



# Southfields Primary School

## Admissions Policy

**Statutory Policy approved by the Full Governing Body**

**Date agreed: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Review Date: September 2025**

This policy, having been presented to, and agreed upon by the whole staff and Governors, will be distributed to:

- All teaching staff
- School governors

A copy of the policy will also be available in:

- The Staffroom
- The Head's office
- School web site

This will ensure that the policy is readily available to visiting teachers, support staff and parents.

Southfields Primary is totally committed to social justice and improving life chances for potentially vulnerable children. It is dedicated to sharing its work and findings beyond the school to improve outcomes for as many children as it can reach and has a particular specialism in Speech and Language development.

## 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](#)

The school is required to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

## 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.

**Children in Care** 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 Children in Care** 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 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.

## **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. Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in 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**

All allocations are through Peterborough City Council Admissions Team

### **6.1 Admission number**

The school has an agreed admission number of 90 pupils for entry in Reception.

### **6.2 Oversubscription criteria**

- All children whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names 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.

1. Highest priority will be given to children in care and all previously children in care who apply for a place at the school.

2. Priority will next be given to children on the basis of social or medical need. 'Medical need' does not include common medical conditions, such as asthma or allergies. 'Social need' does not include a parent's wish that a child attends the school because of a child's aptitude or because their friends attend the school or because of routine child-minding arrangements. The school requires supporting evidence with the application, from a professional, such as a doctor and/or consultant for medical need or a social worker, health visitor, housing officer, the police or probation officer for social need. The supporting evidence must confirm the child or family's medical and/or social need and set out why that need makes it essential that your child attends our school rather than any other.
3. Priority will be given to children of staff at the school, in either of the following circumstances:
  - a. The member of staff has been employed at the school for 2 or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or
  - b. The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
4. Priority will next be given to children with siblings at the school. Siblings include step siblings, foster siblings, adopted siblings and other children living permanently at the same address. Priority will not be given to children with siblings who are former pupils of the school.

### **6.3 Tie break**

In the case of 2 or more applications that cannot be separated by the oversubscription criteria outlined above, the school will use the distance between the school and a child's home as a tie breaker to decide between applicants. Priority will be given to children who live closest to the school.

Distance will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address to the school's front gates. A child's home address will be considered to be where he/she is resident for the majority of nights in a normal school week.

Where the distance between 2 children's homes and the school is the same, random allocation will be used to decide between them. This process will be independently verified. The random allocation process will be drawing random sealed envelopes with name of one child per envelope

### **6.4 Children below compulsory school age**

Where children below compulsory school age are offered a place at the school, they will be entitled to attend the school full-time in the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents may defer their child's entry to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age, and

not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year the offer was made for.

Where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

#### **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 Peterborough Local Authority'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**

- You can apply for a place for your child at any time outside the normal admissions round. As is the case in the normal admissions round, all children whose or EHC plan names the school will be admitted.
- Likewise, if there are spaces available in the year group you are applying for, your child will always 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 one of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in section 6.2 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:

[www.peterborough.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/admissions)

Or you can write to the Local Authority:

Admissions

Peterborough City Council

Children's Services

Bayard Place

Broadway

Peterborough

PE1 1FB  
Tel: 01733 747474

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:

Admissions  
Peterborough City Council  
Children's Services  
Bayard Place  
Broadway  
Peterborough  
PE1 1FB  
Tel: 01733 747474

## 9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Full Governing Body every two years. 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.

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:



John Durance  
Chair of Governors  
19.11.2024