



Outcomes Focused, Child Centred

The Ferns Primary Academy

Admission Policy 2020 – 2021

Introduction

The Ferns Primary Academy is sponsored by Northern Education Trust. Northern Education Trust is the Admissions Authority for the Academy.

The Northern Education Trust Academy Council for The Ferns Primary Academy has decided that The Ferns Primary Academy will adhere to the Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council's Admissions Policy and the admissions arrangements for the Academy will follow the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for schools and academies in Bolton.

Full copies of the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme can be found on the Bolton Metropolitan Borough council website at:

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions/primary-school-places>

Admission Policy

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for September 2020 is 60.

The Ferns Primary Academy will follow the Bolton Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme to allocate up to 60 places to applicants.

All Academy Councils are required by section 324 of the Education Act 1996 to admit to the academy a child with a Statement of Special Education Needs (SEN) or an Education Health Care Plan (EHC) that names the academy. This is not an oversubscription criterion. This relates only to children who have undergone statutory assessment and for whom a final statement of SEN or an EHC Plan has been issued.

Where there are more applications for The Ferns Primary Academy than there are places available, places will be allocated using the over subscription criteria shown in the following table.

1. Children in Public Care (Looked after children) including adopted children who were previously in care and children who leave care under a special guardianship or residence order. A "Looked after Child" is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.
2. Children for whom there is a child protection plan or has been within a 12 month period.
3. Children who will have older siblings in years Reception to Year 6 of the preferred school at the time of application and at the date of admission. Sibling includes full, step, half, foster and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address.
4. Children who suffer from some medical condition or disability, which makes it, better for them to attend that school rather than another. Places will only be offered under this criterion if the child has a certified medical condition with strong professional supporting evidence confirming that existing exceptional problems with the child's health would be seriously exacerbated if a place were not made at the preferred school. Medical evidence must be provided at the time of application. Parents applying under this criterion must provide a letter from the child's GP/Consultant setting out the reasons why the school is the most suitable school and details of the child's medical condition.
5. Proximity (Where you live). Children who live nearest the school (geographical proximity). Under this category, the remaining places will be offered to children who live nearest to the preferred school. The distance will be measured in a straight line using Routefinder, a computerised mapping system which measures from the point on the highway nearest to the centre of the home property and the designated main entrance to the school.

Tie-breaker

If category (2), (3) or (4) is oversubscribed, geographical proximity (as set out in category (5)) will be used as the 'tie-breaker' to decide between the remaining cases. If after measuring distances it is still not possible to decide on the child/ren to be offered admission (for example two children living in the same block of flats or in the same house) the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which of the children can be offered a place. The draw will take place at the Local Authority's offices and the name(s) will be drawn by a Local Authority Officer who is independent of the admissions process.

Priority for Twins/Multiple births

Where a single place remains at a school and the application being considered is for twins (etc.) the Council will allocate above the admission number to accommodate each child.

Please note that attending a nursey setting attached to the academy does not guarantee a place in the reception class at the academy.

Waiting Lists

The School Admissions Code (February 2012) requires each Admissions Authority to maintain a clear, fair and objective waiting list for at least the first term of the academic year of admission. If we cannot offer your child a place at the Academy we will place your child's name on the waiting list for the Academy. The waiting list will be ranked according to our oversubscription criteria. Parents will be asked in the January following the start of the academic year to confirm whether or not they wish their child to remain on the waiting list.

Right to Appeal

It is our aim to offer your child a place at The Ferns Primary Academy. However if more applications are received than there are places available and your child is not offered a place at the Academy after applying the admission criteria, you have the right to appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. These panels are set up in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the School Admission Appeals Code.

If you choose to appeal you will need to request an appeal form from Bolton Council. Alternatively you can download the form from

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions/school-admission-appeals>.

Complete the form with the details of your case then send it to the address on the form by the date given.

In-Year Applications

In-year applications are directed through Bolton Student Services. The Ferns Primary Academy works through a checklist process once an application is received. The Family Liaison Officer will bring new applications to the Principal where attendance and attainment data will have been obtained from previous schools setting. An admissions meeting will be arranged with new parents before a formal start date is given. Should there be a demand in excess of the number of places available, priority will be given as stated earlier in the policy, and providing responses from previous school settings and parents/carers are received.