BRIAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL– ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 – 2027

The David Ross Education Trust is the Admission Authority for this Academy.

Arrangements for applications for places in Reception at BRIAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL will be made in accordance with West Northamptonshire Council's co-ordinated admission arrangements; parents resident in Northamptonshire can apply online at: https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/primary-school-places/apply-primary-school-place

Parents resident in other areas must apply through their home local authority (LA). BRIAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL will use West Northamptonshire Council's timetable published online for these applications and West Northamptonshire will make the offers of places as required by the School Admissions Code.

Key dates relating to applications are:

- Applications deadline for primary school: 15 January
- National Offer Day for primary school: 16 April or the next working day

Published Admission Number (PAN)

The PAN is 60. If there are fewer applicants than places available all applicants will be admitted.

Special Educational Needs

In accordance with legislation the allocation of places for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (Children and Families Act 2014) naming the school in the plan will take place first. Remaining places will be allocated in accordance with this policy.

Oversubscription Criteria

If there are more applications than places available we will apply the oversubscription criteria listed below. The oversubscription criteria are listed in the order we apply them.

1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

   Looked after children: A 'looked after child' is a child who, at the time of making an application to a school, is:

   a) In the care of a local authority, or
   b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

   Previously looked after children: Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

   a) were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders), or
   b) became subject to a child arrangements order (as defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014), or

c) became subject to a special guardianship order (see Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

Previously looked after children includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

2. A child with a sibling on roll at the time of application. Siblings include a brother or sister who share the same parents; a half-brother, half-sister or legally adopted child living at the same address; a child looked after by a local authority placed in a foster family with other school age children; a stepchild or children who are not related but live as a family unit, where parents both live at the same address as the child.

3. Children who live closest to the preferred school than any other.

4. Other Pupils

Allocation of Places

If the admission number is exceeded within criterion 3 priority will be given to those who live furthest from the nearest alternative school. If the admission number is exceeded within any other criterion priority will be given to those who live closest to the school.

All distances are measured on a straight-line basis from the child's home address point to the address point of the school. Distances are provided by the Local Authority and are measured using a geographical information system.

Home Address

Where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the permanent home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of school nights Sunday – Thursday.

If the child spends equal amounts of time at two addresses, the parents must agree which address they wish to be the child's main address before we can process the application.

Tie-breaker

Where there are two or more applications that cannot otherwise be separated, a randomiser will be used to decide who is allocated a place.

Multiple Births and Brothers and Sisters in the Same Year Group

If twins or multiple birth children are split by operation of the oversubscription criteria, the school will go above its published admission number to accommodate all children unless this would make the class too large and prejudice the education of the other children. Multiple birth children are 'excepted pupils' to infant class limits if allocated in this way.

If brothers and sisters in the same year group are split by operation of the oversubscription criteria, the school will go above its published admission number to accommodate all children unless this would make the class too large and prejudice the education of the other children or when this would breach infant class size limits.

Fraudulent or Misleading Applications

We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly. As an admission authority we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about your application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence that you have made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information, for example if a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim.

Fair Access Protocol

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children who live in the home local authority, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full. Students allocated under fair access protocols will take precedence over those on a waiting list. Briar Hill Primary School will participate in West Northamptonshire Council's the fair access protocol.

Deferred Entry to School

In accordance with the requirements of the Admissions Code, if your child has been offered a place:- a) your child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday; b) you can defer the date your child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which your child reaches compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made; and c) if you wish, your child may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which your child reaches compulsory school age.

Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group (not summer born)

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. It is important for parents to note that they will have responsibility for providing evidence to support their request.

If parents wish for their child to be considered for admission to a year group which is outside their normal age group, then they must:

a) In advance of completing the LA common application, send in writing directly to the school, a letter outlining reasons for the request and all supporting letters and/or documentary evidence in support of the application.

The academy's admissions committee will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

This will include taking account of:

- the parent's views;
- any available information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
- the views of the head teacher.

b) Complete the LA common application form or the in-year admission form, as appropriate. Parents/carers should ensure that the written outcome from the academy's admissions committee outlining the decision is attached to the application.

Requests for admission out of normal age group (S*ummer Born children*)

Whilst all children are entitled to a full-time school place in the September following their 4th birthday and most parents are happy for their child to start school at this point, parent(s)/carer(s) of summer born children (those born between 1 April and 31 August) who do not reach compulsory school age until a full year after they would normally start school, may wish to delay their child's start to school until the September following their 5th birthday.

If parents wish to delay their summer born child's school start until the September following their 5th birthday, there are 2 options:

1. Parents can make an in-year application for a place for the September following their child's 5th birthday. The child would normally start school in **Year 1** (their correct chronological age group) as other children in the child's age group already attending school will be moving from Reception to Year 1 at this point. It is important to remember that some schools are likely to be full and they may be unable to offer a place;

2. If parents do not want their child to miss their Reception year, they may request that children are admitted out of their normal age group i.e. into Reception instead of Year 1. Please note, this is a 'request' and parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular age group. The school's admission committee is responsible for making the decision about which year group a child should be admitted to.

Parents/carers of summer born children who could start school in September 2026, but wish to delay their child's school start and apply for a Reception place to start in September 2027, should still make their application for a Reception place for their child's normal year of entry before the primary application deadline of **on 15 January 2026.** If a delay is agreed, this application can be withdrawn.

Parent/carers should also, if possible, make their request for admission out of the normal age group to their preferred schools by the same date - **15 January 2026**. This is to enable sufficient time for requests to be processed prior to National Offer Day (16 April or the next working day). Requests will however still be considered after this date.

The request will then be considered by our admission committee who will then make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. The School Admissions Code requires admission authorities to consider a number of factors:

- the parent's/carer's views;
- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
- the Head teacher's views.

What happens next?

Parents/carers will be informed of the admission committee's decision on the year group the child should be admitted to when they start school (i.e. Reception or Year 1) and will set out clearly the reasons for their decision.

If the request is approved:
If the request to be admitted outside normal age group is **approved** by the admission committee of the school, parents/carers will need to forward this approval to School Admissions at the Local Authority so an application can be accepted in the normal admission round for the September following the child's 5th birthday. Parent(s)/carer(s) will then need to make an application for a place in Reception for the normal round of admissions in the following academic year.

Please note – this does not mean a child has been, or will be, offered a place in the Reception year at their chosen school. If, in this following normal admissions round, the school is oversubscribed, all applications (including delayed applications) for the school will be ranked in accordance with the school's oversubscription admission criteria.

If the request is rejected:

If the request to be admitted outside normal age group is **rejected** by the admission committee of the school, parents/carers have to decide whether to accept a Reception place in the normal year of entry or delay their child's start until the September after their 5th birthday and apply for a Year 1 place.

If parents/carers are unhappy with the admission authority's decision to refuse their child a place out of their normal age group, complaints should be made directly to the David Ross Education Trust.

Parents/carers whose requests for delayed entry into Reception are refused, have no statutory right to appeal this decision as the purpose of the appeals process is to consider whether a child should be admitted to a particular school, not the year group into which they should be admitted.

In-year admissions

Applications should be made via West Northamptonshire Council. BRIAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL will accept admissions up to the Published Admission Number of the respective year group at the point of entry. In the event that this would cause an infant class to be unlawfully large or cause prejudice to the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources it may be necessary to refuse a place although the year group has not reached the school's published admission number. If there are more applications than places then the oversubscription criteria will be used to decide who should be offered the place. If it is necessary to refuse a place then you will be informed of your right of appeal. Parents can apply online at https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/primary-school-places/apply-primary-school-place

Waiting list

Following the refusal of a place in any year group, parents may request their child's name be added to the waiting list. The child's name will remain on the list until the end of the school term in which the application was made. If parents wish for their child's name to stay on the waiting list for the remainder of the academic year, they must renew their interest to the Local Authority, in writing (email admissions@westnorthants.gov.uk) at the beginning of each term (i.e. in January and/or following the Easter break (March/April). Please note that a new application will need to be submitted to the Local Authority for a new academic year. Applications can be made at https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/primary-school-places/apply-primary-school-place

When a place becomes available, it will be allocated to a child on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed above.

Appeals

If your child's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, you will be informed why admission was refused and given information about the process for hearing appeals. If you wish to appeal, you must set out the grounds for your appeal in writing. You are required to fill out an appeals form, details of which can be found on the West Northamptonshire Council website.

You can find details of the form and the appeals timetable on the following webpage:

https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/primary-school-places/apply-primary-school-place

Policy Determined: 6 February 2025