



Grove Park Primary School

Admissions Criteria 2023/24

Policy For: Grove Park Primary School

Policy Owner: Nicci Hague, Headteacher

Policy Date: March 2022

Review Date: March 2023

- The Trust Board of Grove Park Academies Trust will monitor the application of this policy and take appropriate steps to ensure that it is operating effectively.
- This policy will be reviewed **annually** to ensure its effective application.
- This policy and linked documentation are stored by the central administration team.
For further information contact can be made by telephoning: 01795 477417 or emailing admin@groveparkacademies.org
- This policy has been approved by the Trust Board of Grove Park Academies Trust on **10th March 2022**

1. ADMISSIONS DETAILS

- 1.1 Kent County Council is the admission authority for Grove Park Primary School. The school is planning to admit 60 children to year R in September 2023. Children will be admitted without reference to ability or aptitude. Before the oversubscription criteria any child with an Educational Health and Social Care Plan naming the school will be admitted, in which event the Published Admission Number will be reduced accordingly.

2. ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

2.1 The criteria for Academies, Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools are as follows:

- Children in Local Authority Care
- Current Family Association (sibling)
- Health and Special Access Reasons
- Nearness of Children's Homes to School

2.2 Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

- A Looked After Child (LAC) is a child who is (a) in the care of the Local Authority (LA), or (b) being provided with accommodation by a LA in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1999) at the time of making an application to a school.
- A Previously Looked After Child means such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and those children 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.
- 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.

2.3 Current Family Association (sibling)

- A Current Family Association means that the child who wants a place will have a brother or sister attending the same school when they start there. We count linked infant and junior schools as one school. We give priority to brothers and sisters (children who live as brother and sister in the same house, including natural brothers or sisters, adopted siblings, step brothers or sisters and foster brothers or sisters): Parents can claim a sibling link for their child where an older brother or sister is in the same school at the time when the younger child would start school. The sibling claim will stand if the family have continued to live at the same house as when the older sibling was admitted into the school.

OR

If the family has moved, and they have moved to within 2 miles of the school.

OR

If the family has moved nearer to the school from where they were living previously.

- Linked schools are considered to be the same school under this criterion and brother or sister means children who live as brother and sister **in the same house**, including natural brothers and sisters, adopted brothers and sisters, step brothers or sisters and foster brothers or sisters. This does not include cousins.
- If siblings from multiple births (e.g. twins, triplets etc) apply for a school and the school reaches its published admission number after admitting one or more, (but not all) of the children, Kent County Council will offer a place to all of the multiple birth siblings. This will only be applicable as on the offer date of April 2023. This is in line with the Chief Schools Adjudicator's recommendations made in 2009 and accepted by the then Secretary of State. If doing so, will take the school above its published admission number and possibly result in breaching class size legislation, the children are to be treated as 'excepted' pupils. Unfortunately, if your older sibling is currently attending school in Year 6 and will be transferring to secondary school in September 2023, you cannot claim a sibling link for your younger child, they must still be attending the school at the time of entry.

2.4 Health and Special Access Reasons

- 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 a particular school. Equally, this priority will apply to children whose parents/guardians physical or mental health or social needs means 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 which can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and the particular school that parents feel is **the only school** that can accommodate their child's needs. This must be sent to the Primary Admissions Team before the applications close..

2.5 Priority Order

- Schools' Admission Criteria are arranged in priority order, and they make sure that certain children will get places, even if they do not live closest to the school. For most children applying for school, this last criterion is the most important one, as those children who are living nearer to the school are usually the ones that Kent County Council will offer to before those who live further away. It is therefore very important that when you complete your RCAF/JCAF that you give your exact address.
- In the unlikely event that two or more children in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place at the school, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.
- Many available maps and internet based measuring tools will give you an indication of the distance from your address to a school, but they often use different reference points. To make sure that we measure the distance from each child's home to the school they want in a fair way, Kent County Council uses 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 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.

2.5 Waiting List

- The schools' waiting list will be re-ranked, in-line with the published oversubscription criteria, every time a child is added.

2.6 Reception Aged Pupils

- Parents of reception aged children should be informed of their right of deferment entry or to take the place on a part-time basis, until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age (2014 Admission Code has made this a right where historically parents have only had the right to request).

3. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CODE

3.1 School Admissions Code (new regulations from September 2021)

- The School Admissions Code ("the code") has been issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and comes into force from 1st September 2021. The Code, in full, can be read [HERE](#), and is also available from the school office upon request.
- The main purpose of the Code is support the in-year admissions of vulnerable children and include updated

guidance on Fair Access Protocols; giving children from adopted state care outside of England equal admissions priority as children who were previously looked after in England (the Code will refer to these children as “Internationally Adopted, Previously Looked After Children” (“IAPLAC”)); and clarification of which address to use for the admission of service or crown servant children.