



SPARKEN HILL
ACADEMY

Admissions Criteria 2020-2021



STANDARD RECEPTION CRITERIA – Sparken Hill Academy 2020-21

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ACADEMY

PROCEDURE FOR ADMITTING PUPILS TO SPARKEN HILL ACADEMY

Sparken Hill Academy provides for the needs of children within the 3 to 11 age range.

Pupils will be admitted at the age of 4+ without reference to ability or aptitude using the criteria set out in this policy. Admission to our Academy is not dependent on any 'voluntary' contribution.

Sparken Hill Academy Trust is the Admissions Authority for Sparken Hill Academy.

The Academy participates in the Local Authority coordinated scheme and all deadlines within that should be adhered to by applicants.

Admission number for primary provision (age 5)

1. The Academy has the following agreed admission number:
 - a) 75 for pupils in Year R (Reception)
2. All children are entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents offered a place in reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

Process of Application

3. Arrangements for applications for places at Sparken Hill Academy will be made in accordance with the Nottinghamshire LA's co-ordinated admission arrangements; parents resident in Nottinghamshire can apply online at:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Parents resident in other areas must apply through their home Local Authority.

4. The Academy will use the Nottinghamshire LA's timetable for applications to Sparken Hill Academy each year (exact dates within the months may vary from year to year).

Consideration of applications

5. Sparken Hill Academy will consider all applications for places at the Academy.

Where fewer than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year

groups are received, Sparken Hill Academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

Any applications received after the closing date will be accepted but considered only after those received by the closing date.

Procedures where Sparken Hill Academy is oversubscribed

6. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number in any age group, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below.

Admission to Reception (statutory age 5) – oversubscription criteria

Sparken Hill Academy will first accept all pupils with a statutory right to a place through a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Educational Health and Care Plan (EHC) naming the Academy. After the admission of these pupils, criteria will be applied for the remaining places in the order in which they are set out below:

1. Children “looked after” by a local authority*
2. Children who live in the catchment area at the closing date for applications and who, at the time of admission, will have a sibling* attending the school or the linked junior/primary school
3. Other children who live in the catchment area at the closing date for applications
4. Children who live outside the catchment area and who, at the time of admission, will have a sibling* attending the school or the linked junior/primary school
5. Other children who live outside the catchment area

In the event of oversubscription, within any of the above criterion, preference will be given to children who live nearest to the Academy as the crow flies*.

In the event that two or more distances are exactly the same, the Academy will use a method of random allocation by lot, drawn by an independent person outside of the Academy.

* see definitions

Admission of children outside their normal age group

8. Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group, for example, summer born children*, if the child is gifted and talented, has experienced problems such as ill health or is born prematurely.
9. For Reception year, any parent of a summer born child wanting their child to be admitted outside of the normal age group should make an application to their Local Authority for their child's normal age group at the usual time but also submit a request for admission outside of the normal age group at the same time.

For other year groups, any parent wanting their child to be admitted out of the normal age group should submit a request, in writing, to Sparken Hill Academy as soon as is possible.

10. When such a request is made, the Academy will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child

concerned, taking into account the views of the parent, the Principal and any supporting evidence provided by the parent. The Academy is responsible, as the admissions authority, for making the decision on which year group a child should be admitted to.

All such applications will be considered at the time they are submitted.

** The term 'summer born' is used to refer to children born from 1 April to 31 August.*

Operation of Waiting Lists

11. As required by the Schools Admissions Code, Sparken Hill Academy will maintain a waiting list for Reception year until the end of the autumn term. Applications for inclusion on a waiting list will be ranked according to our oversubscription criteria as described in paragraph 7 above.
12. For in-year applications, where the Academy receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate for unsuccessful applicants. Waiting lists will be maintained by the Academy and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on a waiting list for the relevant year group following an unsuccessful application.

Arrangements for in-year Admissions

13. The Nottinghamshire Local Authority will co-ordinate admissions for in-year applications and for applications for year groups other than the normal point(s) of entry; further details are on our website at www.sparkenhillacademy.com
14. Subject to any provisions in the LA's co-ordinated admission arrangements relating to applications submitted for years other than the normal year of entry, the Academy will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, admit the child.
15. If more applications are received than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria in paragraph 7 for the relevant age group shall apply. Parents whose application is refused shall be entitled to appeal.

Right of Appeal

16. There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for unsuccessful applicants relating to admissions at age 5 (statutory school age) or above. The deadline for lodging appeals allows appellants at least 20 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and lodge their written appeal.
17. If refused admission you should contact the Academy at the address below to lodge an appeal:

Sparken Hill
Academy,
Sparken Hill,
Worksop, Notts,
S80 1AW

Please mark your envelope 'Admissions Appeals'.

Fair Access

18. Sparken Hill Academy participates in Nottinghamshire County Council's Fair Access protocol. All schools, including Voluntary Aided Schools, Trust Schools and Academies must participate in the protocol.

The purpose of the Fair Access Protocol is to ensure that vulnerable children are offered a school place as quickly as possible and to evenly spread children with additional needs across all schools in the county. The protocol only applies to mid-term applications; it does not operate when children transfer from primary school to secondary school.

Fraudulent or Misleading Applications

19. 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 a fraudulent claim has been made or misleading information provided, 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.

Definitions

1. Definition of 'Looked After' children and previously 'Looked After' children

In accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989, a 'Looked After child' is defined as:

- a child who is in the care of a Local Authority at the time an application for admission to the Academy is made
- a child who is being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their social services functions in accordance with section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to the Academy.

Previously Looked After children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted¹ (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

Child arrangements orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 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).

1. An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'child arrangements order' is an order under Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014 determining (a) with whom the child is to live, spend time or otherwise have contact and (b) when a child is to live, spend time or otherwise have contact with any person. 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. Definition of siblings and the position of twins

Sibling:

- Sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, half-brothers or half-sisters, legally adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

Where one child of a multiple birth can be admitted, the other child/children will also be admitted.

3. Definition of the distance to an intending pupil's home

Within each of the criteria, priority will be given to children who live nearest to the school as the crow flies (by straight line). Distances are measured from the main administrative point at the school campus to an address point (using eastings and northings as defined by Ordnance Survey) to the child's home using the local authority's computerised distance measuring software.

Where two dwellings with the same front entrance are located on different floors of the same building, a lower floor will be regarded as being closer to the Academy than any above it.

Where two or more dwellings with the same front entrance are located on the same floor of the same building, the closest dwelling to the front door, counting clockwise, will be regarded as being closer to the Academy than any subsequent dwelling counted clockwise.

4. Home address

The child's place of residence is taken to be the parental home, other than in the case of children fostered by a Local Authority, where either the parental address or the foster parent(s) address may be used.

Where a child spends part of the week in different homes, their place of residence will be taken to be their parent or parents' address. If a child's parents live at separate addresses, the address where the child permanently spends at least three 'school' nights (i.e. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) will be taken to be the place of residence.

Addresses of other relatives or friends will not be considered as the place

of residence, even if the child stays there for all or part of the week. Evidence that a child's place of residence is permanent may also be sought.

The evidence should prove that a child lived at the address at the time of the application and will continue to live there after the time of admission. Informal arrangements between parents will not be taken into consideration. The designated officer may also seek proof of residence from the courts regarding parental responsibilities in this matter.

In all cases all those with parental responsibility must be in agreement with the preferences made.

5. Tie Break

If the distance criterion is not sufficient to distinguish between two applicants for the last remaining place then a lottery will be conducted by an independent person outside of the Academy.