

# HALFWAY HOUSES PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ADMISSIONS POLICY (statutory) for September 2024



**Reviewed:** January 2023

Pupils will be admitted to the school without reference to ability, aptitude or background. The school's standard number has been 90, which means that admission for up to 90 children must be provided for each year: 3 classes in each year group. Admissions to the reception classes will be during the academic year in which a child's fifth birthday falls. Before the application of the school's oversubscription criteria (as set out below), children with a Statement of Special Educational Need or Education (SEN), Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names Halfway Houses Primary School, will be admitted. As a result of this, the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be applied in the order set out here to decide which children should be admitted.

### **Looked After Child**

Children in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care – a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. 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).

### **Sibling**

Children with a sibling attending the school at the time of admission. Sibling is defined in these arrangements as children who live as brother or sister in the same house including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

### **Children with Exceptional Compassionate, Social, Medical/Health or Special Access Needs**

Medical, health, social and special access reasons will be applied in accordance with the school's legal obligations in particular those under the Equality Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend Halfway Houses Primary School. Equally this priority will apply to children whose parents'/guardians' physical or mental health or social needs mean that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Such claims will need to be supported by written evidence from a suitably qualified medical or other practitioner who can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and Halfway Houses Primary School.

### **Nearness of Children's Homes to School**

We use the distance between the child's permanent home address and the school, measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point data. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the school site is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for the school, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the school. If two or more children in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place(s) at the school, and their family homes are measured as being equidistant from the school, a random draw will be made to determine which child(ren) should be offered the place(s). The criteria above, in the order as set out, will also be applied to fill any vacancies that occur during the school year. Where any waiting list is held, it will be re-ranked, in line with the published oversubscription criteria, every time a child is added.

## **Deferred entry for Reception places**

Parents offered a place in Reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child takes up the place, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age

## **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so, they should include a written request with their application, setting out the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place and the reasons for their request. When such a request is made, the Head will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case, based on their professional judgement of what is in the best interest of the child, taking.

Where an offer has been made, we will provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can choose to defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year, but not beyond the start of the term after their child reaches compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year. Where parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year, but not beyond the start of the term after their child reaches compulsory school age.

Requests for admission to Reception outside of the normal age group should be made in writing to the Headteacher as early as possible in the admissions round associated with that child's date of birth. This will allow the school and admissions authority sufficient time to make a decision before the closing date. Parents are not expected to provide evidence to support their request to defer their application, however where provided it must be specific to the child in question. This might include medical or Educational Psychologist reports. There is no legal requirement for this medical or educational evidence to be secured from an appropriate professional, however, failure to provide this may impede a school's ability to agree to deferral. Parents are required to complete an application for the normal point of entry at the same time, in case their request is declined. This application can be cancelled if the school agrees to accept a deferred application for entry into Year R the following year. Deferred applications must be made via paper Reception Common Application Form (RCAF) to the LA, with written confirmation from each named school attached. Deferred applications will be processed in the same way as all applications for the cohort in the following admissions round and offers will be made in accordance with the oversubscription criteria outlined above.

## **Admission appeals**

If we do not offer a child a place at this school, it is because to do so would prejudice the education of other children by allowing the numbers of children in the school to increase too much.

If parents wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry, they can do so by appealing directly to the school. An independent appeals panel, set up by the Local Authority, then meets to consider all appeals by parents who have been refused a place and who wish to appeal against this decision. An appeals panel's decision is binding for all parties concerned. If the appeals panel decides that the school should admit then the school will accept this and continue to do all it can to provide the best education for all the children at the school. An appeals form can be collected from the main school office or can be downloaded from the KCC website.

Details of the Halfway Houses Primary School Admissions policy and appeal arrangements will be published annually on the school's website.

Policy Reviewed:	January 2023
Next Review:	January 2024