

Larkfields Junior School

Admission Arrangements for the School Year 2023-24

Application for Places

Admissions for children about to start school are decided by the governors of the school, but the process is co-ordinated by Nottinghamshire County Council. As the school participates in the Nottinghamshire Local Authority co-ordinated scheme all deadlines within that should be adhered to by applicants. You can check your catchment area by visiting <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/findmynearest> and applications for Nottinghamshire residents can be made via the website.

All applications should be made to the home local authority (i.e. where the child lives) by the closing date for applications.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) is 60 per year group.

Application for Junior School Places (year 3)

If your child lives in Nottinghamshire and you require a junior school place, you must apply for a school place through Nottinghamshire County Council. This applies to children who are transferring from an infant school (year 2) to junior education (year 3) in September 2023. Further information on making an application can be found at <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions>

Pupils who have an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**, or **Statement of Special Educational Needs**, where this school is named will be admitted.

In the event of over subscription (more applications than school places), the following criteria will be applied, in priority order, to determine which applications will be allocated.

The linked infant school is Larkfields Infant School.

Admission oversubscription criteria

1. Children looked after by a local authority and previously looked after children
2. Children who attend the linked infant school at the closing date for applications and who, at the time of admission, will have a brother or sister attending the school or the linked infant school
3. Other children who attend the linked infant school at the closing date for applications
4. Children who live in the catchment area at the closing date for applications, who do not attend the linked infant school but who, at the time of admission, will have a brother or sister attending the school or the linked infant school
5. Other children who live in the catchment area at the closing date for applications and do not attend the linked infant school
6. Children who live outside the catchment area and who do not attend the linked infant school but who, at the time of admission, will have a brother or sister attending the school or the linked infant school
7. Children who live outside the catchment area

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 or more applicants 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 the school).

Late applications (those received after the closing date)

These are processed in line with the co-ordinated scheme.

Special circumstances

Consideration will be given to applicants who may establish *at the time of application* medical, special educational or social needs with supporting evidence from a relevant professional. The evidence must be presented at the time of application. Each case will be judged on its merits and the admission authority (The Governing Body) may accord a higher priority to the applicant.

The allocation of any such place will be determined by comparing the written evidence presented along with the capacity for the school for the identified needs. In order to make an assessment of the case, reference may be made to local head teachers and other relevant professionals. Cases agreed under 'special circumstances' will take precedence over criteria 2 to 6 above.

Multiple births

Where a child of a multiple birth can be admitted, the other child/children will also be admitted in and outside the normal admissions round.

Waiting list

A waiting list of unsuccessful applicants will be held until the end of the academic year. If places become available before then offers will be made strictly in accordance with the order of priority listed. Places on a waiting list can go up or down depending on applications.

Right of Appeal

If a place is not offered, parents have the right of appeal. Such appeals against refusal of a school place, will be heard by an Independent Appeals Panel formed in accordance with the DfE School Admissions Appeals Code. 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. Details of the appeals process will be made available to all unsuccessful applicants at the time of refusal.

In Year Applications for Children other than into Year 3

Admission into school throughout the academic year is decided by the governors of the school. We participate in Nottinghamshire's Co-ordinated in-year scheme. Applications can be made by contacting 0300 500 8080 (Customer Services Centre) or by visiting the Nottinghamshire website <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions>.

Applications for admission to year groups other than the intake year group will be considered in relation to the published admission limit which applied when the year group was first admitted to the school. If places are available within the year group, the child will be admitted. If there are more applications than places available, the oversubscription criteria above will be used to determine which child can be offered a place.

A waiting list will be in operation for all other years where the school 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 the end of the academic year.

Where the number of students in a particular year group falls below the published admission number, 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 school's published oversubscription criteria.

Parents are welcome to ask the position they currently hold on the list. However, because the school 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 school in accordance with the In-Year Fair Access Protocols, will take precedence over those children on a waiting list.

Parents will have the right to appeal if a place is refused (as above).

Admission of Children Outside the Normal Age Group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of the normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Children should only be educated out of the normal age group in very limited circumstances.

Parents should submit a request in writing to the school as early as possible. The school's Admissions Committee will make decisions based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The views of the head teacher will also be taken into account. When informing a parent of the decision on the year group to which the child should be admitted, the parent will be notified of the reasons for the decision. The school will communicate its decision to Nottinghamshire County Council who will notify the parents of the decision.

Where it is agreed that a child will be admitted out of the normal age group and, as a consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to a relevant age group (i.e. the age group to which pupils are normally admitted to the school) the local authority and admission authority **must** process the application as part of the main admissions round on the basis of their determined admission arrangements only, including the application of oversubscription criteria where applicable. The parent has a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

Transfer to secondary school

Where a child has been educated out of the normal age group it is the parent's responsibility to again request admission out of the normal age group when they transfer to secondary school. It will be for the admission authority of the preferred school to decide whether to admit the child out of the normal age group. The admission authority must make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the child's best interests, and will need to bear in mind the age group the child has been educated in up to that point.

Fair Access Protocol

Larkfields Junior School participates in the Nottinghamshire Fair Access Protocol which includes the admission of vulnerable children in collaboration with the local authority.

Definitions

Looked After Children

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).
- Children who were previously in state care outside of England (looked after by a public authority, religious organisation or another provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society, such as orphanages or other settings).

Siblings

- a brother or sister who shares the same parents
- a half-brother, half-sister or legally adopted child living at the same address
- a child looked after by a local authority placed in a foster family with other school age children
- a stepchild or children who are not related but live as a family unit, where parents both live at the same address as the child.

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. 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. Informal arrangements between parents will not be taken into consideration

Parents

The mother of the child, the father of the child where he was married to the mother either when the child was born or at a later date, the father of the child if (since 1 December 2003) he was registered as the father on the birth certificate, an adoptive parent or any other person who has acquired 'parental responsibility' through the courts. Evidence of this may be required. In all cases all those with parental responsibility must be in agreement with the preferences made.