



“Together We Achieve”

Annfield Plain Junior School

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Updated November 2021

Next review: autumn 2023 or as needed

POLICY FOR ADMISSIONS

Introduction

- Our governing body applies the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend this school. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 introduced a new framework for school admissions as of September 2000. This was later revised in the Education Act of 2002. Our admissions policy confirms to the regulations that are set out in that Act and are further explained in the statutory School Admissions Code of Practice and the statutory Appeals Code of Practice. These were revised in January 2003 and came into force in September 2004.

Aims and objectives

- We seek to be an inclusive school, welcoming children from all backgrounds and abilities.
- All applications will be treated on merit, and in a sensitive manner.
- The only restriction we place on entry is that of number. If the number of children applying for entry exceeds the places available, we adopt the procedure set out below to determine whether a child is to be accepted or not. It is our wish for parents to find a place for their child at the school of their choice.
- For each year group the admissions limit is 42.
- A child's level of ability is irrelevant to this school's admissions policy, as are any special needs the child may have.

How parents can apply for their child to be admitted to our school

- Our school is an academy with Stanley Learning Partnership and it determines the admission arrangements in agreement with the local authority (LA). The Admissions Authority for our school is therefore Durham Local Authority which publishes its entry regulations every year. **Parents can receive a copy** of these regulations directly from the LA.
- The LA's annual **admissions prospectus** informs parents **how to apply** for a place at the school of their choice. Parents have a right to express their preference, but this does not guarantee a place at that particular school. Application should be made online on a form that can be found online at the Education Department and should be returned by the date stipulated on that form. The authority determines which pupils are offered a place at which local authority school be applying its own criteria.

Admissions appeals

- If the LA do not offer a child a place at this school, this will be because to do so would prejudice the education of other children by allowing the number of children in the school to increase too much.
- If parents wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry, they can do so by applying to the LA. An independent panel considers all such appeals, and its decision is binding for all parties concerned. If the appeals panel decides that we should admit a child to whom we had refused a place, then we will accept this decision and continue to do all we can to provide the best education for all the children at our school. (Further details of appeal arrangements are set out in the revised Code of Practice on School Admissions Appeals, which came into force in September 2004).

The standard number

- The 'standard number' is the number of children the LA considers the school can accommodate. The standard number of our school is at present 168 – 42 per year group.

Monitoring and review

- This policy will be monitored by the governing body, who will always take due note of the guidance provided by the local Admissions Forum.
- The policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier in the light of any change circumstances, either in our school or in the local area.

Admission to Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools

Oversubscription Criteria:

If more children want a place than there are places available, we will offer places according to the following criteria, strictly in order of priority:

i. Children in Public Care

ii. Medical Reasons

Pupils with very exceptional medical factors directly related to school placement.

iii. Sibling Links

Pupils who have a brother or sister already attending the preferred school and who is expected to be on roll at the school at the time of admission.

iv. Distance

Pupils who live nearest the preferred school measured by the shortest walking route. This will be based on the parents' address. Where the last place to be allocated would mean that a multiple birth sibling group i.e. twins, triplets or other multiple birth sibling groups, would be split, the sibling group will be given priority over other children.

