



An Academy



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Admissions policy and procedures

For the September 2023 intake

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICY:	<i>MRS MARY JAMES</i>
APPROVED:	<i>APPROVED DECEMBER 2021 FOLLOWING ADVISED AMENDMENTS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITY ADMISSIONS, IN LINE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS</i>
BY:	<i>FULL GOVERNING BODY</i>
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Boughton Primary School is an Academy situated three miles north of Northampton and within the County of Northamptonshire. The Academy Trust is the admission authority and has responsibility for setting the Admission Policy. Admissions to the school are managed by West Northamptonshire Council.

This policy outlines the processes and statutory obligations upon the school and the local authority, regarding school admissions.

Your application for a place at the school must be made via the relevant online form on your local authority website; however, we are happy to deal with questions and enquiries about admissions to Boughton Primary School. Please contact the school office on 01604 842322 or email admin@boughtonacademy.co.uk.

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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](#)
- [School Admission Appeals Code](#)

As an academy, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

This policy complies with our funding agreement and our Memorandum and Articles of Association. 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.

3. How to apply for a place in the Normal Admissions Round

The **normal admissions round** is the period during which parents/carers can apply for state-funded school places at the school's normal point of entry (Reception), using the Common Application Form (CAF) provided by their home local authority.

Parents/carers should use the application form provided by their home local authority (regardless of which local authority the schools are in). This form is used to express a preference for a minimum of 3 state-funded schools, in rank order.

All local authorities use a system of "equal preferencing". An explanation of this can be found on the WNC website <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions/equal-preferencing>

You will receive an offer for a school place directly from your local authority.

Parents/carers will receive an offer for a school place directly from their local authority on National Offer Day (16 April or the next working day)

To apply for a place through West Northamptonshire Council, please visit

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/primary-school-places>

4. Allocation of places

4.1 Admission number

The school has an agreed Published Admission Number (PAN) of 28 children for entry in Reception. The school will not admit beyond this in any year group.

Places will first be allocated to children who have an Education, Health Care (EHC) Plan that names the school as offering the appropriate provision.

4.2 Oversubscription admission criteria

When there are more applications for places than there are places available, the Trust will prioritise applications according to the order of the Admissions Criteria as below:

1. Children in public care or previously in public care but immediately after being **looked after** became subject to an adoption, child arrangement order or special guardianship order
2. Children who live in the **defined area** (Boughton) and have an older sibling continuing at the school at the time of admission of the younger child
3. Children of staff, where that member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage in the area.
4. Children who live in the **defined area** (Boughton)
5. Children who live outside of the defined area and have an older **sibling** continuing at the school at the time of admission of the younger child
6. Other children

See Section 5: Definitions for further detail regarding **italicised** terms.

4.3 Allocation to PAN

If the admission number is exceeded within any criterion, priority will be given to those who live closest to the school. Distances are measured on a straight line basis from the address point of the

child's **home address** to the address point of the school using WNC's Geographical Information System.

4.4 Tie-breaker

If two or more applications cannot otherwise be separated and there is only one place available, a random allocation process will be used to determine who should be allocated the place.

5. 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.

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.

Looked after children 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 looked after children 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

This includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Siblings:

A sibling is defined as a child's brother or sister. A sibling must be living at the same permanent home address and as part of the same family unit (one or two parents plus children) to qualify under this criterion.

For School Admissions purposes, the term sibling includes:

- half-brothers and half-sisters
- step-brothers and step-sisters
- adopted children
- children in foster care
- children living in the same family unit, even if they are not biological brothers and sisters – for example when the parents are not married/in a civil relationship.

Cousins are not regarded as siblings.

Defined Area (also known as linked or designated area/village):

The defined area for the school is Boughton.

Home Address (Child's):

The child's home address is defined as the address at which the child normally resides with their parent/carer at the time of application. If a child lives with parents who are separated, the home address will be treated as the place where the child sleeps for most of the school week (i.e. Sunday night – Thursday night inclusive).

If the child spends equal amounts of time at two addresses, the parents must agree which address they wish to be the **child's main home address** before the application can be processed.

Documentary evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required together with proof of actual permanent residence at the property concerned.

6. Fraudulent or Misleading Applications

The admissions authority (or the LA processing an application on behalf of the admission authority) has the right to investigate any concerns we may have about an application and to withdraw the offer of a place if it is considered that there is evidence that an applicant has made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information.

7. Conflicting Applications

If we receive more than one application for the same child (made by separated parents) and where the home address and / or the preferences do not match, **neither application will be processed** until such time that the parents can agree on both the address and the preferences. If no agreement can be made, parents are recommended to seek legal advice. If an agreement cannot be reached before the closing date, this may affect the chances of your child being allocated a place at the school.

8. Late Applications

Late applications are any common application forms (for the normal point of entry) received by the local authority after its statutory closing date of 15 January. Late applicants will not receive an offer of a school place by the local authority on National Offer Day (16 April or next working day).

Late applications will be processed in the subsequent rounds of allocations between May and July (for more details, refer to the local authority's composite prospectus on the WNC website).

9. 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/carers may defer their child's entry to the allocated 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 for which the offer was made when the place will cease to be available for the child.

By mutual agreement between the school and parents/carers, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

10. Requests for admission outside the normal age group

Northamptonshire County Council's policy is for children to be educated within their correct chronological year group, with the curriculum differentiated as necessary to meet the needs of individual children. This is in line with DfE guidance which states that "in general, children should be educated in their normal age group". Boughton Primary School, as an academy trust, sets its own admissions policy but has also adopted this view.

10.1 Requests for admission outside the normal age group (Summer Born)

Parents/carers who wish to apply for a place in Reception out of the normal age group, should make their request to delay their application in writing to the school in the first instance, by emailing admin@boughtonacademy.co.uk

The request should be accompanied by reasons for such a request and should be made by **1st December** of the year prior to the year the child should enter Reception if they had not requested to delay applying. This will ensure that if the admission authority does not agree to the request, there is still time for parents/carers to submit an application for the normal year of entry by the statutory deadline (15th January). The admission authority will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of:

- the parent's/carer'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 the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
- the Head Teacher's views.

What happens next?

The Admission Authority will inform the parents/carers of its decision on the Year group the child should be admitted to when they have to start school (i.e. Reception or Year 1) and will set out clearly the reasons for their decision.

If the Admissions Committee **agrees** to the parent's/carer's request to delay the application for a Reception place, they will inform the local authority and the parents/carers will then need to make an application for a place in Reception in the normal round of admissions in the following academic year.

Please note – in this following normal admissions round, if the School is oversubscribed, all applications (including delayed applications) for the School will be ranked in accordance with the School's oversubscription criteria. If the application is not successful, parents/carers will have the right to appeal but, as the purpose of the appeals process is to consider whether a child should be admitted to a particular school, parents/carers do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like;

If the Admissions Committee does **not agree** to the application being deferred, there is **no right of appeal** against that decision and the parents/carers will need to make an application to the local authority for a place in Reception by 15 January or make an in-year application for a Year 1 place at the appropriate time.

10.2 Requests for admission outside the normal age group (Not Summer Born)

Parents/carers may seek a place for their child out of their normal age group. They must put their request in writing to the school, by emailing admin@boughtonacademy.co.uk

DfE guidance makes clear that: *"it is reasonable for admission authorities to expect parents to provide them with information in support of their request – since without it they are unlikely to be able to make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case"*. Parents should therefore submit supporting evidence (e.g. from relevant professionals working with the child) with their request, stating why the child must be placed outside of their normal age appropriate cohort.

The Admission Authority of the school will consider the request and make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of:

- the parent's/carer'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 the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
- the Head Teacher's views.

There is no guarantee that an application for admission out of cohort will be accepted. If the application is refused, this does not constitute a refusal of a place and there is no right to an independent statutory appeal. Similarly, there is no right of appeal for a place in a specific year group at a school. The internal management and organisation of a school, including the placement of pupils in classes, is a matter for the Head Teacher and senior leadership of individual schools.

The Admission Authority of the school MUST set out clearly for parents the reasons for their decision about the year group a child should be admitted to.

Parents/carers 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.

11. In-year Admissions

An in-year admission refers to an application for a school place made during the school year or an application for admission to a school made at the start of the school year for any year group other than the normal year of entry.

If the school's published admission number has been reached in a child's year group, WNC will not be able to offer a place at the school. Parents/carers can ask for their child's name to be added to the waiting lists (see below for more information).

Applications for in-year admissions should be made online to the local authority on WNC's website.

12. Waiting Lists

Waiting lists are held for all year groups by the Local Authority.

Following an unsuccessful application, parents/carers can request that their child's name be placed on the waiting list.

Waiting lists will be cleared at the end of each school term. If you wish your child's name to remain on the waiting list for the remainder of the academic year, you will need to inform the School Admissions team at West Northamptonshire Council, in writing, by the start of each subsequent term (ie: during the Christmas and Easter breaks) to renew your interest.

When a place becomes available it will be filled by one of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in section 4.2 of this policy. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest and children being allocated places under the Fair Access Protocol will be given priority.

13. Appeals

If a parent/carer's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, they will be informed why admission was refused and have the right of appeal against the decision not to offer their child a place at the school.

As with our admissions, West Northamptonshire Council carry out all appeals for places at Boughton Primary. Parents/carers wishing to appeal should complete the online appeal form on the WNC website.

Please visit <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions/appeal-school-place> for more information and to complete the form.

If parents/carers wish to submit supporting evidence after lodging their appeal, it should be e-mailed to appealsteam@northamptonshire.gov.uk within 10 working days of the submission of the appeal.

Appeals must be lodged in writing, giving the reasons for appeal, following the guidance and timelines on WNC website. Appeals received after this date will still be heard, but there is no guarantee they will be heard before the end of the school year in which the application is made.

NB: For appeals concerning places not offered during the normal admission round, i.e. in-year places, appeals should be submitted within 30 school days of refusal of a place.

14. Admissions policy review

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Full Governing Body annually.

Consultation:

When changes are proposed to the school's admission arrangements, the governing body **must** consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information form) that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities **must** consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

Determination:

All admission authorities **must** determine (i.e. formally agree) admission arrangements every year, even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not been required. Admission authorities **must** determine admission arrangements by **28 February** in the determination year.