

The Heights Primary School Policy for
ADMISSIONS 2021/2022
Version 1.2

Responsible officer: Headteacher
Responsible Committee: Full Governing Body

Date of last review: October 2019
Date of next review: October 2020



1. Introduction

The Heights Primary School is a mainstream primary school and provides school places for children aged 4-11. It opened in September 2014 in response to Reading Borough Council's school place consultation and is a free school.

The school is scheduled to move to its permanent location at Mapledurham Playings Fields (at the heart of the catchment area) during the academic year 2020/21. Following the original ethos of the Founding Trust Members, The Heights promotes sustainable travel to and from school and parents will be strongly encouraged to support the School's Travel Plan.

The Heights has a vision to ensure all children ASPIRE: Achieve Success while Providing Individual Responsibility and Excellence. The Heights aims to be an innovative and dynamic place to stimulate young minds and ensure the best quality teaching staff and resources are used to achieve ambitious targets.

This policy has been developed by the governors in consultation with parents and the school's Academy Trust. The Heights is committed to straightforward, open, fair and transparent admissions arrangements and every effort has been made to ensure that these arrangements fully comply with the School Admissions Code 2014, the School Admissions Appeals Code and admission law as they apply to academies.

This policy is reviewed on an annual basis.

Although the School participates in Reading Borough Council's centralised co-ordinated admission's process, the Admissions Authority is the school's Academy Trust which has delegated the taking of all decisions required to be made under this policy to the Governing Body.

2. Published Admissions Number (PAN)

For the 2021/22 academic year the Published Admissions Number (PAN) of The Heights Primary School is set at 50 for admission into Reception.

3. Application Process

In accordance with the co-ordinated admission arrangements agreed with Reading Borough Council, applications to The Heights Primary School must be submitted to the child's home Local Authority ('LA'), which may or may not be Reading Borough Council. The common application form provided by the LA will need to be completed in order to apply for The Heights Primary School.

4. Applications for Entry in 2021/22

Reading Borough Council's composite prospectus (guide for parents and carers) gives information about the school and assists parents in expressing their preference for a school. This can be obtained from the Local Authority's office at the Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 7LU.

For 2021/22 admissions, the application must be submitted by 15 January 2021. Applications received after 15 January 2021 will be considered as a late application and considered in accordance with the co-ordinated admission arrangements of the home LA. The normal admission round ends on 31 August 2021.

Applications will be considered for children whose fifth birthday falls on or between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 and summer born children (whose fifth birthday falls on or between 1st April 2021 and 31st August 2021) who have not yet commenced full time education.

Parents will be informed by their home LA on 16 April 2021 if a place is offered by The Heights Primary School.

School admission authorities are required to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday, but flexibilities exist for children whose parents do not feel they are ready to begin school before they reach compulsory school age:

1. Although children do not need to be in statutory education until the September, January or April after their fifth birthday, places offered are on a full-time basis from September 2021.
2. Parents may delay entry into school until their child reaches compulsory school age, being January 2022 or April 2022 following their 5th birthday.

Parents considering this are asked to contact the Headteacher as soon as possible.

3. Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group. In addition parents of children born on or between 1st April 2016 and 31st August 2016 ('summer born children') may request not to send their child to school until September 2021. In these circumstances, the governing body is responsible for making the decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned. Parents should note that whilst there is in general no statutory barrier to children being admitted outside their normal age group, parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular age group.

If such a request is granted:

- (a) The original Reception place will be reallocated to another child; and
- (b) The parents/carers will need to reapply for a Reception place in the next school year in the normal way. If the child receives a place in the following year, they will usually progress through the school in this year group, i.e. out of their normal age group.

Parents considering delayed entry are asked to contact the Headteacher as soon as possible.

4. Parents are also entitled to request part time education until the term after the child reaches the age of 5. *In such instances they should discuss details with the Headteacher.*

The school will organise a transitional programme of visits and induction, details of which will be released shortly after Offer Letters have been sent out by the LA.

5. Over-subscription

If there are more applications than places available priority for places will be given according to the following over-subscription criteria. The over-subscription criteria take no account of the parents/carers' order of preference and applications for each school named by the parents/carers.

Please note that children with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or Education Health & Care (EHC) plan that names The Heights Primary School will be allocated a place above all other applicants.

In the event of over-subscription available places will be awarded in the following order:

- 1) Looked after Children in the care of a Local Authority or Children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order) immediately after they had been looked after. Provided appropriate evidence is submitted – Please see Note 1.
- 2) Children who have strong medical or social grounds for admission. Please see Note 2.
- 3) Children whose permanent home address is in the catchment area of the school and have a sibling who is expected to be attending the school when the child starts school. Please see Note 3.
- 4) Children who have a sibling who was attending the school on 3rd October 2014 (the first national school census day for 2014/2015) and have a sibling (not necessarily the same sibling) who is expected to be attending the school when the child starts school. Please see Note 4.
- 5) Children whose permanent home address is in the catchment area of the school.
- 6) Children whose permanent home address is not in the catchment area of the school but have a sibling who is expected to be attending the school when the child starts school. Please see Note 3.
- 7) Other children.

6. Notes Relating to the Over-subscription Criteria

Note 1 – Category 1 – Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

Confirmation by the local authority that last looked after the child that the child was looked after immediately prior to the issuing of one of the following orders:

- Adoption order issued after December 2005 in England and Wales only
- Residence order issued after December 2005 in England and Wales only
- Special guardianship order issued after December 2005 in England and Wales only
- Children who have left care under Scottish or Northern Ireland legislation will not be included.

Note 2 – Category 2 – Medical / Social Reasons

Children with a chronic medical condition or strong social grounds in the family will be considered in this category provided a written request from a professional (i.e. Educational Psychologist, Social worker, Doctor) supporting the child or family is submitted. The request must state that The Heights is the only school suitable for the child because of the medical or social reasons of the child or family and that no other school can meet their needs. It is not sufficient for the professional to report what the parent/carer told them.

Note 3 – Category 3 and 6 – Divert rule

Where the child was admitted to The Heights Primary School as a lower preference school to their catchment area school, or the parents/carers did not apply for a place for their child at The Heights but were allocated a place at The Heights by Reading Borough Council, and, in either case, at the date the place was offered the child's home address was outside the catchment area of The Heights, the application for any younger siblings for The Heights will be treated as within the catchment area of The Heights and within category 3.

However, please note that the usual tiebreaker will continue to apply, so in the case of more applicants than places in category 3, places will be allocated to those living closest to the data point of the area.

The divert rule does not apply if the older sibling joined the school as an In Year Transfer.

Please mention this category on your application form if it applies to your child.

Note 4 – Category 4 – Siblings of founder pupil

Please mention this category on your application form if it applies to your child.

7. Definitions

Catchment Area and Data Point

The catchment area is shown on the school website. The data point will be the school building at the new address Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7LH.

Tiebreaker

If it is not possible to offer a place to all children in a particular category, places will be allocated to those living nearest to the data point of the area, as defined in the above Catchment Area section. The distance is measured as a straight line between the Ordnance Survey data point for the child's home address and the identified data point above. In the rare event that it is not possible to decide between the applications of those pupils who have the same distance measurement then the place will be offered using random allocation.

Parent/Carers

A parent/carer is any person who has parental responsibility or care of the child. Parental responsibility for a child is set out in the Children Act 1989.

Home address

This is the permanent address of the parent/carer and their child, subject to the following criteria:

1. The home address is taken to be the address on the offer date (16 April 2021 for normal on time applications) and any change of address after submitting the application must be notified to the Admissions Team at Reading Borough Council and the application will be reviewed using the new address.
2. The governors reserve the right to seek additional evidence of proof of address. If such additional evidence is required it must be provided within 2 weeks of the request being made.
3. Should the child regularly spend nights during the school week at more than one address the following rules will apply:
 - (a) the Home Address is taken to be the address where the child spends the most of these nights; and
 - (b) Should the child regularly spend nights during the school week (Sunday to Thursday nights) at more than one address and spend an equal number of nights during that time at more than one, the home address will be that of the parent/carer in receipt of child benefit for the child, or, (if child benefit is not receivable or if this is not one of the addresses at which the child spends most nights), that at which the child is registered with their GP
 - (c) Where a family claims or it is evident that a child is resident at more than one address, justification and evidence of the family's circumstances (e.g. legal separation) will be required
4. Temporary addresses cannot be used to obtain a school place whilst retaining a previous permanent home unless evidence is produced to show that this address is no longer available to the family i.e. the property has been rented out. Where an application has been submitted which shows a new temporary address evidence of a rental agreement of at least a year that goes beyond 1 September 2021 will have to be submitted.

Any place offered based on misleading information and/or with the intention of deception or fraud concerning a permanent home address will be withdrawn.

Siblings

Siblings are older siblings for purposes of admission criteria during the routine admission rounds. Siblings are children who have either the same mother or father, or they are children who live together in a family unit and with their parent/carer(s). Siblings include adopted or foster brothers or sisters. Siblings must live at the same permanent home address as each other. If they do not live at the same address, then they are not treated as siblings.

Multiple births (twins, triplets etc.) and siblings with a different date of birth in the same year group - Places are offered according to the over-subscription criteria. In the event that this would result in splitting up

children each case will be considered and in most cases the other child/children will be offered a place provided the admission will not prejudice the provision of efficient education and efficient use of resources.

8. In Year Applications

In Year Applications should be made directly to the School Office via admissions@theheightsprimary.co.uk who will advise if a place is available. In the event that no place is available the applicant may choose to join the waiting list. Should places subsequently become available it will be allocated to those on the waiting list in accordance with the over-subscription criteria in Section 5 above.

9. Waiting Lists

After 16 April 2021 a child's position on the waiting list is determined according to the over-subscription criteria and will be re-ranked when new children are added to the list as a result of late applications, change of preference or change of address. When a place becomes available this will be offered to the next child on the waiting list. After the 1 September 2021 children identified for placement as part of Reading Borough Council's Fair Access Protocol can be placed above those on the waiting list. Positions on the waiting lists may go up or down due to pupil withdrawals, new or revised applications. The waiting list will be kept open until end of July 2022.

Any change of address after 16 April 2021 must be notified to the Admissions Team at Reading Borough Council as the over-subscription rules will be applied to the applicant's circumstances at the date the offer is made.

10. Admissions Appeal

Parents who are unsuccessful in obtaining a place have the right to appeal against the decision to an Independent Appeal Panel and the appeal will be considered according to the School Admissions Appeals Code.

How to appeal will be explained by the home Local Authority.

The Appeal Panel has the power to make a decision to admit the child. That decision is legally binding upon the school. Appeals should be made within 20 days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful.

Amendments:

Version	Date	Updated/reviewed
1.1	16 th October 2019	2021/2022 version drafted
1.2	25 th November 2019	Small changes following FGB meeting