



THE LIMES

PRIMARY ACADEMY

Admission Arrangements – 2019/20

Introduction

The Limes Primary Academy is in Lowestoft, Suffolk and is part of REAch2 Academy Trust. It is one of five schools in our East Anglia North cluster; with the other seven being in the south of the region. This admissions policy was finalised following regional and local stakeholder and public consultation on a Trust-wide approach to admissions. Our aim is to ensure all our academies have simple, consistent admissions arrangements that focus on serving the local community, reflect our vision and values and are as easy as possible for parents/carers of potential pupils to understand. More information about REAch2 is available on our website: www.reach2.org.

At The Limes, we will provide exceptional and engaging learning experiences for all children throughout their time at primary school. Our aspirational ethos will ignite, in all our children, a lifelong desire for learning, building high levels of self-esteem and a strong determination to succeed. We will continually encourage our children to explore, invent, create and imagine. By harnessing their natural curiosity, your children will become confident learners who are prepared for the next stage of their education.

Within our state-of-the-art building and school grounds, we will offer a stimulating world of discovery, where there are no ceilings placed on learning and all children are encouraged and supported to reach their full potential.

We have very high aspirations for every child and firmly believe that every child has their own unique talents. We believe that our thematic approach to the curriculum will fill children with inspirational and unforgettable learning experiences. Each classroom will provide an enticing and irresistible learning environment, which promotes a culture of curiosity and active learning. Our cross-curricular approach will ensure that there are meaningful and logical learning connections and continual, rigorous application of skills.

Our dynamic team of teachers and support staff will act as exemplary role models, educating and nurturing each child, enabling them to achieve the highest standards of academic attainment whilst also enabling them to become capable, caring and confident young people.

Admission number and process

The school has an admission number of 60 for entry in Reception.

The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applications than this are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at the school to all those who have applied.

Applications in the 'normal round' (that is the main cycle of applications to secure Reception places from the beginning of the school year) are administered on behalf of the Academy Trust by Suffolk Local Authority as part of the local coordinated scheme.

Other applications (so called 'in-year' applications for Reception or other year groups) are administered directly by the school – parents/carers should contact the school in the first instance to see if places are available.

Oversubscription Criteria

When the school is oversubscribed (that is, there are more applications than places available), after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school, priority for admission will be given to those children based on the criteria set out below, in the order shown:

1. Looked after children or previously looked after children i.e. children in foster care, care homes or who were before being adopted
2. Children with siblings in the school
3. Children of school staff fulfilling a skills shortage role
4. Home-to-school distance – meaning that the remaining places are allocated in order of each child's proximity to the school.

Definitions relating to the criteria

1. 'Looked after children' are (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 functions (see definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). 'Previously looked after children' are children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order. These definitions are set nationally, by the Department for Education.

2. 'Siblings' are defined as "children who are brothers and sisters (or who live as a family at the same address) of pupils who are already at the school or who have already been offered a place, and who will still be there at the time of admission. Priority will be given, where necessary, to applications where there is the smallest age gap". Note – this definition is the one used by the Local Authority in relation to admissions to schools that they maintain - REAch2 schools adopt the same definition to avoid any confusion and keep arrangements as simple as possible for local parents and carers.

3. This option is only available for teaching or leadership staff with a permanent contract to work at the school (and not employees in REAch2 regional or central teams); it will be subject to confirmation by an independent REAch2 regional non-executive that, on the evidence available, the post does indeed relate to a skills shortage in the area. This is compliant with the statutory School Admissions Code – in fact the code allows for a wider definition/scope for children of staff but REAch2 has chosen a more limited approach.

4. 'Home-to-school distance' is defined/measured as "the distance by a straight line ('as the crow flies'). All straight line distances are calculated electronically by Suffolk County Council using data provided jointly by the Post Office and Ordnance Survey. The data plots the co-ordinates of each property and provides the address-point between which the straight line distance is measured and reported to three decimal places. Where there is more than one home within a single building (for example apartments) we will measure to a single point within that building irrespective of where those homes are located". Note – these definitions are used by Suffolk Local Authority in relation to admissions to schools that they maintain – REAch2 schools adopt the same definition to avoid any confusion and keep arrangements as simple as possible for local parents and carers. The school and REAch2 as admissions authority reserve the right to carry out additional checks on the accuracy of the home address provided.

'Home address' is defined as the place where your child usually lives. We consider this to be where they sleep overnight. Where a child lives at two or more addresses, each for part of the week, the address at which the child is ordinarily resident will be considered to be the address that the child lives at for most of the week (excluding weekends and school holidays). Separate evidence in writing from each parent must be provided to confirm the child's living arrangements at the time of application. In cases where the child spends an equal proportion of the school week at two or more different addresses, evidence of which is to be considered the main contact address will be required to support the application. The school and REAch2 as admissions authority reserve the right to carry out additional checks on the accuracy of the home address provided.

Tie-breaker

Where the admission number given above is reached part way through one of the above over-subscription criteria, the remaining places available are allocated on proximity to the school; but only after any applications are considered where there is third party evidence (e.g. from a medical specialist or a social worker), provided at the time of the application, setting out the exceptional medical/social need of the child (or their parent/carer) and why only this school, rather than any other, is able to meet that need; the final decision on such applications will be made by the school's governors. Where multiple births siblings (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family are tied for the final place, we will admit them all, as permitted by the infant class size rules and exceed our PAN.

Late applications

All applications received by the Local Authority after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. These will be considered after those received on time. If all available places are allocated to children whose applications were received on time, parents or carers who have made a late application may request that their child is placed on the school's waiting list.

Deferred entry for Reception places

Parents/carers offered a place in Reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child takes up the place, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Children reach compulsory school age on 31 August, 31 December or 31 March – whichever of those three dates follows (or falls on) the child's 5th birthday.

Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the summer term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Admission of children outside their normal age group, including for 'summer-born' children

Parents or carers may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so, they should include a written request with their application, setting out the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place and the reasons for their request.

When such a request is made, the Headteacher will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case, based on their professional judgement of what is in the best interest of the child, taking account of the evidence and rationale provided by the parents/carers.

Waiting lists

Where the school receives more applications for places (in the 'normal round' for Reception intake) than there are places available, a waiting list will be maintained by the Local Authority until end August 2019 and then by the school until 31 December 2019. It will be open to any parent or carer to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant, they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be re-ordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code.

Appellants should contact Suffolk County Council Admissions Team at statutory.appealsoffice@suffolk.gov.uk or Education Appeals Office P.O. Box 579 Ipswich Suffolk IP1 2BX to lodge an appeal, after reviewing the guidance on appeals available at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/education-admission-appeals-and-permanent-exclusion-reviews/>.

The appeals process is run in accordance with the statutory processes and timescales set out in the School Admissions Appeals Code. For appeals on the 'normal round' of Reception intake decisions, the deadline for appeals to be submitted to Suffolk is expected to be 15 May 2019. For appeals outside of the 'normal round', the deadline to lodge an appeal to Suffolk will be set out in the letter responding to the application for a place.