

Belthorn Academy Primary School Admissions Policy 2021 - 2022

Belthorn Road

Belthorn

Lancashire

BB1 2NY

01254 55620

URN: 137512

Lancashire County Council school number: 11/504

Number of admission places available: 30

Closing date for applications: TBC

Offer date: TBC

Paragraph 2.16 of the School Admissions Code requires school admission authorities to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday, but children do not reach compulsory school age until after their fifth birthday.

Over subscription – Where applications for admission exceeds the number of places available the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below to decide which children to admit.

Criteria:

- 1a) Looked after children and previously looked after children.
- 1b) Children with special medical or social circumstances affecting the child where these needs can only be met at this school.
- 2) Children who have a sibling attending the school at the time of application and admission (see note c)
- 3) Other children

Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category then the distance between the ordnance survey address points for the school and the home measured in a straight line will be used as the final determining factor. Nearer addresses will have priority over more distant ones. The address point is within the body of the property and usually located at its centre. Where the cut-off point is for addresses within the same building then the single measure between address points will apply and a random draw will determine which addresses receive the offer of a place.

Notes:

- a) **Looked after:** A looked after child is a child who is in care of the Local Authority or being provided with accommodation by the Local Authority in the exercise of their Social Services function. A previously looked after child is one who immediately moved on to being adopted or becoming subject to a residence/child arrangement order or special guardianship order.
- b) **Special medical/social circumstances:** Supporting evidence from a professional i.e. a doctor, psychologist, social worker is essential if admission is to be made under the criterion for special medical or social circumstances. Such evidence must set out the particular reasons why Belthorn Academy Primary is the most suitable school and the difficulties which would impact on the child if they were to attend another school.
- c) **Siblings:** Belthorn Academy Primary defines siblings as brothers, sisters, half-brothers, half-sisters, step-brothers, step-sisters, fostered and adopted children residing at the same address.
- d) **Address of child:** Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the child's "permanent place of residence" will be determined as the address of the parent who normally has responsibility for the majority of school days in a week. Where care is split equally, the household in receipt of the child benefit will determine the address used. Proof of address may be requested for all categories of admissions.
- e) **Twins:** Where twins/children of multiple births request admission where one of the children is the 30th child admitted the other child or children may also be admitted. This also includes exceptions under the school admissions code.
- f) **Waiting List:** The waiting list is compiled in accordance with our Admissions Criteria. Parents of children who are not admitted can request to have their names placed on the waiting list.
- g) **Late applications:** Applications for school places which are received late will not necessarily be dealt with at the same time as those received by the set deadline. The reasons for a late application may be requested and where these are not exceptional the relevant admission criteria will be initially applied to all others received on time. The late application will be dealt with after this process.

In-year admissions

A child may need to change school other at the start of the academic year in September. Such admissions are known as in-year admissions. Parents wishing their child to attend the school should arrange to visit the school. An application form will be provided. If there is place in the appropriate class, then the Governors will arrange for an admission to take place. If there is no place available, the Admissions Committee will consider the application. If a refusal occurs, then information on how to appeal this decision will be provided. Appeals for children moving into the area will not be considered until evidence of a permanent address is provided. Re-applications for a place within the same academic year are not allowed unless there has been relevant, significant and material change in the family circumstances.

Admissions – general information

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. Where a parent requests their child is admitted out of their normal age group, the school is responsible for making the decision on which year group a child should be admitted to. A decision is made on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned. There is no statutory barrier to children being admitted outside their normal age group, but parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular age group.

Deferring admissions for Reception class age children

There is flexibility for parents who do not feel their child is ready to start school before compulsory school age. They may defer the date their child is admitted to school until later in the school year following their fourth birthday, providing they do not defer beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or beyond the start of the final term of that school year. Alternatively, their child may attend school part-time until they reach compulsory school age.

Deferring admission for summer born children

Children born in the summer term, (1 April – 31 August) are not required to start school until a full year after the point at which they could first have been admitted – the point at which other children in their age range are beginning Year 1. Should the parent wish their child to be admitted to Reception, rather than Year 1, at this point, they may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group. Paragraph 2.17A of the code requires that, in any circumstance where a parent requests their child is admitted out of their normal age group, the school must make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned.