

Admission Arrangements 2025 - 2026

Dove Bank Primary School



Designated Nursery Provision

Children can join the nursery at Dove Bank Primary School at the age of 2. We have three key worker groups within the nursery, and the children move through the groups when they are ready for this change - this includes age and developmental factors.

At Dove Bank Primary School, we try to and meet parents' wishes where possible, and we work to accommodate sessions that work for individual family circumstances. In some cases, there may be more applications than there are places. Admission is determined by the oversubscription criteria detailed below.

Oversubscription Criteria

If the total number of preferences for admission to Dove Bank Primary School nursery exceeds the number of available places, then the following order of priority will be used to allocate the available places.

- 1) In accordance with legislation, children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan that names our nursery must be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to other applicants.
- 2) Children in Care and children who ceased to be in care because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
- 3) The child is distinguished from the great majority of other applicants either on their own individual medical grounds or by other exceptional circumstances.
Medical grounds must be supported by a medical report (obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application). This report must clearly justify, for health reasons only, why it is better for the child's health to attend Dove Bank Primary School nursery rather than any other nursery.

Exceptional circumstances must relate to Dove Bank Primary School nursery and the individual child, i.e. the circumstances of the child, not the specific economic or social circumstances of the parent/carer, and be supported by a professional report (obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application), e.g. social worker, justifying why it is better for the child to attend the Dove Bank Primary School nursery rather than any other nursery.
- 4) The child would suffer hardship if they were unable to attend Dove Bank Primary School nursery.
Hardship means severe suffering of any kind, not merely difficulty or inconvenience, which is likely to be experienced as a result of the child attending a different nursery. Applicants must provide detailed information about both the type and severity of any likely hardship at the time of application.
- 5) Children who have an elder brother or sister in attendance at Dove Bank Primary School and who will still be attending the school at the time of the proposed admission date. (For admission purposes, a brother or sister is a child who lives at the same address and either: have one or both natural parents in common; are related by a parents' marriage; are adopted or fostered by a common parent or are unrelated children who live at the same address, whose parents live as partners.)
- 6) Children living within the defined catchment.

- 7) Other children arranged in order of priority according to how near their home addresses are to the main gate of the nursery setting, determined by a straight-line measurement as calculated using the Local Authority's Geographical Information System.

Additional Notes

Copies of school catchment area maps are available from the Local Authority.

There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to Dove Bank Primary School nursery.

Applications to Dove Bank Primary nursery are processed within the School.

Attendance at Dove Bank Primary School nursery will not guarantee admission to Dove Bank Primary School Reception Class or give any advantage to the child's application for Reception. Parents must make a separate application for admission to Reception at the appropriate time.

Children in Care means children who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making the application.

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide any supportive information required in order for the application to be assessed against the published admissions criteria, Dove Bank Primary School nursery will not seek to obtain this information of behalf of the applicant.

The Local Authority uses a Geographical Information System (GIS) to calculate home to school distances in miles. The measurement is calculated using Ordnance Survey (OS) data from an applicant's home address to the main front gate of the school. The coordinates of an applicant's home address are determined using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and OS Address Point data.

Normal Age of Entry: Academic Year 2023/2024

Dove Bank Primary School

Full time places in reception classes will be available in September of the academic year within which the child becomes five years old.

Although parents have the right to express a preference for Dove Bank Primary School, there is no guarantee of a place being offered.

It is the Dove Bank Primary School's policy to try and meet parents' wishes where possible, however in some cases there may be more applications than there are places available. Admission when oversubscribed are determined by the oversubscription criteria detailed below.

Oversubscription Criteria

If the total number of preferences for admission to Dove Bank Primary School nursery exceeds the number of available places, then the following order of priority will be used to allocate the available places.

- 1) In accordance with legislation, children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan that names our nursery must be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to other applicants.
- 2) Children in Care and children who ceased to be in care because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
- 3) The child is distinguished from the great majority of other applicants either on their own individual medical grounds or by other exceptional circumstances.
Medical grounds must be supported by a medical report (obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application). This report must clearly justify, for health reasons only, why it is better for the child's health to attend Dove Bank Primary School nursery rather than any other nursery.

Exceptional circumstances must relate to Dove Bank Primary School nursery and the individual child, i.e. the circumstances of the child, not the specific economic or social circumstances of the parent/carer, and be supported by a professional report (obtained by the applicant and provided at the point of application), e.g. social worker, justifying why it is better for the child to attend the Dove Bank Primary School nursery rather than any other nursery.

- 4) The child would suffer hardship if they were unable to attend Dove Bank Primary School nursery.
Hardship means severe suffering of any kind, not merely difficulty or inconvenience, which is likely to be experienced as a result of the child attending a different nursery. Applicants must provide detailed information about both the type and severity of any likely hardship at the time of application.
- 5) Children who have an elder brother or sister in attendance at Dove Bank Primary School and who will still be attending the school at the time of the proposed admission date. (For admission purposes, a brother or sister is a child who lives at the same address and either: have one or both natural parents in

common; are related by a parents' marriage; are adopted or fostered by a common parent or are unrelated children who live at the same address, whose parents live as partners.)

- 6) Children living within the defined catchment.

- 7) Other children arranged in order of priority according to how near their home addresses are to the main gate of the nursery setting, determined by a straight-line measurement as calculated using the Local Authority's Geographical Information System.

The home address is considered to be the child's along with their parent/carer's main and genuine principal place of residence at the time of the allocation of places i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than legal guardianship) the friend's or relative's address will not be considered for allocation purposes.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week, parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

If a place is offered on the basis of an address that is subsequently found to be different from a child's normal and permanent home address than that place is likely to be withdrawn.

If there are a limited number of spaces available and we cannot distinguish between applicants using the criteria listed, such as in the case of children who live in the same block of flats or are the result of a multiple birth, then the child or children who will be offered the available spaces will be randomly selected. This process will be independently verified.

Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria stated above and not based on the date their application was received. If places become available after the offer date they will be offered to the child at the top of the waiting list. Waiting Lists will be kept until the end of the Autumn term of admission.

Inclusion on a Dove Bank Primary School's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

A child's position on a waiting list is not fixed and is subject to change during the year, i.e. they can go up or down the list since each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the oversubscription criteria listed above.

There is no statutory right of appeal for admission to Dove Bank Primary School. Any disputes over the administration of the policy will be dealt with by the Dove Bank Primary School's Governing Body complaints procedure.

Deferred Entry to Reception Class

Dove Bank Primary School will consider requests from parents to retain a place where the parents wish to defer their child's entry to the Reception Class until later in the same academic year or until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age. The effect is that the place will be held for the child and is not available to be offered to any other child. Where it is possible to offer a place, deferral will be supported if the request is made at the normal time of application. A parent may not defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the application was accepted.

The Dove Bank Primary School will also consider requests from parents who wish their child to attend Reception Class on a part-time basis until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Before deciding whether to defer their child's entry to school, parents should visit Dove Bank Primary to clarify how we cater for the youngest children in Reception and how individual needs are met.

Admission Outside of the Normal Age Group

Parents may seek to apply for their child's admission to school outside of their normal age group, for example if the child is exceptionally gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of summer born children may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted outside of their normal age group to Reception rather than Year 1.

These parents will need to make an application alongside children applying at the normal age which should explain why it is in the child's best interest to be admitted outside of their normal age which may include information such as professional evidence as to why this is the case and why an exception should be made in the case of the child. A decision as to whether this is an appropriate course of action will be made by the Governing Body who will consider the circumstances of the case and views of the Headteacher. Parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular year group.

Waiting lists

Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria stated above and not based on the date their application was received. If places become available after the offer date, they will be offered according to the child at the top of the waiting list.

For cases where the infant class size regulations apply, the waiting list will operate until the cohort concerned leaves Year 2.

For all other cases, Waiting Lists will be kept until the end of the autumn term of admission.

Inclusion on a school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

A child's position on a waiting list is not fixed and is subject to change during the year i.e. they can go up or down the list since each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the oversubscription criteria listed above.

Children who are subject of a direction by a local authority to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those on the waiting list.

Late Applications

Application forms received after the closing date will be considered alongside those applicants who applied on time wherever possible. Where it is not practicable because places have already been allocated, or are shortly to be allocated, then late applicants will be considered only after those applicants who applied by the published closing date.

A late application does not affect the right of appeal or the right to be placed on a school's waiting list.

Repeat Applications

Parents do not have the right to a second appeal for a place at Dove Bank Primary School for the same academic year, unless in exceptional circumstances. Dove Bank Primary School will accept a second application from an appellant due to a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school.

"In-Year Transfer" Arrangements

Parents or carers seeking to transfer to Dove Bank Primary School may make an application using the appropriate application form. This application will be processed in line with the procedure outlined in the determined admission arrangements and parents and carers need to be aware that any date set for joining the new school may be after the next term or half term holiday and those parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their child continues to receive appropriate education in the interim.