

Determined Admission & Oversubscription Policies for admissions to the Lancashire Maharishi Free School (888/6018) in the academic year 2023/24

Introduction

The Admissions Body is the Governing Body of Maharishi Free School. The published admission number for Year R is 20.

The Maharishi Free School is a Reception to Year 11 (all-through) School. A child already enrolled at the school in Year 6 will automatically have a place in Year 7 and there will be no need to reapply.

Maharishi Free School does not participate in Lancashire County Council's in-year admissions scheme.

Any pupil will be admitted without reference to academic ability or aptitude, race, colour, gender, religion, socio-economic status, ethnicity or national origins.

Open Days

In order to appreciate the unique practical and philosophical differences inherent in Consciousness-based Education, it is also expected that parents/carers attend one of the many Maharishi Free School open days held throughout the year prior to choosing Maharishi Free School for their child; during this open day, parents will be briefed on these differences including both the School's and the parent's responsibilities. Should schedule conflicts not permit attendance at an open day we would be happy to schedule a time that is mutually convenient.

Reception

Reception places are available on a full or part-time basis and parents should feel free to approach the School and discuss this option at any time.

Deferred Entry

If your child is offered a full time place before s/he reaches compulsory school age, you have the option of deferring the child's entry until later in the school year or of having the child attend on a part-time basis, but not beyond the start of the next term after the child's fifth birthday. A place will be held and will not be offered to another child.

Pupils Admitted out of Year group

Although the majority of children are admitted to school within their own, standard, chronological age group, parents occasionally seek places outside their child's normal age group. This may be to advance gifted and talented children, or hold back those who have experienced problems or missed part of a year (e.g. due to ill health). While it would not normally be appropriate for a child to be placed in a year group that is not concurrent with their chronological age, we will consider requests to admit a child out of its normal year group if there are reasonable educational reasons for such an admission.

If it is decided that there are grounds to consider an 'out of year' application, parents refused an application for a place at a school have a statutory right of appeal (see section below). However, there is no right of appeal if a place has been offered but not in the desired out of Year group.

Multiple Birth children

When the Local Authority ranking list is received, multiple birth children will be ranked consecutively in all cases. However, if the ranked position of such children means that one of them is within the PAN or maximum class size and the other(s) are not, then the school is not able to exceed the PAN or maximum class size to accommodate all children, for Health and Safety reasons. Please see note 2 at the end of the Oversubscription criteria.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Applications for children with a statement for special educational needs, EHCP or any statutory replacement, where the school is named, are considered separately in liaison with the Local Authority. Where places are allocated within this category they are admitted before the application of the over-subscription criteria.

Permanent Address

The child's permanent address is the one where he or she usually wakes up. Where a child lives with one parent for part of the week and another for the rest of the week, only the permanent address, as defined above, will be accepted for a school admission application. Parents may be asked for evidence of residence where this is required to apply the admission policy (ie for straight line measures).

Late Applications

Any applications received after the closing date will be accepted but considered only after those received by the closing date. You are therefore encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

Fraudulent Information

If the allocation of a place has been made on the basis of fraudulent or intentionally misleading information, the governors reserve the right to withdraw the place. In certain circumstances places may be withdrawn after a child has started at the school.

Oversubscription Policy

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the School Governing Body will apply the following criteria in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit:

- a) Looked after children or a child who was previously looked after, but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement order, or special guardianship order or those children who appear to the school to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- b) Where the applicant is considered a sibling of a child enrolled at the School at the time of application (sibling, half-sibling, adopted sibling or foster sibling, as long as they are living with the same family at the same permanent address).
- c) Children of any staff permanently employed in either or both of the following circumstances:
 - i) where the member of staff has been employed at the School for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
 - ii) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post in the School for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage for the requirements of the post
- d) Where having applied the above criteria and allocated places to the children satisfying those criteria there remain places available, 50% (rounded up) of the places remaining will be allocated in order of proximity of the child's permanent address to the School's address, with the most proximate first. The measurement used will be the same as the Local Authority (Lancashire) uses for its Community Schools, viz a straight line (radial) measure from the centre of the pupil's home to the centre of the school building where the relevant year-group to which the child is being admitted is usually taught,. The remaining 50% of places (rounded down) will be allocated by a random draw.

Note:

1. The distance and random draw allocation measures in d) will be used as a tie-breaker for earlier criteria should any of those criteria be oversubscribed.
2. Tied distances (eg twins and other multiple birth children, or the same block of flats) are decided by random draw.

Waiting List

Disappointed applicants can contact the school and apply to be placed on a waiting list ranked according to the oversubscription criteria. As a new child is added, the list will be ranked again in line with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will remain in operation from the day the original places are awarded and will be used to allocate places which become available before the start of the school year. A separate waiting list will be maintained for each year group.

Parents can be notified on request of the status of a waiting list but indication of the likelihood of being offered a place will not be given as their position may change if families having a higher priority, who apply for places for their children, move into the neighbourhood of the school. The Local Authority will retain a Reception class waiting list until 31st August each year and the Governing Body will retain its own lists for each class, for at least one school term from the beginning of each school year.

Appeal Procedures

Parents wishing to appeal against the refusal to admit a child to the School may do so by requesting the appeal form from the Clerk to the Governing Body at the School, preferably within 14 school days of receipt by parents of a letter informing them that a place is not available. An independent appeal panel will be convened to consider the appeal.