

The Firs Lower School
Admissions Policy



The Firs Lower School has 5 year groups, Reception (the 4+ unit), year 1, year 2, year 3 and year 4. The number of places per year group (standard number) is 60.

If the number of places in a particular year group is not sufficient to meet the requests of all parents, then places are offered to children in accordance with the LA admissions policy in the following order:

- a) 'Looked after' children in the care of the Local Authority or subject to a 'full or interim' care order
- b) Children living in the catchment area with siblings (from September 2011)
- c) Other children living in the catchment area
- d) Children on 'very exceptional' medical grounds (supported by a medical report / the Authority's Medical Officer)
- e) Other siblings
- f) Any other children

In any situation where there are more children with an equal right to admission than the number of available places, priority will be given to children living the shortest distance, measured in a straight line, between the school and the child's home address.

Overriding priority will be given by the LA to the admission of pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school. Priority will also be given to the admission of pupils in accordance with the 'In-Year Fair Access Protocol'. (Which will be placed on the school website).

Parents within the catchment area, applying for a place at the Firs during the normal admissions period, will be offered a place. However, if a pupil moves into the catchment area outside the normal admissions period (or after the allocation process has been completed) there will be no guarantee of a place if this would mean exceeding the admissions number.

An appeal system exists through the L.A., for parents wishing to enrol their child into The Firs Lower school but who do not live within our catchment area.

Details regarding the timing of entry into the 4+unit (the reception class)

The school has a 60 place unit for children who have reached the age of 4 years by the start of the September term. Children are admitted once a year, in one intake in September. All children (regardless of when their birthday is) will be offered a full time place, with an option to attend part time in the morning in the 1st term.

In the interests of continuity for the children, it will be necessary for them to attend either 5 mornings or 5 full time sessions. (If they wish to however, parents will have the opportunity to switch to a full time from a morning place, after the October half term).