

# Victoria and Ebor Gardens Primary Academies



## Admissions 2021-22

<b>Policy updated:</b>	<b>November 2020</b>
<b>Adopted</b>	
<b>Review date:</b>	<b>September 2021</b>

Victoria and Ebor Gardens Primary academies are committed to providing a broad, balanced and effective education for all the children who attend our schools.

The Chief Executive of Leeds City Council makes the offer of a school place in Reception at Victoria and Ebor Gardens Primary academies on behalf of the Governing Body and Trust who are the admitting authority.

60 places will be available at Ebor Gardens Primary Academy and 60 places at Victoria Primary Academy for entry in Reception in September 2021. Heads of School are not authorised to offer a child a place for Reception for September entry: admissions into Reception are processed by the Local Authority.

In all other year groups and for entry to Reception outside the normal admissions round, the Head of School makes the offer of a place.

Where there are fewer applicants than places available, all applicants will be offered a place.

Where Victoria Primary Academy or Ebor Garden Primary Academy is the school named on a child's Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), the child will be admitted to the school.

Where there are more applicants than places available, places will be offered to children in the following order of priority.

#### **Priority 1**

- a) Children in public care or fostered under an arrangement made by the local authority or children previously looked after by a Local Authority. (see note 2)
- b) Children who were in state care outside of England and were then adopted.

C) Pupils without an EHC plan but who have Special Educational Needs, or with exceptional medical or mobility needs, that can only be met at a specific school. (See note 3).

**Priority 2** Children with exceptional social or medical needs that can only be met at a specific school.

(see note 3)

#### **Priority 3**

Children with older brothers or sisters who will be at school at the start of the academic year and are living at the same address (see note 4).

#### **Priority 4**

We will give priority to parents who include a preference for their nearest priority school (see note 6).

#### **Priority 5 – Other Children , by straight line distance**

We will give priority to parents who choose a Leeds school, which is not their nearest priority school (see note 6).

#### **Tie Break**

If we have more applications which meet one of these priorities than there are places available, we will offer places first to children living nearest the school, measured in a straight line. (see note 5).

In the unlikely event there are insufficient places for two (or more) pupils living in the same building (e.g. flats) or otherwise equidistant from the school, then any final place will be allocated by the drawing of lots, witnessed by an independent person.

The drawing of lots for random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family where they are tied for the final place. We will admit them all, exceeding the PAN for the school.

### **Note 1**

If Leeds City Council (LCC) cannot offer parents or carers a place for their child at any school they put on their preference form, LCC will offer their child a place at the closest school that has places available when they make the offer (this may include voluntary aided and foundation schools or academies where their governing bodies have given us permission to do so).

### **Note 2**

A “looked after child is defined as a child who, at the time of making the application is:

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

A “previously looked after child” is defined as a child:

- who was previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a Special Guardianship Order or a Child Arrangements Order, or
- who has been in state care outside of England and ceased to be so as a result of being adopted

If you are making an application under the priority for a previously looked after child, you will need to complete a Priority 1a Supplementary Information Form available at appendix 1 and send this, with a copy of the court order, so the Local Authority can verify this priority.

### **Note 3**

Victoria and Ebor Gardens Primary academies support Leeds City Council in promoting inclusion for all children and young people across the city. In line with the Children and Families Act 2014 and the ethos that every child where possible should be able to have their needs met in local mainstream provision, it is an expectation in Leeds that all mainstream schools are able to provide for all children with low level Special Educational Needs (SEN) and also the majority of children with complex SEN Needs. It is also an expectation that all Leeds schools provide an inclusive and nurturing environment that can meet the needs of those vulnerable children who have social, emotional and mental health needs.

All schools have a duty to provide care and support for those pupils who have a medical condition.

Children with exceptional needs who require additional support above that expected of a mainstream school. e.g. blind children who need to access Braille, Deaf children who need access to specialist teachers will usually have an Education Health and Care plan (EHCP) naming a particular school.

Leeds schools are highly inclusive and have developed provision over a number of years to ensure the inclusion and progress of children and young people with SEN and Complex Needs – very rarely is a school unable to cater for a child or young person’s needs.

1b admissions priority is specifically for pupils who have a significant physical disability or complex sensory impairment - e.g. pupils with a visual, hearing, or physical difficulty or those with pragmatics difficulties/autism, who do not have an EHCP and where higher level FFI funding is in place. It is expected that children and young people that require specific provision to meet additional and SEN needs will have professionals

involved with them, these professionals ordinarily will have already alerted the Local Authority to any specific provision that a child needs.

'Medical need' does not include mild medical conditions as all Leeds schools are expected to be able to meet these needs.

When making an application under 1b you must be able to state the provision that is needed to meet a specific SEN need that is only available in the school of preference.

Each application must include a 1B Supplementary Information Form available at appendix 2 along with supporting evidence from a medical specialist or social worker, outlining the child's need and why they must attend one particular school rather than any other, based on those needs. If the evidence is not submitted with the application, a child's medical or social needs cannot be considered.

Cases will be considered individually by a local authority professional panel and where necessary in consultation with the school that has been preferred.

**Priority 2 – Children with exceptional social or medical needs that can only be met at a specific school**

This priority is a request for admission to one specific school because your child has exceptional needs that can only be met at that school. It must be supported by professional evidence.

All schools in Leeds have experience of supporting a wide range of social and medical needs. However, in exceptional cases, there may be compelling reasons why a child needs to attend one specific school. This priority can be requested in these cases, and applicants will need to clearly demonstrate the connection between your child's need, the specific school and how that school can meet your child's needs in a way that no other school can. It must be supported by professional evidence. A panel of council officers will review your request for this priority.

A request would not be granted where a parent wishes for their child to attend a school based on the child's abilities, because their friends attend the school or due to childcare arrangements. Any request for this priority must outline why the child's circumstances are exceptional, and why only one school is suitable.

#### **Note 4**

For these purposes, brothers and sisters must be living at the same address as your child. Siblings refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, foster brother or sister. The definition does not include cousins or other family members sharing a house.

#### **Note 5**

In Leeds we use a straight-line distance system. The Local Authority use a national computer system to run the school-admission system. As part of this system there is a program that measures the 'straight-line' distance from the centre of the main school building to your home address. The point the Local Authority measure to at your home address is determined by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). This information provides us with coordinates for every dwelling. If the Local Authority are not able to match your address with the LLPG then the centre of your dwelling will be used.

#### **Note 6**

If you live in Leeds you can apply for any school but the nearest priority only applies to some Leeds schools. You will receive this nearest priority if our school is your closest school by straight-line distance. We don't include Voluntary Aided / Faith schools when calculating your nearest priority school.

If you live in another local authority and the closest school to your home in a straight line is a Leeds community, voluntary-controlled or foundation school, or academy you will be given the relevant priority under our admissions policy.

If you live in another local authority and the closest school to your home, by straight line, is a school not in Leeds you are still able to apply for a Leeds School but priority 4 will not apply.

## **Nearest Priority School**

'Nearest priority' school, does not include all schools because some apply their own admissions policies and may not offer this priority. Your 'nearest priority school' is identified on the basis of straight lines drawn between schools which include a nearest priority in their policy.

## **Address**

For admission purposes, the home address is the child's permanent address, where the child usually lives with their parent or carer. You must not use any other address on your application, including using the address of a childminder or relative or renting a property for a short period of time as this could be considered as using a fraudulent address. We will investigate any queries about addresses and, depending on what we find, we may change the school place offer.

Only one address can be used on your application for a school place. Where shared care arrangements are in place, both parents must agree which address will be used on the application, and this should be the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week. If no joint declaration is received by the closing date for applications, the local authority will determine which address will be used, based on where the child spends the majority of the school week. In instances where the child spends equal time with each parent, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor.

When we make an offer, we assume your address will be the same when you take up the school place in September. If you plan to move house, you must still use your current address on your application. As soon as you move house, you must tell us your new address, providing proof of your house move (including evidence of entry to the new address and exit from the old address) as this may mean we have to change the school place offer.

If it is found that an intentionally misleading or false address has been given with the aim of fraudulently securing a school place, that place may be withdrawn, even if the child has already started at the school.

## **Parental Disputes**

Parental Responsibility gives both parents important legal rights and responsibilities including involvement in decisions about which schools to preference. Both parents should agree the details of the applications, including the address to be used, which schools to be applied for and which parent submits the application. Where we receive 2 conflicting applications, we will need to obtain written evidence all those holding parental responsibility agree the application or a Court Order specifying who should apply. Until we receive this relevant evidence, we will be unable to process the application further and places may have to be offered to other applicants.

## **Late Applications**

If you return the preference form after the deadline we cannot guarantee to consider your preferences at the same time as those received on time. Any primary applications returned after 12th February 2021 will only be dealt with once all other preferences have been considered, unless there are significant and exceptional reasons. Late applications received at that point will be considered before placements are made (where no preference could be met)

## **Accepting Offers**

Parents will be asked to accept the offer of a school place. This will not affect their position on any waiting list for a higher preference, or their right to appeal. Parents who do not wish to accept the offer, or do not accept the offer within a reasonable time, may have the place withdrawn.

## **Waiting List**

After offers have been made on 16th April 2021, parents can ask to go on the waiting list for any school. Waiting lists will also be held for each year group for applications outside of the admissions round. All waiting lists will be held in criteria order of the admission policy and will close at the end of the academic year (July 2021). All waiting lists will be ranked when new applicants have been added ahead of any allocations being made. Ebor Gardens Primary Academy and Victoria Primary Academy will hold waiting lists until the end of the academic year (July 2022).

## **Nursery**

A place in a nursery does not guarantee a place in the school. Parents must apply for a place if they want their child to transfer to the reception class.

## **Temporary School Site**

If a school has to move to a temporary site for any reason, such as the building being damaged by a fire, we will base our distance measurements on the school's permanent site.

## **Starting Reception Age**

Children are expected to start primary school in the September following their 4th birthday. You must ensure your child receives an appropriate full time education from the term following their fifth birthday. Parents can request that the start date for their child is delayed until later in the school year in the case of children who have not yet reached their 5th birthday, however where a place has been offered, this must be taken up by the beginning of the term after the child's 5th birthday, or at the latest, the start of term after the Easter break.

You can also request that your child attends part-time until he/she reaches compulsory school age. You should discuss delayed or part-time attendance with the school.

## **Deferment for summer born children**

Parents of children born between 1 April and 31 August 2017 who wish to defer entry into reception until September 2022 should still apply in the normal admission round for 2021, and indicate this on their preference form, and attach any evidence of the need for deferment from any associated professionals. The parent will be invited to a panel including early years education experts and headteachers where their individual case will be considered. This will ensure the opportunity to reflect on the long term impact of that decision, and balance this against the child's current needs.

## **Applications outside the normal admission round**

All applications outside the normal admission round should be made using an in year application form. The form should be returned directly to school. If there are no places available in the year group you are applying to, you will be offered a right of appeal against the refusal to offer a place. The sibling priority will apply to younger and older siblings where families move during the school year. Where no house move has taken place you will be offered a place to start at the beginning of the next term, unless no other accessible school place is available to you.

## **Further information or advice**

For further information re: applying for a school place in Leeds, please visit the Leeds City Council admissions website <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions> or contact the school office for advice.

### **Admission Numbers**

Ebor Gardens Primary Academy	60
Victoria Primary Academy	60

### **Timetable for Admission to Primary Schools**

Closing date for receipt of applications	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
National offer day	16 April 2021
Appeals to be heard	by the end of the summer term 2021