



Abbey Park School Admissions Policy

Admissions Arrangements for September 2020 entry

Abbey Park School is an Academy within The Park Academies Trust, which means the Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for the school's admission policy but the school's own Local Advisory Board is responsible for making arrangements to implement the policy. Swindon Local Authority has been commissioned to administer all admissions to the School.

Abbey Park School is focused on achieving the highest possible results with each child, regardless of ability. The school has a flexible curriculum offering a range of courses in each curriculum area, thereby allowing each child to follow a course commensurate with their ability in that subject. As well as offering challenging courses in each curriculum area, the school has special programmes for pupils who are academically gifted and/or have particular talents relating to sport.

Students are admitted to Abbey Park School at age 11 without reference to ability or aptitude.

Admissions into Year 7, September 2020

Admissions Procedure

Applications must be made through the Local Authority's Coordinated Scheme and all instructions and deadlines in the scheme should be adhered to by applicants. Late applications are dealt with in accordance to the scheme procedures.

Full details of the scheme can be found on their website at www.swindon.gov.uk

Published Admissions Number (PAN)

The published admission number of children aged 11 for the academic year commencing on 1st September 2020 will be 240.

Oversubscription Criteria

When applications for admission exceed the number of places available in any year group the following oversubscription criteria will be applied in the order set out below, to decide which students to admit:

A child who has a Statement of Special Educational Needs will be admitted to the school named on the child's statement.

1. A 'Looked After Child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. 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 function defined by Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989.
2. Any child who has a sibling attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Children that live within the catchment area for Abbey Park School.

4. Children that do not live within the catchment area for Abbey Park School.

Decider

In all cases where the school is oversubscribed, distance measured as a straight line will be used to prioritise applications within the over-subscription criteria. If the direct distance does not separate applicants, places will be offered by random allocation. The random process will be repeated and any previous random order will be discarded. In the case of multiple births the Local Advisory Board may decide to admit all children.

This oversubscription criteria listed above will continue to be used to allocate any places that become available for in year admissions.

Definitions and Details

Sibling

Sibling refers to a child who has a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as the sibling who is attending Abbey Park School at the time of admission.

Catchment Area:

A catchment area is a geographical area set around the school from which children are admitted. A map of this area is available for inspection by parents at the school and on the school website. It is also attached below as Appendix 1. Priority is given to those living in the catchment area closest to Abbey Park School. This distance is measured as a straight line from the centre point of the School site to the centre point of the child's home address. (If there is a joint address please see the Home Address section below to determine which address will be used.)

Looked After Child

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 function defined by Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. This also applies to a 'Looked After Child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. If children have ever been Looked After or Adopted or subject to a residency or special guardianship order evidence would need to be provided.

Home Address

The home address given on the application form must be the address where the child resides for most of the week with his or her parent or carer. The school will not accept more than one address as the child's home address. The terms of a residency order may clarify the home address. Where necessary to determine which address to recognise and in the absence of a residency order, the school will consider the home address to be with the parent with primary day to day care and control of the child. In reaching this decision, evidence may be requested to show the address to which any Child Benefit is paid and from which the child is registered with a medical GP. Any other evidence provided by parents will also be considered in reaching a decision on the home address for admissions purposes. This may be necessary for instance where parents do not agree on the child's home address.

Waiting List

If your child has been refused a place at Abbey Park School, he or she will automatically be placed on the school's waiting list. Names can only be removed from the list if a parent has requested removal or if a place has been offered. Placing a child's name on a waiting list does not affect the parent's right of appeal against an unsuccessful application. Please note that waiting lists are created according to the over-subscription criteria and no preference is given to the amount of time spent on the list. Your child could move down the list as a result, as well as up. The Local Authority will keep a waiting list for each year group for one academic year.

Late Applications

The closing date for applications is the 31st October 2019. Applications may be submitted after this date but they will be considered as late application, which means they will not be considered until all the on time applications have been considered. The LA will endeavour to deal with late applications before the offer date, but it may not be possible to do this in every circumstance.

Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Pupils with a statement of special educational needs at the time of allocation are required to be admitted to the school named on their statement. Once a statement reaches the formal proposed stage the administration of the admission of the young person becomes the responsibility of Special Educational Needs Assessment Team (SENAT) at which point this policy ceases to apply.

Appeals Procedure

Any child who is refused a place at the school has the right to appeal against this decision to an independent panel. Parents wishing to appeal will need to complete an appeal form, available from the Local Authority and return this to them once completed. The Local Authority will then arrange for an independent panel to consider the appeal.

Fair Access Protocol

Abbey Park School recognises the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocols and will adhere to these.

Appendix 1: Abbey Park School Catchment Area September 2020

