

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2024

How do we propose to manage applications?

Applications for a place at a Sea View Trust Academy to start in September, should be made to either Blackpool or Lancashire Local Authority. For in-year transfers applications, these will be made directly to the individual academies.

Published Admissions Number (PAN)

There are no proposed changes to the Published Admissions Number for any SVT academy.

The PAN for each academy is outlined in the table below.

Academy	Phase	PAN
Anchorsholme Academy	Primary	90
Devonshire Primary Academy	Primary	60
Revoe Learning Academy	Primary	60

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

1) Looked After Children

Blackpool Council gives the highest priority to Looked After Children (LAC), as required by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the Education (Admission of LAC) (England) Regulations 2006.

A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that Authority, as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989, at the time of application and allocation.

Under legislation, children who leave public care through adoption, a residence order or special guardianship order, will continue to be given the same priority although they are no longer looked after by the state.

Also children who were previously in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care as they have been adopted. These are children who were looked after outside of England by a public authority, a religious group or another provider of care whose sole purposed is to benefit society. Parents and carers will be expected to provide evidence of previous looked after status.

2) Medical/Social/Welfare reasons

Children for whom the council accepts that there are exceptional medical social or welfare reasons associated with the child and/or family. These must be directly relevant to the school or academy.

Only exceptional reasons directly relevant to a particular school are considered. If you feel that there are exceptional medical, social or welfare reasons associated with your child and/or family which support admission to a particular school you must indicate that this is the case on your application.

All applications will be considered but supporting professional evidence will be required to demonstrate exceptional or compelling reasons why only a specific school can cater for a particular child's needs. This must set out the reasons and the level of risk to the child or family. In addition, why the school in question is the only suitable school. It should identify difficulties associated with the child attending an alternative school.

Please note that all schools and academies are able to make provision for special educational needs. All can also manage common conditions e.g. asthma, epilepsy, diabetes.

Only exceptional reasons directly relevant to a particular school are considered. Admission authorities will only give priority to the child for the preferred school or academy if the submitted evidence unequivocally proves the circumstances and demonstrates why any alternative schools would be unsuitable.

3) Siblings

Priority will be given to brothers and sisters of children already attending the school at the time of application and allocation (the national statutory offer date).

This includes full brothers and sisters, half brothers and sisters, stepbrothers and sisters and adopted and foster brothers and sisters who are living within the same family at the same address.

Full brothers and sisters who do not live at the same address will still be given priority as siblings. Half, step, adopted and foster brothers and sisters who do not live at the same address will not be classed as siblings.

4) Distance

Blackpool Council determines the distance from the applicant's home address to the school with the nearest to a preferred school having priority for a place.

We measure the distance between the applicant's home and school or academy as a straight line between the Council Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address point of the applicant's home address and of the school. The LLPG is a point within the boundary of the property and is usually located at its centre. We measure distances using the council's geographic information system.

If the Council is unable to determine eligibility on distance, for example because two or more addresses are equal distance from the school, then a random allocation will determine the offer. In the event that random allocation is required, somebody independent of the Children's Services Department and the school or academy would supervise the process. We would invite parents to attend.

Late Applications

Applications submitted after the statutory closing dates will not be accepted and processed with on time applications. This includes registered on-line applications where the applicant has not pressed to submit.

Only in exceptional circumstances, and where parents provide appropriate evidence, will those applications received after the closing date (but before offers of places have been finalised) be considered concurrently with those applications received on time. We usually finalise offers around 2 weeks prior to the national statutory offer date.

The circumstances that might justify a late application include, but are not restricted to, the long term illness of a single parent/carer (during the application period), which might have reasonably impinged upon their ability to submit an application on time.

For under subscribed schools it may be possible to consider late applications up to the school's published admission number.

We will refer late applications for Voluntary Aided Schools, Academies or Free Schools to the admission authority who may liaise with the School Admission Team.

Change of Preference

Applicants may not change their preferences after the closing date unless there is a significant reason for doing so. This may be because of a house move. Requests to change preferences must be in writing and with evidence to demonstrate the reasons.

Waiting Lists

The School Admissions Team will establish and maintain a waiting list for each school for which it is the admissions authority, and any Academy or Free School who have delegated this responsibility. The waiting list will be maintained until the end of the Autumn Term in the admission year (31st December).

After we have confirmed offers, parents may request that their child's name is placed on the waiting list for any school or academy. Parents may request that the child's name is placed on the waiting list for a school or academy that was not an original preference (this includes those who relocate within the area after initial offers and new to area children in the relevant year groups).

If a vacancy occurs, which will take the school below its published admission number (PAN); the place will be offered from the school or academy waiting (reserve) list in accordance with its admission policy.

The School Admissions Code requires that the waiting list reflect the priority for admission determined within each school or academy's determined admission policy. Priority is not associated with first come first served or length of time resident within an area. A new applicant, who has a higher priority according to admission criteria, would rank higher than those that have been on the list for some time.

Parents who intend to appeal against the Local Authority's decision not to offer a place at a preferred school(s) should do so irrespective of having their child's name placed on the waiting list. An independent appeal panel cannot consider a child's position on the waiting list. The independent appeal panel cannot allocate places above a published admission number based on waiting list priority.

Appeal Arrangements

Parents have the right to have an appeal for any school or academy where they have applied for a place and been refused admission. This includes all three initial preferences and any refusals generated by later enquiries.

Applicants can also appeal for any school or academy that was not an original preference.

Applicants who intend to appeal for a Community or Voluntary Controlled school must complete a Blackpool Council Appeal Form - available from the School Admissions Team.

Please also complete this form when appealing for an Academy or Free School that has delegated the responsibilities relating to appeals to the Council.

Applicants who wish to appeal for a place in a Voluntary Aided School/Academy, or certain Academies and Langdale Free School, should contact the school/academy direct to request an appeal form. The School Admissions Team can provide information and advice about the appeal process.

Fraudulent Applications

Where we have allocated a place because of inaccurate or misleading information - for example in relation to a false address – then we can withdraw the original offer. We will investigate any discrepancies which become known in liaison with own admission authorities where required. Where places are withdrawn we will then reconsider the application and confirm a school or academy offer (which may be different to the initial offer). Parents retain their rights of appeal.

Admission to Blackpool Schools after 1st September 2022

In relation to new to area applications and transfer requests the amended School Admission Code (September 2021) requires some changes from September 2022. Details will be available on the Council's website. Please note that Blackpool schools and academies operate a locally agreed first day of the next school term protocol for the majority of transfer requests.

Where any admission authority refuse a request for a school place, they must give you the reason for this and inform you about your right of appeal. These are statutory requirements.

FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL (FAP)

Blackpool Council has a Fair Access Protocol that operates for in-year admission requests (outside of the annual intake process). This aims to ensure that unplaced and vulnerable children who may present challenging behaviour receive an offer of a school place or alternative provision as quickly as possible.

Blackpool Council's FAP follows the requirements of the School Admissions Code. We have agreed the local FAP (for secondary and primary) with schools and academies. Details of the FAP are on the Council's website.

The FAP allocates places via a monthly meeting and can allocate to year groups in schools and academies, which are already full or over, subscribed.