



## **ADMISSIONS POLICY 2017**

The Governing Body of Rauceby School (Academy) which has a strong Church of England ethos, is the Admissions Authority and has adopted the following arrangements with respect to the admission of pupils to the school.

The number of intended admissions for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 will be 26 and the published admissions number for each year group is 26.

### **Process of application**

Arrangements for applications for places in Reception at Rauceby School will be made in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council's co-ordinated admission arrangements; parents resident in Lincolnshire can apply online at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions), they can also apply by telephone, or ask for a hard copy application form, by telephoning 01522 782030. Parents resident in other areas must apply through their home local authority. Rauceby School will use the Lincolnshire County Council's timetable published online for these applications and the relevant Local Authority will make the offers of places on their behalf as required by the School Admissions Code.

For a midyear place, an application can be made on the midyear application form. Applications are usually made through the child's home local authority. Lincolnshire residents should contact Lincolnshire County Council for an application or apply online at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions). Applications can be made directly through Lincolnshire by out of county residents if their home local authorities do not co-ordinate this process.

For entry into reception in September places will be allocated to those who have made an application before those who have not.

In accordance with legislation, the allocation of places for children with the following will take place first: Statement of Special Educational Needs (Education Act 1996) or Education, Health and Care plan (Children and Families Act 2014) (where the school is named) Remaining places will be allocated in accordance with this policy.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

These will be used where the number of applications for admission exceed the number of places available. The oversubscription criteria are listed in the order they are applied. Criteria marked with a number, for example (1), (2) etc, are references explained separately in the definition section.

- A. Looked after children and all previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). (1)
- B. Children whose home address (2) is within the civil parishes of North Rauceby and South Rauceby. For a map detailing the civil parish boundaries, please see our school website (Rauceby.com).

- C. Where a child has a sibling (3) currently attending the school at the time an application is made.

If any of the categories above are oversubscribed then the tie break used to distinguish between two or more applicants will be the distance criterion ie driving distance as outlined in definition 4.

- D. Distance from the child's home (2) to the school, with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority, see definition (4).

If the number of applications for admission still exceed the number of places available after all these categories have been applied, and/or the distance criterion is not sufficient to distinguish between two or more applicants for the last remaining place then a lottery will be drawn by an independent person, not employed by the school or working in the Children's Service Department at the Local Authority.

## Definitions

1. A 'looked after child' is a child who is (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 the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).
2. By home we mean the address where the child lives for the majority of term time with a parent as defined in section 576 of the Education Act 1996 who has parental responsibility for the child as defined in the Children Act 1989.

Where a child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the home address for the purposes of school admissions will be the one where the child spends the majority of term time. If a parent can show that their child spends an equal amount of time at both addresses during school term time, they can choose which address to use on the application.

If a parent has more than one home, we will take as the home address the address where the parent and child normally live for the majority of the school term time.

3. Siblings  
A full brother or full sister, whether or not resident in the same household. Another child normally resident for the majority of term time in the same household, for whom an adult in the household has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act 1989 or Section 579 of the 1996 Education Act.

Twins and other siblings from a multiple birth

In these cases all the children will be considered together as one application. If one or more can be admitted within the published admission number the school will be allowed to go above its admission number as necessary to admit all the children, unless this would make the class too large. The government's school admissions code makes an exception to the infant class limit in this situation.

Brothers and sisters in the same year group

Where there is only one place available in the school the children will be considered together as one application. The school will be allowed to go above its admission number as necessary to admit all the children except in cases where infant class regulations prevent this from happening. If this happens we can only legally offer one place because the government's school admissions code makes no exception to the infant class size limit for siblings in the same year group. We will offer the parent one place for one child and the LA will offer a different school for the other child or children.

4. The nearest address to the school is found by measuring the distance from your home address to the school by driving distance along public highways. The LA measure electronically along public highways using the post office address point of the home to the post office address point of the school.

### **Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces)**

In order to meet the government's military covenant aimed at helping UK service personnel, and Crown servants returning from abroad, we have adopted the following arrangements;

For families of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area, or Crown servants returning to live in the area from overseas, the governors will:

- Process an application in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address. This address will be used when considering the application against the school's oversubscription criteria.
- Accept a Unit postal address or quartering area address for admissions purposes for a service child.

The governors will not refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area.

For late co-ordinated applications and midyear applications supported by the appropriate military documentation, we will aim to remove any disadvantage to UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces).

The governors will consider whether:

- An application from that address would normally succeed in an oversubscribed year.
- There is any child on the reserve list with higher priority under the oversubscription criteria.
- The prejudice from admitting an extra child would be excessive.

The governors have discretion to admit above the admission number in these circumstances if they wish, but are not obliged to do so.

We will need the notice of posting or official government letter and posting address before we can consider an application under these arrangements. We allocate a school place as soon as possible by applying the policies and practices that we normally follow. It may be that the governors still cannot admit because of organisational or curriculum difficulties within the school.

## **Admission of children outside their normal age group**

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. Parents wishing to make these requests must contact their home local authority for guidance on the procedure to follow. It is important for parents to note that they will have the opportunity and responsibility to provide whatever evidence they wish to support their request.

Rauceby School 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

## **All primary/infant school admission authorities**

Rauceby School provides for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday.

Where we have offered a child a place at our school then;

- a) that child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday;
- b) the child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made, whichever is the sooner;
- c) where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Parents interested in deferring admission or arranging part-time attendance must contact the school to discuss this.

Parents of summer born children deferring admission until the child starts Year 1 risk losing the offered school place.

## **Reserve Lists**

For admission into the intake year the governors will keep a waiting list which we call a reserve list. If we have to refuse a place at our school your child is automatically put on the reserve list, unless you have been offered a higher preference school. This list is in the order of the oversubscription criteria, as required by the school admissions code. This means that names can move down the list if someone moves into the area and is higher placed under the oversubscription criteria. The governors must not take account of the time you have been on the list.

For the intake year the list is kept by the Schools Admission Team until the end of August. After this the school admissions code requires that schools keep the reserve list until the end of the Autumn term.

If a place is required in the Reception Class after the Autumn term or in another year group and it is full, a parent can request their child be added to the reserve list by contacting the school. The reserve list will be kept in the order of the oversubscription criteria. The time you have been on the list is not taken into account.

Reserve lists will be reviewed at the end of each academic year.

### **Right of Appeal**

If parents wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry, they can do so by applying to the School Business Manager. An independent panel considers all such appeals and its' decision is binding for all parties concerned.

### **Admission Authority's Right to Investigate**

As an admission authority the school 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 a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly.

### **Lincolnshire 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.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Written and adopted by the Admissions and Attendance Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 on behalf of the Full Governing Body

Date to be reviewed: November 2016