



Abbey Primary School Admission Arrangements 2021-22

Reviewed: September 2021



Abbey Primary School ADMISSIONS POLICY (2021-2022)

The published admission number is 60 pupils.

The Believe Academy Trust is the overall Admission Authority for Abbey Primary School, this is in accordance with paragraph 11 of the School Admissions Code 2021.

All applications for places are made on the applicants home local authority application form. In the majority of cases, this will be the Nottinghamshire County (the local authority) common application form which is available from the local authority. Although the Governing Body has responsibility for deciding on admissions, under law the local authority will co-ordinate all admissions in its area and communication of decisions will be made to parents within specified timeframes.

Applications for the Reception Year in 2021

For entrance to the academy in September 2021 the closing date of the co-ordinated admission scheme is 15 January 2021. Offers of places will be made on the offer date of 19 April 2021. (Further details on Reception admission arrangements see appendix 1).

Late applications for the normal Year of Entry

The Believe Academy Trust may be willing to accept applications which are received late but before the date set by the Local Authority (8 February 2021) for good reason for example:

- Re location into the area of Nottinghamshire County Council from another local Authority area.
- Relocation within Nottinghamshire
- Exceptional reasons for missing the closing date eg. Family bereavement, hospitalisation or family trauma

Each case will be treated on its merits.

Any preferences received by the Believe Academy Trust up to the date set by the Local Authority, with good reason for being late, and where appropriate, will be included in the first cycle of allocations and will be notified on the national offer day.

All other late applications for Abbey Primary School or other primary/infant school places received by Nottinghamshire Local Authority after the specified date (above) but before 31st August will be considered after the National offer day. Other local authorities might have different policies when dealing with late applications. We would advise that you contact your home local authority to find out what their policies are.

In Year Applications

The Academy currently participates in NCC co-ordinated scheme and all applications are dealt with through them. Details of how to apply for places in any year group, are made available via Nottinghamshire County Council admission scheme. If the respective year group total is full, the child will be only offered a place if there are very exceptional circumstances and if the Governors decide that the education of pupils

in that year group will not be detrimentally affected by the admission of an extra pupil. Parents will have **14 days** to accept the offer of a school place.

If there is oversubscription within any year group the school will maintain a waiting list. Details will be provided on request. Inclusion in a school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available. If a child is not allocated a place, parents have a statutory right to appeal (see 'Appeals' below). Appeals should be lodged within 20 school days after the date of your decision letter.

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.

Applications outside of normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group, for example, children born between 1st April to 31 August, if the child is gifted and talented, has experienced problems such as ill health or is born prematurely.

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 Abbey Primary School as soon as possible.

When 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 Head Teacher 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 applications will be considered at the time they are submitted.

Oversubscription Criteria

In the event of oversubscription within any of the criteria listed below, preference will be given to applicants who live closest to the school, as measured in a straight line (by a computerised geographical information system) from the school site to a point at the pupil's home. The local Authority conduct this process and specifics in relation to measuring criteria can be found on the Nottinghamshire County Council website. Where two or more pupils are equal in all respects and it is therefore not possible to differentiate between them, a method of random allocation by drawing lots will be used to allocate places (supervised by someone independent of Abbey Primary School).

Pupils who have an Education, Health and Care plan, where Abbey Primary School is named in the child's plan will be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available for other pupils.

1. Places will first be allocated to a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after, but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear (to the admissions authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. 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 in accordance with 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 and children who were adopted under 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).

2. Places will then be allocated to pupils who, at the closing date for applications, live within the catchment area, whose parents have requested a place at the academy and who, at the time of admission, will have a brother or sister attending the academy, not including places within the Academy nursery setting.
3. Places will then be allocated to other pupils who, at the closing date for applications, live within the catchment area and whose parents have requested a place at the academy.
4. Places will then be allocated to pupils who live outside the catchment area, whose parents have requested a place at the academy and who, at the time of admission, will have a brother or sister attending the academy.
5. Places will then be allocated to other pupils who live outside the catchment area whose parents have requested a place at the academy.

The above criteria (2-5) may be overridden and priority given to an applicant who can establish any of the following:

- pupils with special educational needs that can only be met at the Abbey Primary School (e.g. where the academy has specialist provision)
- children of travellers, pupils with exceptional medical, mobility, or social grounds that can only be met at Abbey Primary School*.

At the time of application, applications in these categories must be supported by a statement in writing from a Doctor, social worker or other relevant professional. This is necessary because you will be asking the academy to assess your child as having a stronger case than other children. Each case will be considered on its merits by the Believe Academy Trust.

Withdrawing an offer of a place

Any offers of a place found to be made on the basis of inaccurate information may be withdrawn. Such examples would include fraudulent or intentionally misleading applications (e.g. a false claim to residence in the catchment area). Failure to accept a place offered at the academy within the 14 days previously specified may also lead to the withdrawal of that offer.

Waiting List

If, after the offer of available places has been made, the academy is oversubscribed, all unsuccessful applications will be placed on the waiting list which will be administered by the Governors of the academy in partnership with the local authority for the duration of the co-ordinated admissions scheme. Once the co-ordinated scheme is closed, the waiting list will remain open but will be administered by the Governors of the academy. A waiting list will also be in operation for any other years where the academy receives more applications than places available. The waiting lists will remain open whilst the number of places in the year group is full, or until 31st May.

Where the number of students in a particular year group falls below 60 students, the person whose name appears first on that particular year group's waiting list will be offered a place. A child's

position on this waiting list will be determined by the application of the academy's published oversubscription criteria.

Parents are welcome to ask what position they currently hold on the list. However, because the academy constantly receives applications for admission throughout the year, the waiting list is continually being re-ordered. Parents need to be aware that their position on the list may rise and fall over time and therefore a higher position on the list is not necessarily a good indicator of the likelihood of a place being offered. Length of time on the waiting list will not be a factor in offering a place.

Children who are the subject of a direction by a Local Authority to admit or who are allocated to the academy in accordance with the In-Year Fair Access Protocols, will take precedence over those children on a waiting list.

Independent Appeals

Parents have the right to an independent appeals panel in the event that their child is declined admission to the academy. Repeat applications in the same academic year will not be considered unless there is a significant and material change in circumstances. Parents wishing to appeal should write to the Clerk to Governors, c/o Abbey Primary School, Stuart Avenue, Forest Town, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG19 0AB. The envelope should be marked as: Admission Appeal. **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.**

Definitions of terms used in these arrangements:

Looked After

An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A Residence Order or Child Arrangements Order is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. 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).

Residence

This is defined as the child's permanent place of residence which is deemed to be the residential property at which the child normally and habitually resides with the person or persons having parental responsibility for the child at the time of completion of the application form. If a child's parents live at separate addresses, whichever of the two addresses the child permanently spends at least 3 school nights i.e. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday will be taken as the place of residence. Addresses of other relatives or friends will not be considered as the place of residence even when the child stays there for all or part of the week. Proof of permanent residence (a tenancy agreement in the case of rented accommodation) and other evidence from the court regarding parental responsibilities in these matters may be required.

Brothers or sisters – sibling connection

1. For admission purposes Abbey Primary School considers the following as siblings:
 - A brother or sister who share the same parents;
 - A half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one common parent;
 - A step-brother or step-sister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage;
 - Adopted or fostered children living in the same household under the terms of a Residence

Order or Child Arrangements Order.

2. Abbey Primary Academy does not consider these as siblings:

- Cousins or other family relationships not included in 1 above;
- Siblings who at 1st September 2021 will not be registered pupils in reception or an above year group at the academy.

Where applications are received in respect of twins, triplets or children of other multiple births, the academy will endeavour to offer places, admitting above the planned admission number where necessary unless to do so would breach the key stage 1 class size legislation. In these cases, the parent/carer will be asked which child(ren) should take up the place(s). The parent/carer will still have a right of appeal against a refusal of a place.

Parent

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' to include all natural parents, whether they are married or not; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or a young person. Having parental responsibility means assuming all the rights, duties, responsibilities and authority that a parent of a child has by law. People other than a child's natural parent can acquire parental responsibility.

Catchment Area

Details of the school's defined catchment area can be found on the school's website, obtained from the School Office or by contacting the Admissions & Exclusion Team at Nottinghamshire County Council

Appendix 1. Reception Admission additional information.

- a) the child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday;
- b) the child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made; and
- c) 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.