as one application. If one or more can be admitted within the published admission number the school will go above its admission number as necessary to admit all the children, unless this would make the class too large. The government's school admissions code makes an exception to the infant class limit in this situation.

### **Brothers and sisters in the same year group**

Where there is only one place available in the school the children will be considered together as one application. The school will go above its admission number as necessary to admit all the children except in cases where this would make the class too large or the infant class regulations prevent this from happening. If the infant class size regulations apply we can only legally offer one place because the government's school admissions code makes no exception to the infant class size limit for siblings in the same year group. We will offer the parent one place for one child and a different school for the other child or children.

### **3. Year 6 Pupils:**

For the purposes of applying the oversubscription criteria, pupils in year 6 at the time of application will be considered as siblings in school. The reason for this is to acknowledge the relationship which has already been established between the academy and families.

**4.** The nearest school is found by measuring the straight line distance from the child's home address to all schools admitting children in the relevant year group. Measurements are calculated electronically from the Post Office address point of the home to the Post Office address point of the school. We measure distance to three decimal places, e.g. 1.256 miles.

**5.** Measurements are calculated electronically from the Post Office address point of the child's home address to the Post Office address point of the school by straight line distance. We measure distance to three decimal places, e.g. 1.256 miles.

We use the distance calculated in this way to apply the final oversubscription criterion.

### **Home Address**

By home we mean the address where the child lives for the majority of term time with a parent as defined in section 576 of the Education Act 1996 who has parental responsibility for the child as defined in the Children Act 1989.

Where a 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 a parent can show that their child spends an equal amount of time at both addresses during school term time, they can choose which address to use on the application.

If a parent has more than one home, we will take as the home address the address where the parent and child normally live for the majority of the school term time.

We do not take into an account an intention to move.

### **Reserve List**

For admission into reception the governors will keep a waiting list which we call a reserve list. If a child is offered a place at a school named as a lower preference than Waddington All Saints Academy, your child is automatically put on the academy's reserve list. This list is in the order of the oversubscription criteria. Names can move down the list if someone moves into the area and is higher placed on the oversubscription criteria. The list is kept by the Schools Admission Team until the end of the coordinated admission round in August each year. After this, the academy will keep the reserve list until the end of the academic year.

If you wish your child to join the academy in another year group and it is full, you can contact the academy and request to be added to the reserve list. This will be kept in the order of the oversubscription criteria. The time you have been on the list is not taken into account.

The reserve lists are cleared at the end of each academic year. If you would like your child to be placed on the reserve list for the following academic year please contact the academy.

### **Appeals**

If the academy is unable to offer a child a place, there is a right to appeal. The procedures for appeals relating to admissions will be in accordance with all relevant legislation. They are independent and organised by the County Council Legal Services Section and entirely separate from the admission system. The decision of the independent appeal panel is binding on all parties.

### **Midyear Admissions**

The governors will accept admissions up to the Published Admission Number into all year groups. If the Governors are concerned that this would cause an infant class to be unlawfully large or prejudice to the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources they can ask County Council officers to review the information they will provide illustrating their concerns. In exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to refuse a place although the year group has not reached the school's published admission number, the final decision to refuse places in this way will be made by County Council officers. 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 told of the independent appeal system. Parents can apply online at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

### **Fair Access**

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.

### **Children of UK Service Personnel (UK Armed Forces)**

In order to meet the government's military covenant aimed at helping UK service personnel, and Crown Servants returning from abroad we have adopted the following arrangements.

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

- Process an application 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. This address will be used 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.

For late co-ordinated applications and midyear applications supported by the appropriate military documentation we will aim to remove any disadvantage to UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces).

The school's Governors will consider whether:

- An application from that address would normally succeed in an oversubscribed year.
- There is any child on the reserve list with higher priority under the oversubscription criteria. This is because we must only allocate places based on the criteria and must not admit a Services child ahead of another child with higher priority under the criteria.
- The prejudice from admitting an extra child would be excessive.

The Governors have discretion to admit above the admission number in these circumstances if they wish, but are not obliged to do so.

It may be that the governors still cannot admit because of organisational or curriculum difficulties within the school.

We will need the notice of posting or official government letter and posting address before we can consider an application under these arrangements. We allocate a school as soon as possible by applying the policies and practices that we normally follow.

### **Admission of children outside their normal age group:**

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.

Parents wishing to make these requests must contact their home local authority for guidance on the procedure to follow.

We are committed to making 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

Parents interested in deferring admission or arranging part-time attendance must contact the school to discuss this.

### **Fraudulent or Misleading Applications**

As an admission authority we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about an 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, a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly.

### **Withdrawing an Offer**

An offer of a place may be withdrawn in the following circumstances:

- It was made in error;
- It was made on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application (e.g. a false claim to residence in the catchment areas);
- A place offered at the relevant academy is not accepted within 14 days originally specified or after a repetition of the offer allowing a further 7 days for acceptance and specifying that the offer may be withdrawn if it is not accepted within that period.