



City of
Doncaster
Council

Admission Arrangements For Community Schools

2027 - 2028

(V1 July 2025)

DRAFT

Doncaster Council Admission Arrangements for Community Schools 2027/2028 School Year

- 1 The City of Doncaster Council (the Council) is the Admission Authority for community schools. Only the Council is able to decide who is eligible for a place in these schools. Neither the Headteacher nor their representatives are able to offer a school place.

General Statement

- 2 In Doncaster, each school serves a local community, usually referred to as the 'catchment area'. These arrangements reflect the philosophy that 'efficient education' is particularly fostered by closely associating a secondary school and a group of linked primary schools, in a pyramid. In this way, each school becomes part of the provision for a community and the education of the community's children benefits greatly from the association of its schools.

Published Admission Number

- 3 A school must have an admission number for each 'relevant age group', defined in law as 'an age group in which pupils are or will normally be admitted to the school in question'. The admission number for each year group is set with regard to the capacity assessment for the school taking into account the nature and type of the school buildings and provides for an acceptable amount of space for each pupil. Therefore, the admission number is set to benefit the children who are taught in the school and those who teach and support them. Each school year, the Council consults with the Governing Body of the school before the admission number is set. (See Appendix 1.)
- 4 Before making a final decision, the Council consults schools on the number, and size, of classes or registration groups planned. These are determined within resources available. Where this results in places in excess of the admission number being available, places are offered strictly in criteria order.
- 5 A child will normally be eligible to a place unless the number of applications for admission exceeds the admission number or they are offered a school which is ranked higher on an application under a Co-ordinated Admission Schemeⁱ (CAS).

Expressing A Preference

- 6 Applications for admission should be made in accordance with the relevant CAS.

Closing Date For Receipt Of Parental Preferences

- 7 The closing date for receipt of preferences for the year of entry is 15 January 2027.

Late applications for the year of entry are processed after those received by the closing date.

Announcement Date for Parental Preferences

- 8 For those applications received by the closing date noted in 7 above, emails will be sent to parents on 16 April 2027.

Eligibility For A Place At A School - Oversubscription Criteria

A. Primary and Infant Schools

- 9 This section outlines the criteria to be used to decide upon eligibility for a place where the number of preferences exceeds the Published Admission Number.

After the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school, preferences for each school will be sorted in the order of the criterion outlined below. Each of the remaining criteria is applied in order of priority as tie breakers, with criterion d) being the final tie breaker.

- a) **Looked After Children and all previously Looked After Childrenⁱⁱ**
b) **Catchment Area**

Children who are ordinarily residentⁱⁱⁱ in the catchment area of the preferred school. (Details of Catchment Areas are available from the Council at www.doncaster.gov.uk/admissions.)

For applications for the year of entry, a catchment area school will be determined in relation to the address at which the pupil is ordinarily residentⁱⁱⁱ on the closing date. Once a waiting list is formed, a child's place on that list will be updated in light of any new address. For other admissions the applicable date is the date of application.

- c) **Siblings**

Children who are living within the same family unit (e.g. stepchildren) who will be attending the requested school, (excluding nursery), at the point of admission. Where the requested school is an infant school, attendance at a linked junior school will be included.

- d) **Proximity**

Children who live nearest to the requested school measured in a straight line from the centre point of the child's ordinary place of residenceⁱⁱⁱ, to the entrance nearest to the reception point of the school building. In the case of split site schools, 'entrance nearest to the reception point' will refer to the Infant site.

If two or more pupils live equidistant from the school, the distance each pupil lives by road from the preferred school will be measured and the place offered

to the pupil who lives nearest by this means. In the event of this being equal (e.g. in the case of flats), places will then be decided by Random Allocation.

Measurements will be made using Synergy provided by Servelec Limited or suitable substitute.

Where a place is only available in any of the above criterion for one child from a multiple birth i.e. twins, each child will be offered a place.

Eligibility For A Place At A School - Oversubscription Criteria

B. Junior Schools

- 10 This section outlines the criteria to be used to decide upon eligibility for a place where the number of preferences exceeds the Published Admission Number.

After the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school, preferences for each school will be sorted in the order of the criterion outlined below. Each of the remaining criterion are applied in order of priority as tie breakers, with criterion e) being the final tie breaker.

a) Looked After Children and all previously Looked After Childrenⁱⁱ

b) Link Schools

Children attending a school which is a linked infant school and who have, on the closing date, attended a linked infant school continuously for more than one calendar year. (See Appendix 1.)

c) Catchment Area

Children who are ordinarily resident ⁱⁱⁱ in the catchment area of the preferred school. (Details of Catchment Areas are available from the Council at www.doncaster.gov.uk/admissions.)

For applications for the year of entry, a catchment area school will be determined in relation to the address at which the pupil is ordinarily resident ⁱⁱⁱ on the closing date. Once a waiting list is formed, a child's place on that list will be updated in light of any new address. For other admissions the applicable date is the date of application.

d) Siblings

Children who are living within the same family unit (e.g. stepchildren) who will be attending the requested school, at the point of admission. Attendance at a linked infant school will be included.

e) Proximity

Children who live nearest to the requested school measured in a straight line from the centre point of the child's ordinary place of resident ⁱⁱⁱ to the entrance nearest to the reception point of the school building.

If two or more pupils live equidistant from the school, the distance each pupil lives by road from the preferred school will be measured and the place offered to the pupil who lives nearest by this means. In the event of this being equal (e.g. in the case of flats), places will then be decided by Random Allocation.

Measurements will be made using Synergy provided by Servelec Limited or suitable substitute.

Where a place is only available in any of the above criterion for one child from a multiple birth i.e. twins, each child will be offered a place.

The Offer Of A Place At A School

- 11 Decisions will be sent to parents in accordance with the Authority's CAS. i.e. for those received by the closing date the national announcement date is 16 April 2027.

Waiting Lists

- 12 For the year of entry, pupils will be added to the waiting list(s) of community schools where they are refused a place and those schools were ranked higher on the application than the place offered. Late applications will continue to be added to a list in criteria order. A change of address can affect a pupil's position on the waiting list. Places on the waiting list will be strictly prioritised in criteria order given above and will operate for the whole academic year.
- 13 Places will only be allocated from the waiting list when the number of pupils falls below the Admission Limit of the school. Whilst the waiting list is in operation, when a place does become available it will be allocated to the child at the top of the list on the day that the Council receive written confirmation of the vacancy.

In Year Transfers

- 14 Applications for in year transfers are considered in accordance with the Council's CAS.
- 15 Applications should be made on using the Online application system which can be found at www.doncaster.gov.uk/admissions
- 16 A pupil will be deemed eligible for admission if there are sufficient places (see point 22, regarding repeat applications) unless specific circumstances apply^{iv}. However, a pupil will not be eligible for a place if the circumstances of the year group have changed since it was the year of entry and admission of an additional child would 'prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources'.
- 17 Where multiple applications are received for the same year group and there are insufficient places for all applicants, eligibility for admission will be considered in accordance with the admission criteria set out above.

- 18 Where a place is not available, the application will normally be refused and the applicant will be offered the right of appeal to an independent appeals panel.
- 19 If a place is offered, the headteacher will, within two weeks of receiving confirmation from the Council of an offer of a place, determine a start date.
- 20 Pupils are normally admitted to a school at the start of the next new term other than:-
- where the Headteacher in consultation with the Council considers that the pupil should be admitted earlier in the circumstances of the case, or;
- where the previous school is not accessible with reasonable facility e.g. due to a move into Doncaster or the pupil would otherwise be expected to travel longer than 45 minutes to school by public transport, or;
- the pupil is not on the roll of a school.
- 21 Pupils are required to start at the school within two weeks of the start date offered by the headteacher and places are not normally held open beyond this period. Applicants must be in a position to take up a place within this stated period.
- 22 Repeat applications made for the same year group during the same academic year will not be considered unless there has been significant and material change to either the families or the schools circumstances, since a previous application and this is relevant to the application for admission. Where information was known at the time of the original application or appeal or parents chose not to disclose information, this will not be considered as additional information or a change in circumstances.
- 23 In accordance with DfE requirements pupils may be admitted under the Fair Access Protocol outside of the normal admission arrangements noted above.

Allocation Of Places

- 24 If an application from a Doncaster resident is refused and the pupil does not currently have a place in a Doncaster school, a place will be offered at an alternative school in accordance with the Council's CAS.

Independent Appeals

- 25 If a place is not offered at a preferred school parents have the right to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. Details of the appeals procedure will be sent to parents with their decision.
- 26 Parents who intend to make an appeal should normally submit a notice of appeal within 20 school days of receiving the refusal letter to:
- Litigation and Education Section, Directorate of Resources, Doncaster Council, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

i Co-ordination/Co-ordinated Schemes (CAS)

All local authorities are required to co-ordinate the admission arrangements for residents within their area whereby parents will submit an application to their home Local Authority who will then ensure, as far as is possible, that a single offer of a place is sent to parents.

ii Children who are Looked After Children and all previously Looked After Children

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 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).

An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

iii Ordinarily Resident/Residence

Reference to where a child is ordinarily resident means that they are habitually and normally resident at their address, other than for occasional absences, for a settled purpose which is not solely to receive education. An address will only be considered when they are living there. This includes updating the position on a waiting list.

iv Specific Circumstances For Refusal

An application will normally be agreed if there are sufficient places unless specific circumstances apply, as outlined in the School Admissions Code or as part of the Local Authority's In Year Fair Access Policy.

General Information

Deferred Entry to a Reception Class and Part-time Attendance

Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

Where parents apply for admission to a reception class for a child who is not of statutory school age, and parents wish to defer entry, a child should be admitted to the class no later than the beginning of the summer term in the reception year.

Parents may also want to consider their child attending Reception part-time up until the child reaches compulsory school age. This should be discussed with the Headteacher where parents feel it to be in the best interest of their child.

Delayed Entry of summer born children outside their normal age group

Parents of summer born children (born between 1 April and 31 August) are currently able to request that their child delay entry to a reception class for a full academic year. When such a request is made, the Local Authority will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the head teacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

If the request is allowed, normal admission rules will apply and there is no guarantee that a place will be offered at the requested school(s).

Parents should set out their reasons for their request using the Delayed Entry Request Form and send it to the Local Authority during the autumn term after their third birthday. This will ensure that they do not miss out on a place at the normal point of entry which should be made by the national closing date - 15 January. Further guidance and the form can be found on the Council Website at www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/primary-admissions

False Information

Any place offered on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application will be withdrawn, e.g. giving a false address. It is for parents to satisfy the Council of their circumstances as they apply to the admission criteria at the time of application.

Multiple Addresses

Where a child is resident with parents at more than one address, the address used for admission purposes shall be the place at which the child spends the majority of the school week (Monday to Friday) during term time. Where there is a clear 50/50 split, parents should decide.

Admission of Service Personnel and Crown Servants

To support the Armed Forces Community Covenant, applications for service personnel and crown servants moving to Doncaster will be considered one term in advance of a change of address in accordance with the guidance from the DfE

providing that the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address.

Provision is also made within the Fair Access Protocol to allow for the admission of specified groups of children into schools above the admission number.

Further Information

Further, more detailed information about the admission process is available from the Council and can be found in the Admission To Primary School Booklet, available as follows:-

Address: Learning Provision Organisation Service (Admissions), City of Doncaster Council, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

Email : admissions@doncaster.gov.uk Web: www.doncaster.gov.uk/admissions

APPENDIX 1**Published Admission Numbers**

School Name	Admission Number	School Name	Admission Number
Arksey Primary School	20	Scawthorpe Sunnyfields Primary School	40
Bawtry Mayflower Primary School	30	Sprotbrough Orchard Infant School	60
Bentley New Village Primary School	50	Stainforth Kirton Lane Primary School	30
Copley Junior School	60	Thorne King Edward Primary School	45
Hayfield Lane Primary School	60	Tickhill Estfeld Primary School	30
Kirkby Avenue Primary School	50	Toll Bar Primary School	30
Long Toft Primary School	60	Wadworth Primary School	30
Park Primary School	60	Warmsworth Primary School	60
Scawsby Saltersgate Infant School	90	Windhill Primary School	40

**Linked Community Schools
(Infant/Junior)**

Sprotbrough Orchard Infant School	Copley Junior School
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