

Abbey Farm Educate Together Primary - Admission arrangements for 2023

Introductory statement

We will seek to offer an admissions system that provides equal and fair opportunities to all applicants. An Educate Together school is committed to the principle of equality of access, irrespective of social, cultural or religious background.

Admission number(s)

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

The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year group are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at the school to all those who have applied.

Application process

The Local Authority will process applications outside the normal local authority procedures for co-ordination of the school admissions offers. This means you will need to complete the LA common online application form and list Abbey Farm Educate Together primary amongst the choices available.

Applications for Abbey Farm Educate Together Primary should be returned to the Local Authority in which the child resides via the on-line admissions portal.

If the child resides in the Swindon Local Authority area please apply on line at:

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20071/school_places_and_admissions/427/primary_school_places_and_admissions

Or obtain and return a paper copy application to:

School Admissions, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2023.

Offers will be made on Monday 17th April 2023, by post and email, by Swindon Borough Council Admissions Team.

Oversubscription criteria

The criteria in this section apply to entry at all phases of the school.

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

1. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order. The definition extends to those who were in state care outside England but who were then adopted.
2. Priority will next be given to the siblings¹ of pupils attending the school at the time the application is received. Where an older sibling is in year 6 at the time of application the sibling will not be prioritised.

Brothers/sisters must live at the same address (Home address²) as the child for whom the application is being made.

3. Other children

Tie-break

If in categories 2-3 above a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, the child living closest to the school will be given priority for admission: In all cases, distances will be measured in a direct line from the address point of the child's home address to the address point of the school as determined by the Local Land & Property Gazetteer (LLPG). Measurements will be determined using the Local Authority's GIS computerised mapping system.

If children live exactly the same distance from the school a place will be provided on the basis of drawing lots randomly. Someone unconnected with the school or academy trust will oversee this.

¹ 'Sibling' means a natural brother or sister, a half brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, a step brother or sister or other child living in the same household as part of the same family who, in any of these cases, will be living at the same address at the date of their application for a place.

² The home address is where a child normally lives. Where a child lives with parents with shared parental responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child's residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which residential address should be used for the purpose of admission to school. If no joint declaration is received where the residence is split equally by the closing date for applications, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor. If the residence is not split equally between both parents then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week.

Twins and Multiple Births

If the last child to be offered a place is a twin or other multiple birth, and their sibling cannot be offered a place initially, the school will, in these circumstances admit them all, as permitted by the infant class size rule and exceed our PAN.

Late applications

All applications received by the school after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If, following consideration of all applicants the school is oversubscribed, parents may request that their child is placed on the school's waiting list.

Deferred entry for infants

Parents offered a place in reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission out of normal year group is being requested.

When such a request is made, the academy trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the Headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

Waiting lists

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of the academic year. This will be maintained by the Academy Trust and it will be open to any parent 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 reordered 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 the Trust Development Manager at Educate Together Academy Trust, Avonvale Road, Bristol BS5 9RH, by 15 May 2023 for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals process is on our website at www.abbeyfarmet.org.uk