

Mercia Primary Academy Trust

Admission Arrangements Nursery Provision 2015/2016

Lark Hall Infant & Nursery Academy

Children will be admitted in September of the academic year in which they become four years old. It is the Trust's policy to try and meet parents' wishes where possible, however in some cases there may be more applications for a particular setting than there are places. Admission to these settings is determined by the oversubscription criteria detailed below.

Oversubscription Criteria

If the total number of preferences for admission to a nursery age setting exceeds the number of available places, then the following order of priority will be used to allocate the available places.

- 1) 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).
- 2) Children who satisfy both of the following tests:

Test 1: 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 the preferred maintained nursery rather than any other nursery. Exceptional circumstances must relate to the choice of 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 preferred maintained nursery rather than any other nursery.

Test 2: The child would suffer hardship if they were unable to attend the preferred nursery setting. 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 school. Applicants must provide detailed information about both the type and severity of any likely hardship at the time of application.

3) Children who have an elder brother or sister in attendance at the school (or, in the case of an infant school, the affiliated junior school) and who will still be attending the school (or affiliated junior 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.)

4) Children living within the defined catchment or cluster area of the preferred setting. Cluster areas for nursery age settings will sometimes, but not always, correspond to the catchment area for the main school.

5) 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.

Where it is not possible to accommodate all children applying for places within a particular category then the Local Authority will allocate the available places in accordance with the remaining criteria. If for instance, all the catchment area or cluster area children cannot be accommodated at a school, children who are resident within the catchment or cluster area will be arranged in order of priority according to distance i.e. category (5).

Additional Notes

- Copies of school catchment area maps are available from the individual Academy.
- There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to a school.
- Applications for maintained nursery settings are processed centrally by the School Admissions and Transport Service.
- Attendance at a particular nursery setting will not guarantee admission to any particular 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.
- In accordance with legislation, children who have a statutory statement of special educational need or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names a particular nursery setting must be admitted to that nursery. This will reduce the amount of places available to other applicants.
- 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, the Local Authority will not seek to obtain this information of behalf of the applicant.
- The Trust 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.
- 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 friends 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 then 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 school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available at the preferred school.
- 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 a maintained nursery setting. Any disputes over the administration of the policy will be dealt with by the Trust's complaints procedure.