

St Margaret's CE Primary School, Withern



Admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled primary schools for 2018 intake

This policy applies for primary, infant and junior schools.

The County Council has delegated to the governing bodies of individual community and controlled schools the decisions about which children to admit. Every community and controlled school must apply the County Council's oversubscription criteria shown below if they receive more applications than available places.

Arrangements for applications for places in the normal year of intake (Reception in Primary and Infant schools and Year 3 in Junior schools) will be made in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council's co-ordinated admission arrangements. Lincolnshire residents can apply online www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions, by telephone or by requesting a paper application. Residents in other areas must apply through their home local authority. Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools will use the Lincolnshire County Council's timetable published online for these applications and the relevant Local Authority will make the offers of places on their behalf as required by the School Admissions Code.

In accordance with legislation the allocation of places for children with the following will take place first; Statement of Special Educational Needs (Education Act 1996) or Education, Health and Care Plan (Children and Families Act 2014) where the school is named. We will then allocate remaining places in accordance with this policy.

For entry into reception and year 3 in September we will allocate places to parents who make an application before we consider any parent who has not made one.

Attending a nursery or a pre-school does not give any priority within the oversubscription criteria for a place in a school. Parents must make a separate application for the transfer from nursery to a primary or infant school. Parents must also make a separate application for the transfer from infant to junior or primary school.

The oversubscription criteria are listed in the order we apply them.

Definitions of terms indicated by numbers are given separately below.

- A. Looked after children and all previously looked after children (1).
- B. A brother or sister attending the school at the time of application, or who will be attending the school at the expected time of admission. In addition, in the case of infant schools, a brother or sister attending the associated junior school, or who will be attending the associated junior school at the expected time of admission (2).
- C. Nearest School: measured by straight line distance (3).
- D. Church criterion where in operation at certain Voluntary Controlled schools (5).
- E. Increasing order of straight line distance (4).

If the distance criterion is not sufficient to distinguish between two or more applicants for the last remaining place then a lottery will be drawn by an independent person, not employed by the school or working in the Local Authority Children's Service Directorate. The intended overall effect of the proposed oversubscription criteria is to maximise the likelihood that local children will gain places at their local school in an oversubscribed year; it is not possible to guarantee this however.

(1) A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the 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 a school.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. 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).

(2) Brother or sister attending the school at the time of application, or who will be attending the school at the expected time of admission. In all cases both children must live at the same address. We include in this criterion:

- a brother or sister who shares the same biological parents
- a half-brother, half-sister, step-brother or step-sister
- a legally adopted child, a child legally adopted by a biological or step-parent

We take account of sibling links across certain infant and junior schools, these are:

Associated Infant and Junior Schools Associated Junior School

Infant School	Associated Junior School
Holton-Le-Clay Infants' School	Holton-Le-Clay Junior School
Lincoln St Faith's Church of England Infant School	Lincoln St Faith & St Martin Church of England Junior School
Lincoln St Peter in Eastgate Church of England Infants' School	Lincoln Westgate Academy
Lincoln Woodlands Infant and Nursery School	Lincoln Birchwood Junior School
Louth Eastfield Infants' and Nursery School	Louth Lacey Gardens Junior School

Twins and other siblings from a multiple birth

In these cases all the children will be considered together as one application. If one or more can be admitted within the published admission number the school will be allowed to go above its admission number as necessary to admit all the children, unless this would make the class too large. The government's school admissions code makes an exception to the infant class limit in this situation.

Brothers and sisters in the same year group

Where there is only one place available in the school the children will be considered together as one application. The school will be allowed to go above its admission number as necessary to admit all the children except in cases where infant class regulations prevent this from happening. If this happens we can only legally offer one place because the government's school admissions code makes no exception to the infant class size limit for siblings in the same year group. We will offer the parent one place for one child and a different school for the other child or children.

(3) The nearest school is found by measuring the straight line distance from the child's home address to all schools admitting children in the relevant year group. Measurements are calculated electronically from the Post Office address point of the home to the Post Office address point of the school. We measure distance to three decimal places, e.g. 1.256 miles.

(4) Measurements are calculated electronically from the Post Office address point of the child's home address to the Post Office address point of the school by straight line distance. We measure distance to three decimal places, e.g. 1.256 miles.

We use the distance calculated in this way to apply the final oversubscription criterion.

Home Address

By home we mean the address where the child lives for the majority of term time with a parent as defined in section 576 of the Education Act 1996 who has parental responsibility for the child as defined in the Children Act 1989.

Where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of term time. If a parent can show that their child spends an equal amount of time at both addresses during school term time, they can choose which address to use on the application.

If a parent has more than one home, we will take as the home address the address where the parent and child normally live for the majority of the school term time.

We do not take into an account an intention to move.

(5) The following table shows the schools where Church criterion is in operation and gives the local details of how parents can gain priority for this reason.

Parents applying on these grounds must complete and submit the relevant supplementary information form and attendance must be verified by a signed letter from an officiating minister at the place of worship. Schools will verify claims for priority on this ground by contacting the person named by parents on the supplementary form.

If you have only recently moved to the area the school can also consider written evidence of an equivalent commitment to a place of worship at your previous address, provided you have started to worship in the area you have moved to.

School Name

Barrowby Church of
England Primary School

Boston St Nicholas Church of England Primary
School

Voluntary Controlled Schools' Church Criteria

Priority will be given to children of:

1. Regular worshippers at the local Parish Church of All Saints Barrowby.
2. Regular worshippers at Barrowby Baptist Fellowship.

Regular is defined as at least once a month at the place of worship for at least a year by the date of application. This will be verified by a signed letter from an officiating minister at the place of worship.

Children of regular worshippers at St Nicholas, Skirbeck, Boston.

Regular worshippers would require at the least – 'Regular monthly attendance'. This involves the child attending a regular act of worship at the qualifying Church at least once a month and for at least one year prior to the application for a school place being made. Attendance should be verified by a signed letter from an officiating minister at the qualifying Church. Parents must indicate in their application that they are claiming this priority and must complete the form naming the person who can verify that they attend Church.

In the event of a move to the area within a year of the time of application the school can also consider written evidence from an officiating minister at a place of 'Christian worship' at the previous address, provided the parent and child have begun attending a regular act of worship at least once a month at the above qualifying Church.

'Christian worship' is defined as a regular act of worship at a Church of any Christian denomination which is a member of Churches

Together in Britain and Ireland at the time of the application for a school place.

Lincoln St Peter in
Eastgate CofE Infant School

Children regularly attending worship at any of the following Churches in no order of priority:

- St.Peter in Eastgate or
- St.Peter in Carlton or
- St. Mary Magdalene Church, Bailgate or
- Bailgate Methodist Church or
- St. Nicholas Church Newport.

'Regular monthly attendance' involves the child attending a regular act of worship at the qualifying church at least once a month and for at least one year prior to the application for a school place being made. Attendance should be verified by a signed letter from an officiating minister at the qualifying church. Parents must indicate in their application that they are claiming this priority and must complete the form naming the person who can verify that they attend Church.

In the event of a move to the area within a year of the time of application the school can also consider written evidence from an officiating minister at a place of 'Christian worship' at the previous address, provided the parent and child have begun attending a regular act of worship at least

Reserve List

For admission into the intake years (reception at infant and primary schools, year 3 at junior schools) the governors will keep a waiting list which we call a reserve list. If your child is refused a place at a school your child is automatically put on the reserve list, unless you have been offered a higher preference school. This list is in the order of the oversubscription criteria, as required by the School Admissions Code. This means that names can move down the list if someone moves into the area and is higher placed on the oversubscription criteria. The governors do not take account of the time you have been on the list.

For intake years the list is kept by the School Admissions Team until the end of August each year. After this the School Admissions Code requires that schools keep the reserve list until the end of the autumn term, you should contact the school for information about the reserve list.

All Community and Voluntary Controlled schools keep reserve lists for oversubscribed year groups. If you wish the school to add your child to the reserve list you must let the school know. Schools will clear the reserve list at the end of each school year, if you wish your child to remain on the list you must let the school know. If your circumstances change you must let the school know so that they can rank the list accurately and allocate places in accordance with the oversubscription criteria to comply with the School Admissions Code. The governors do not take account of the time you have been on the list.

Appeals

The procedures for appeals relating to admissions will be in accordance with all relevant legislation. They are independent and organised by the County Council Legal Services Section and entirely separate from the admission system. The decision of the independent appeal panel is binding on all parties.

Midyear Admissions

The governors will accept admissions into other year groups unless this would cause an infant class to be unlawfully large or prejudice to the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources. If there are more applications than places then the oversubscription criteria will be used to decide who should be offered the place. If there are no places then you will be told of the independent appeal system. Parents can apply online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Fair Access

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children who live in the home local authority, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full.

Children of UK Service Personnel (UK Armed Forces)

In order to meet the government's military covenant aimed at helping UK service personnel, and Crown Servants returning from abroad we have adopted the following arrangements.

For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area, or crown servants returning to live in the area from overseas, the Governors will:

- Process an application in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address. This address will be used when considering the application against the school's oversubscription criteria.
- Accept a Unit postal address or quartering area address for admissions purposes for a service child.

The Governors will not refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area.

For late co-ordinated applications and midyear applications supported by the appropriate military documentation we will aim to remove any disadvantage to UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces).

The school's Governors will consider whether:

- An application from that address would normally succeed in an

oversubscribed year.

- There is any child on the reserve list with higher priority under the oversubscription criteria. This is because we must only allocate places based on the criteria and must not admit a Services child ahead of another child with higher priority under the criteria.
- The prejudice from admitting an extra child would be excessive.

The Governors have discretion to admit above the admission number in these circumstances if they wish, but are not obliged to do so.

We will need the notice of posting or official government letter and posting address before we can consider an application under these arrangements. We allocate a school as soon as possible by applying the policies and practices that we normally follow.

Fraudulent or Misleading Applications

As an admission authority we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about your application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence that you have made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information, for example a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly.

Admission of Children below Compulsory School Age

Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday.

Where a child has been offered a place:

- That child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday;
- The child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made, whichever is the sooner;
- Where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.
- Parents interested in deferring admission or arranging part-time attendance must contact the school to discuss this.
- Parents of summer born children deferring admission until the child starts Year 1 risk losing the offered school place.

Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside their normal age group, for example if the child is gifted and talented, or has experienced problems such as ill health. Parents wishing to make these requests must contact their home local authority for guidance on the procedure to follow.

