

GRIMOLDBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy on Admissions

1 Introduction

Our governing body applies the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend this school. Our school is a foundation school, and it determines the admission arrangements in agreement with the Local Authority. The published admission number is 30. We teach infant children aged 5 to 7 in classes that have a maximum number of 30 children. Children may be admitted into the Nursery from the beginning of the term after their third birthday on a part time basis. The agreed admission number being 26 for each session.

2 Aims and objectives

We seek to be an inclusive school, welcoming children from all backgrounds and abilities and 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. However, this is not always possible, due to excess demand on the places available.

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

Parents have a right to express their preference, but this does not, in itself, guarantee a place at that particular school. Application should be made on a form that can be obtained from the Local Authority, the school office or you can apply online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions and should be returned by the closing date. Lincolnshire County Council will notify parents of the decision as soon as all the applications have been considered.

In this area, children enter school at the start of the academic year in which they become five. There is one admission date per year, early in September (i.e. when the autumn term begins). Therefore, parents who would like their child to be admitted to this school during the year their child is five should ensure that they return the necessary application form by the end of December prior to their child entering school.

Where application for admission exceeds the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out which children to admit. "In accordance with the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs, the allocation of school places for pupils with a statement of special educational needs will take place before the school allocates other places as part of the normal admissions process."

4 Oversubscription

- a) Where children are in public care. Public care refers to children whom are cared for by the local authority, either in a children's home or in a foster home.
- b) Where the child has a sibling currently attending school, but takes no account of children who will have already left by the time the child already applying for a place starts. Sibling refers to other children living in the family home where the child spends the majority of their time whilst attending school.

- c) Proximity of the child's home (home is where the child spends the majority of time whilst attending school) to the school with those living nearer being accorded the higher priority. Distance to be measured by a reliable consistent and reasonable method, using straight line distance for all applicants. This will be measured electronically between the post office address point of the home and the post office address point of the school.

5 Tie-breaker

If any of the oversubscription criteria have too many applicants then the tie-breaker will be by straight line distance. The child living closest to the school will be offered the place.

6 Admission appeals

If we 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 Clerk to the Governor at the school. 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. If a class is over subscribed and an application is made for that class and the applicant has siblings in school the governors will meet and decide if the child can be admitted or not.

As there is no statutory right to a nursery place, there is no right of appeal against a refusal.

7 Nursery

Admission into the nursery does not automatically guarantee a place in the reception class.

The nursery operates in accordance with the arrangements and regulations applicable to Registered Early Years Providers which are subject to alteration as and when National and Local policies are formulated.

8 Mid-year admissions

The governors will accept admissions into other year groups if there are places. If there are more applications than places then the oversubscription criteria will be used to decide who should be offered the place. If there are no places then you will be told of the independent appeal system.

9 Reserve list

For admission into reception the governors will keep a waiting list which we call a reserve list. If you were not offered a place and you named us as a higher preference, your child is automatically put on the reserve list above the one you were offered. This list is in the order of the oversubscription criteria. Names can move down the list if someone moves into the area and is higher placed on the oversubscription criteria. The list is kept by the Schools Admission Team until the end of August. After this the reserve list is kept until the end of the autumn term 31st October.

We are not required to keep any lists for any other year groups. If you wish your child to join the school at other times please contact the school direct.

10 Fair Access

The government has stated that all local authorities must have a Fair Access agreement that allows hard to place children, for example those that have been permanently excluded, to be given a place before any oversubscription criteria are applied and before anyone is considered from the reserve list. Such children are shared out to make sure no one school has to take too many of these children.

Review Date: March 2009

Next Review: September 2009