

Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy

Admissions Policy – Reception entry
2016 – 2017



Robert Wilkinson

Primary Academy

a member of

Ebor Alliance Academy



Introduction

- 1 This policy applies to applications to Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy within the primary admissions round, that is when applying for a place in Reception as the normal year of entry to start primary school for the first time.
- 2 The Planned Admission Number – the number of pupils intended to be admitted into this year group – is 85.
- 3 This policy complies with and operates within the City of York Coordinated Admissions Scheme for Primary and Infant Schools in the City of York Local Authority area. The admissions authority for Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy is the academy trust of the school.
- 4 This policy does not apply to ‘in-year’ applications for a place. In-year admissions are those that are made either during the school year, or for admission into year groups other than the normal year of entry. Where applications for an in-year place are received, whether a place can be offered will depend upon the availability of places in the relevant class/year group. If there are more applications for a place than places available, then the oversubscription criteria as in Section B of this policy will be applied to ascertain which child is most entitled to a place.
- 5 The admission of children to a primary school is a completely separate process to nursery admissions. Attendance at a particular nursery class or early years provider does not give a child any priority within the admissions policy for admission to primary school, even if the school and nursery are located on the same premises or run by the school itself.
- 6 Advice and information for parent/carers on school admissions, including **key information that applies to all applications** as well as

some frequently asked questions are available in the City of York Guide for Parents which is available at www.york.gov.uk/guideforparents or upon request from the City of York School Services team.

- 7 The admission of children with an education and health care plan or a statement of special educational needs is covered by different admission regulations. Following negotiation, if Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy has been named, a place will be allocated for these children before considering other applications.

A Admissions into Reception

- 1 Children will normally be admitted into the year group relevant to the child's age and will start full-time in the school year they turn five. All children will be offered the opportunity of a full time place from September in the year of entry.
- 2 This policy includes an option of 'delayed entry'. This means that parent/carers may secure a place at a school under the normal admission arrangements but choose to postpone their child's admission to school until as late as the start of the school term after a child turns five. Parent/carers will also be able to request a part-time place until the start of the term after the child turns five. It is a legal requirement that all children must enter formal full-time education at the start of the term after their fifth birthday.
- 3 Applications should be made by the closing date for applications which is 15 January 2016. Applications can be made online at www.york.gov.uk/schooladmissions or by completing a paper Primary Common Application Form, which can be obtained from School Services, online, or from Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy. There is no additional 'Supplementary Information Form' required to apply for a school place at Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy.
- 4 When making an application, parent/carers are advised to supply any

additional information that may be required to the admissions authority by providing this information in writing direct to the school or by emailing education@york.gov.uk with the child's details. For example, additional information will need to be provided when applying on the basis of being 'previously looked after' or having exceptional medical or social needs which relate to the preferred school.

- 5 Any school's resources, such as teachers and classrooms, have to be used carefully to ensure the best possible standards for education and a safe environment. If no limit were set on the number of children that can go to a school each year these standards could not be maintained. For these reasons each school has a Planned Admission Number – that is the number of places available that will be offered in the year of entry.
- 6 Applicants will be responsible for travel arrangements and the costs of travel to and from school.
- 7 Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy maintains a catchment area. The City of York Local Authority advises applicants to consider their 'catchment' school when making an application. If the place your child is allocated is at a school which you are not in the catchment area for, or if you move out of the catchment area you now reside in, then you may have less chance of being successful when applying for any younger siblings.

B Oversubscription criteria

If the number of applicants exceeds the Planned Admission Number, priority is given to certain categories of children. The oversubscription criteria set out below will be used to prioritise all applicants who have applied for a place at Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy in these circumstances in the following priority order:

- 1 **Children who are either currently or have previously been 'looked after'**. This applies to all children who are currently in the care of a local authority and all children who have been adopted from local authority care;
- 2 **Children who live within the catchment area normally served by Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy**. Details of the catchment area are available to parent/carers in the Guide to School Catchment Areas, online at www.york.gov.uk, from the school itself, or upon request from the School Services team;
- 3 **Children considered by the admissions authority to have exceptional social or medical needs which relate to the preferred school**. The admissions authority may consult with other medical or educational professionals for a further opinion as to whether the child should be allocated a place at the preferred school due to a particular medical condition or social need;
- 4 **Children with siblings at the preferred school at the time of admission**. Siblings are defined as brothers or sisters living in the same house, as their primary place of residence (including half- and step-brothers or sisters);
- 5 **Children who live closest to the preferred school using the nearest available safe walking route**. Distances are measured by a GIS mapping system from the child's home address to the entrance of the school.

Where there are fewer places than children in an oversubscription priority as above, places will be allocated to the child(ren) who also fulfil the next highest priority.

For example, for two children who are both resident in the catchment area and are thus assigned the same (second) priority, the place would be allocated to the child who also fulfils the next highest priority, for example, who also has a sibling at the school (fourth priority) over a child living closer to the school (fifth priority).

In the unlikely case of identical distances under the fifth priority, the applications will be ordered randomly by admissions software.

C Appeals

- 1 Applicants refused a place at a school have the right of appeal. Appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel and their decisions are legally binding. Applicants who wish to appeal should contact the City of York School Services team to request the correct appeal form. Appeal forms should be returned within 20 school days of the date the place was refused.
- 2 Applicants will only be able to appeal once for a place at a given school in any one school year, unless any significant new information is available which was not available at the original hearing.

D False Information

Where an offer of a place has been made on the basis of fraudulent or intentionally misleading information, which has effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

E Late Applications

- 1 Applications received after the closing date of 15 January 2016 may be treated as 'late' applications – that is processed after all 'on-time' applications.

- 2 Where possible, 'late' applications and changes of preference and/or circumstances will be treated as 'on-time' applications if:
 - a) this is accompanied by a satisfactory reason provided at the time of application; and
 - b) it can be accommodated within the timescales of the coordinated scheme and/or admissions authority's processes.
- 3 Late applications received after the offer day, but before the start of the school year will be processed using the same arrangements and criteria as 'on-time' applications, although the availability of places will depend on where places are still available as well as the preferences of applicants.
- 4 Late applications received after the first day of the school year will be considered as 'in-year' applications. However, these preferences, if unsuccessful, will be held on a waiting list until the end of the first term in line with 'on-time' applications as set out in Section F of this scheme.

F Waiting List

- 1 If a school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held from when offers have been made until 31 December 2016.
- 2 A child's position on the list will be determined by the oversubscription criteria set out in Section B of this policy and will reflect their current circumstances where these circumstances have been provided to the admissions authority.

G Timetable

by 12 September 2015	Opening date for applications. Primary Common Application Form made available and online applications start to be accepted at www.york.gov.uk/schooladmissions
15 January 2016	Closing date for 'on-time' applications (both online and by paper Primary Common Application Form)
from 16 January 2016	Applications received may be treated as 'late'
18 April 2016	National Offer Day
20 May 2016	Deadline for return of appeal papers for 'on-time' applicants
23 May 2016 – 22 July 2016	Admission appeals for 'on-time' applicants
September 2016	Start of the school year
31 December 2016	Waiting list for all community and voluntary controlled primary and infant schools closes

H Contact details for correspondence

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