

ADMISSIONS POLICY & OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA SEPTEMBER 2021

Horizon Primary Academy admits 30 pupils into each year group. Children are admitted to the Reception Class in the school year in which they have their fifth birthday. The school will implement its oversubscription criteria based on the information supplied below. Children with a statement of special educational need or Education (SSEN), Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the school will be admitted. As a result of this, the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.

This policy was updated in July 2021 to be compliant with the Admissions Code which comes into force on September 2021 to expand upon the criteria giving priority to previously looked after children

In the event of oversubscription in any year group, the following criteria will be applied, in priority order:

- 1) 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, including 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 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).

A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in 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) Children with brother or sisters attending Horizon Primary Academy at the time of entry. Brother or sister means children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers and sisters, adopted siblings, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.
- 3) Children with medical or social needs which make the school particularly suitable for the child. Medical/health 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 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 the particular school.
- 4) Any other pupils

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. 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. 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.

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. Children reach compulsory school age on 31 August, 31 December or 31 March – whichever of those three dates follows (or falls on) the child's 5th birthday. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the summer term (April) of the school year for which the offer was made.

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 account of the evidence and rationale provided by the parents.

The school maintains waiting lists for all year groups which are updated on a regular basis.

Queries about the Admissions Policy should be addressed to the Chairman of Governors c/o Horizon Primary Academy.

You have the right of appeal to an independent panel against the refusal of a place at our school; should you wish to do so you should lodge your appeal with the admissions authority. You can do this in writing to: The Appeal Panel Administrator, Kent County Council, Democratic Services, Sessions House, County Hall, MAIDTONE, Kent. ME14, 1XQ or the Clerk to Governors at the school.

Published admission number (PAN) for 2022/23 is 30