

Admissions Policy

Created in: September 2017
Review date: September 2018

Approved by Trust Board: _____

Chair of Trustees signature: _____



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ADMISSIONS POLICY

School Admissions

The school has adopted the Birmingham Local Education Authority Policy on Admissions and the Admissions Criteria for Local authority Infant and Junior Classes.

Local Authority Policy for the Admission of Pupils

The Authority has a general duty to secure the economic, efficient and effective use of its resources, and must make provision for children of school age in this context.

Section 92 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires the Authority to publish each year the number of pupils that it is intended to admit to each school in the age group in which pupils are normally admitted.

In determining school's admission limits the Authority has regard to the capacity of the school, alternative places available at other schools and its general responsibilities in the use of its resources.

Admission limits are normally based on classes of 30 pupils. The agreed policy of the Authority, Advisors and the Teachers' Association is that class sizes should be kept as small as possible within the constraints under which we have to work. It is considered educationally undesirable for classes to exceed 30, particularly when there are suitable places available at neighbouring schools. Excessive class sizes can impose strain on both staff and resources particularly at the Reception stage. It is the Authority's policy to admit children at the start of the year in which they are five, which does place considerable pressure on teachers of such young children.

Highfield School is a 4 form entry school and when places are oversubscribed, we follow the Birmingham Local Education Authority Guidance on Admissions, and places are offered based on the following order of priorities:

- Looked after children (in public care). This includes any child/young person who is subject to a Full Care Order, an interim Care Order, accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, is remanded or detained into local authority accommodation under Criminal Law or who has been placed for adoption.
- Any child with a statement of special educational needs is required to be admitted to the school that is named in the statement
- Children (siblings) with an older brother or sister already at the school who will still be in attendance at the time the sibling enters the school. Siblings (brothers and sisters) are considered to be those children who live at the same address and either:
 - I. have one or both parents in common
 - II. are related by a parent's marriage
 - III. are adopted or fostered by a common parent
- Children who live nearest the school.

Within each of these categories, priority is given to those who live nearest the school, by straight line measurement to one fixed point in the school. In a few cases where the Authority has agreed a catchment area for the school, children living within that area have priority over those children living outside it. If vacancies occur because of pupils not taking up places or leaving school, places continue to be allocated according to the above criteria. Admissions to a nursery school or nursery class does not give the child an extra right to transfer to the reception year of the primary school to which the nursery is linked or attached.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly in the light of any significant new developments or in response to changes in guidance.