Montgomery Academy
An Academy within the
Fylde Coast Academy Trust

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2026 / 2027

Fylde Coast Academy Trust (FCAT) is the admission authority for the academies within the Trust and the allocation of school places has been delegated to the Local Authority School Admissions Team, in line with the FCAT admissions criteria.

Montgomery Academy operates an equal preference scheme and welcomes all children.

The planned admission number for 2026/27 is 250.

Application Procedures

Applications must be made using the Common Application Form which will be made available by the Local Authority's School Admissions Team. Applications can also be made online via the Local Authority's website: www.blackpool.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Applications must be made direct to the Local Authority no later than the **31st October 2025**.

You must apply to the authority where you live. If you are unsure, for example if you live near council boundaries, it is whichever Local Authority you pay your council tax to. You can apply for a secondary school in any area, but you must apply to your home authority.

If you live outside Blackpool, you can apply online at Lancashire County Council School Admissions.

All places will be offered by the Local Authority's School Admissions Team on behalf of FCAT within the secondary coordinated admissions scheme operational in the Local Authority's area. The national offer date for Year 7 admissions will be 02nd March 2026.

Oversubscription Criteria

The Academy Trust will not place any restrictions on admissions unless the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of students with Education and Health Care Plans where Montgomery Academy is named, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

1. **Looked after children and previously looked after children**. This includes any "looked after child" and any child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. This criterion will also apply to children who were previously in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care as they have been adopted.

2. **Medical, Social or Welfare reasons**. Where there are exceptional serious, sensitive and compelling circumstances that are directly relevant to the academy, priority may be given. Professional evidence to demonstrate exceptional or compelling reasons why only this

academy can cater for a particular child's needs on any of these grounds must be provided with the application. The evidence must set out the reasons and level of risk to the child or family and why the academy is the only suitable school; plus any difficulties which would arise if the child had to attend an alternative school.

It should be noted that all schools can make provision for special educational needs, and can also manage common conditions e.g. asthma, epilepsy and diabetes.

Only exceptional reasons directly relevant to the academy will be considered. Priority will be given to the child only if the submitted evidence unequivocally proves the circumstances and demonstrates why any alternative school would be unsuitable. Parents are responsible for providing the evidence.

3. **Children who will have a sibling** in attendance at Montgomery Academy at the time of transfer. The term "sibling" includes stepchildren, half brothers and sisters and adopted and foster children who are living with the same family at the same address.

4. **Children of staff employed by *name of academy:*** this applies to all staff, full and part time who have been employed by Montgomery Academy for two or more years, or who have been recruited meet a skills shortage.

5. **Distance:** All other pupils, with priority given to those that live nearest to Montgomery Academy. The measurement will be taken in a straight line from the centre point of the residence to the centre point of the Academy, using the Local Authority's geographical information system (GIS). Where a child lives with one parent for part of the week and another for the rest of the week only one address will be accepted for a school admission application. This will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of school days (Monday to Friday). Proof of residence may be requested at any time throughout the admissions process.

Tie Break

Where there is oversubscription within any of the determined criteria, then priority for places will be decided in a straight line distance measure, (home to academy,) using the local authority's measuring system. The nearest to the academy will have priority for admission.

There will be a right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for external applicants refused admission. Parents have 20 school days to compile and lodge hearings.

Late Applications

Applications received after the published closing date will be treated as late applications.

Only in exceptional circumstances, and where appropriate evidence is provided, will those applications received after the closing date (but before offers of places have been made) be considered concurrently with those applications received on time.

The circumstances which might justify a late application include, but are not restricted to, the illness of a single parent/carer which might have reasonably impinged upon their ability to submit an application on time or where a family has just moved into the area.

Change of Preference

Once an application has been submitted, and the closing date has passed, a change of preference can only be actioned if there is a significant change in circumstances, i.e. a house move.

You will be unable to access the online system after the closing date. Any requests for a change of preference should be made in writing to the Local Authority Admissions Team, to include evidence demonstrating the reasons for your changes.

Fraudulent Applications

If it is found that a child has been allocated a place due to misleading information having been provided, for example an incorrect address, then the offer of a place may be withdrawn and the offer of an alternative school will be made by the Local Authority.

Waiting Lists

Waiting lists will be set up in the week following the offers being sent to parents. As places become available, the child highest on the waiting list will be offered the place. This is not dependent on whether an appeal has been submitted.

Children will be placed on the waiting lists using the oversubscription criteria. Late applicants will be slotted into the list according to where they meet the oversubscription criteria. Therefore a child who moves into the area later can have a higher priority than one who has been on the waiting list for some time.

Looked after children or previously looked after children allocated a place at the school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those on a waiting list.

The School Admissions Team will maintain the waiting list until the end of the Autumn Term.

Appeal Arrangements

Where the Academy Trust is unable to offer a place because the school is oversubscribed, parents have the right of appeal to an independent admission appeal panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2002.

You should contact the School Admissions Team to request an appeal form. You will have the opportunity to submit your case to the panel in writing and also to attend in order to present your case. You will receive 10 school days' notice of the place and time of the hearing.

In Year Applications

If you move into Blackpool after the 1st September 2026, or wish to transfer your child from another Blackpool primary school, please contact the School Admissions Team at Blackpool Council for an in-year application form.