

South Shore Academy

Admissions Policy 2027



South Shore Academy

Admission Arrangements for September 2027

Making an Application

Applications for admission to the Academy for September 2027 should be made online at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Education-and-schools> or on the Common Application Form between 1st September until 31st October 2026.

It is not normally possible to change the order of preferences for schools after the closing date.

Parents/Carers must complete the Local Authority form, stating three preferences.

Confirmation informing parents of whether or not their child has been allocated a place will be sent out by the Local Authority, on behalf of the Academy, circa 1st March 2027*. Parents/Carers of children not admitted will be advised of the appeals process and offered a place at another school by the Local Authority.

Admission procedures

Arrangements for admission have been agreed following consultation between Cidari Multi Academy Trust, the Governing Body, the Diocesan Body of Education, Blackpool Local Authority and Lancashire County Council.

The number of admission places available in year 7 in the year 2027 will be a maximum of 175.

The Governing Body will not place any restrictions on admissions to year 7 unless the number of children for whom admission is sought exceeds their admission number. The Governing Body operates a system of equal preferences under which they consider all preferences equally and the Local Authority notifies parents of the result on behalf of the Academy.

Educational Health and Care Plan

As required by law, all children with an Educational Health and Care Plan, naming South Shore Academy as a preference, will be automatically admitted to the Academy.

Oversubscription Criteria

In the event that there are more applicants than places, the Governing Body will allocate places using the following criteria:

1. (a) Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

This means a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously 'looked after' but ceased to be looked after because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements or special guardianship order, including those 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 (please see definitions below). A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to the school.

An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who are adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. 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). A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

2. Children with special medical or social circumstances affecting the child here these needs can only be met at this school.

Professional supporting evidence from a professional, e.g. a doctor, psychologist, social worker, is essential if admission is to be made under the criterion for special medical or social circumstances, and such evidence must set out the particular reasons why the school in question is the only school where these needs can be met and the difficulties which would be caused if the child had to attend another school. Parents must submit this evidence to the school by 31 st October 2026, if they wish their application to be considered under this criterion.

3. Staff Children

Children of staff who have been employed in the school or Trust the whole of the two years prior to the closing date for applications, or where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. This applies to all staff, full and part time, who are employed by the Governing Body.

4. Siblings

Children who have a sibling attending the school on the date of application and on the date of admission. Siblings include full, step, half, foster, adopted brothers and sisters and children of parent or carer's partner. In all cases both children should be living in the same family unit at the same address.

5. All other Children.

Tie Break

Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category, then the distance between the Ordnance Survey address points for the school and the home measured in a straight line will be used as the final determining factor, nearer addresses having priority over more distant ones. This address point is within the body of the property and usually located at its centre. Where two addresses have the same distance, or the cut-off point is for addresses within the same building, then the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s).

Late applications for admission

Where there are extenuating circumstances for an application being received after the last date for applications (31 st October 2026), and it is before the Governing Body have established their list of pupils to be admitted, then it will be considered alongside all the others.

Otherwise, applications which are received after the last date will be considered after all the others, and placed on the waiting list in order according to the criteria.

Multiple Births

Where there are twins wanting admission and there is only a single place left within the admission number, then the Governing Body will exercise as much flexibility as possible. If places for twins or all triplets, etc cannot be offered, the family will be advised accordingly. This may also apply to siblings who are in the same year group. If only a single place can be offered for twins, then the Local Authority's system for a random draw will decide which pupil receives an offer.

Waiting List

Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category, the oversubscription criteria will be used. Children who are not admitted will have their name placed on a waiting list. The names on this waiting list will be in the order resulting from the application of the admissions criteria. Since the date of application cannot be a criterion for the order of names on the waiting list, late applicants for the Academy will be slotted into the order according to the extent to which they meet the criteria. Thus it is possible for a child who moves into the area later to have a higher priority than one who has been on the waiting list for some time. If a place becomes available within the admission number, the child whose name is at the top of the list will be offered a place. This is not dependent on whether an appeal has been submitted.

This waiting list will operate until 31 December of the relevant year.

Previous years allocations

The number of places allocated in 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 preferences for 175 admission places were:

2023/24 - 103

2024/25 - 119

2025/26 - 110

Address of Pupil

The address used on the Academy's admission form must be the current one at the time of application. If the address changes subsequently, the parents should notify the Academy. Where the parents live at different addresses, the address the child lives at, at the time of allocation will be the one used on the application. This will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday morning. Parents may be asked to show evidence of the claim that is being made for the address, e.g. identity cards of various sorts showing the child's address as the one claimed. Where there is dispute about the correct address to use, the Governors reserve the right to make enquiries of any relevant third parties. For children of UK Service personnel and other Crown Servants returning to the area, proof of the posting is required.

Non-routine Admissions

It sometimes happens that a child needs to change school other than at the "normal" time; such admissions are known as non-routine or in-year admissions. Parents wishing their child to attend this school can arrange to visit the school to discuss this should they wish. You must submit an "In Year Application Form" to the school available from the school office or from Blackpool Council. If there is a place in the appropriate year group, then your child will be admitted. That decision will be made within 15 days. If there is no place, then the governing body will have to refuse the application, but information will be provided about how to appeal against this refusal.

If your family is moving house, your application (both for routine and non-routine applications) and any appeal will be considered as being made from your old address until you provide suitable evidence of a permanent change of address, e.g. exchange of contracts on your house purchase or the signed tenancy agreement and rent book for your new address.

Blackpool Council administers the appeals process on behalf of the school. Parents can complete the school's appeal form on Blackpool Council's website.

Appeals for routine admissions

Where the governors are unable to offer a place because the school is over subscribed, parents have the right to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, as amended by the Education Act, 2002. **Parents/guardians should request an appeal form from the Clerk to the Governors at the school and will be given 20 school days to submit their appeal, a specific date will be stated in the refusal letter.** Parents

will have the opportunity to submit their case to the panel in writing and also to attend in order to present their case. You will normally receive 14 days' notice of the place and time of the hearing.

Appeals which are received after the deadline will be slotted into the schedule where this is possible. There is no guarantee that this will happen and late appeals may be heard after the stipulated date at a second round of hearings. The schedule is subject to change depending upon the availability of appeal panel members, clerks, venues and the number of appeals for each school (which will vary year on year).

Please note that this right of appeal against the Governing Body's decision does not prevent you from making an application or an appeal in respect of any other school. However, parents do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same year group at this school unless, in exceptional circumstances, the school has considered a second application from the parents in the same academic year because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parents, child or school but the child was still refused admission.

Fraudulent applications

Where the governing body discovers that a child has been awarded a place as the result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent (for example a false claim to residence in the catchment area or of involvement in a place of worship) which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, then the governing body is required to withdraw the offer of the place. The application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.