

Fowey River Academy

Admissions Policy 2020 – 2021

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Admissions Policy

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Introduction

Fowey River is an academy and the Academy Trust is the admission authority for the school.

The Academy will participate fully in the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol and the Local Authority's Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes. Details of these schemes are available on the Council's website (www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions) or on request from the Local Authority. Closing dates and other details about the application process will be stated in those Schemes.

This policy is written with full adherence to and in accordance with the School Admission Code (2014). All statutory obligations defined within the Code apply, including the operation of an equal preference scheme.

Values Statement

Students will be admitted to the Academy without reference to ability or aptitude using the procedures detailed in this document, which includes arrangements and criteria that will be applied in the event of oversubscription.

Learning is the central activity of the Academy and informs every decision that takes place. All staff, students, Governors, parents and community partners are encouraged to participate as lifelong learners. We aim to develop a community of learners that work to enhance the quality of life of all. We oppose beliefs that limit individuals realising their potential as we are committed to raising aspirations for all. All changes should be informed by research and considered by all groups it will involve. We endeavour to promote a healthy lifestyle both within the curriculum and beyond. We enable students to access a flexible curriculum developed to meet the needs of individuals.

Applying for a place

All applications for places in year 7 or during the school year must be made direct to the applicant's home local authority on the appropriate application form. The application form and supporting information will be available on the Local Authority's website. [There is no supplementary information form required by the Governing Body.

However, if your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan you do not need to complete an application form as a school place will be identified through a separate process.

Allocation of places

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the Fowey River Academy will be admitted regardless of the number on roll in the year group.

Children in Care who are directed to the school by the Local Authority (or Secretary of State in the case of academies) will be admitted to the school regardless of the number on roll in the year group.

Fowey River Academy has an agreed Net Capacity of 1000 students. The published admission number (PAN) for year 7 in 2020/21 will be 200. Places will be allocated up to this number. In the event that more applications are received than places available, the oversubscription criteria listed later in this document will be used to decide on allocations. If the academy is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be admitted.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Although most children will be admitted to the Academy with their own age group, from time to time parents seek places outside their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems or missed part of the year, often due to ill health.

While it would not normally be appropriate for a child to be placed in a year group that is not concurrent with their chronological age, the Academy will consider these requests carefully, and together with the LA, will make a decision based on the particular circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. Guidance can also be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions or on request from the School Admissions Team.

Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent admission appeal panel. However, they do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like.

Appeals

Applicants refused a place at Fowey River Academy have the right of appeal. Appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel arranged by the Local Authority on behalf of the Academy's Governing Body. Further details and a timeline can be found in the Local Authority's Coordinated Admissions Scheme. Applicants can only appeal again for a place in Fowey River Academy within the same academic year if the admission authority has accepted a further application because there has been a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent or carer, child or school (e.g. a change of address into a school's designated area), but has determined that the new application must also be refused.

Waiting lists

If, after the offer of places has been made, the Academy is over-subscribed, all parents whose applications have been unsuccessful will be asked whether they wish to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be administered by Academy Trust in partnership with the LA for the duration of the year of application.

The waiting list will be based on the academy's oversubscription criteria and a child's place on a waiting list is subject to change according to additional information received about applications or children being added to the list – so their place on the list might move up or down. No priority is given to the length of time that a child has been on the list. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan and children in care or children that were previously in care will take precedence over those on the waiting list. Children admitted under the Fair Access Protocol will also be given priority over children on the waiting list.

Oversubscription Criteria

In the event of there being more than 200 applications for places in Year 7 for the 2020/21 academic year or more applications than places for any year group during the school year, the following oversubscription criteria will be used to prioritise applications, after the admission of children whose Education, Health and Care Plan names the school:

1. Children in care and children who were previously in care

Children in care and children who were previously in care but immediately after being in care became subject to an Adoption, Child Arrangement, or Special Guardianship Order.

2. Children who live in the designated area

Children who live in the designated area of Fowey River Academy, or whose parents can provide evidence that they will be living in the designated area of Fowey River Academy by the requested date of admission.

If there are more designated area children wanting places at the academy than there are places available, criteria 3 to 6 below will be used to decide which of these children should have priority for admission. If there are still places available after all the designated area children have been allocated places, criteria 3 to 6 will be used to decide which of the remaining children should have priority for any spare places.

3. Social and medical need

Children with an unequivocal professional recommendation from a doctor, school medical officer, educational psychologist, health visitor, education welfare officer or social worker that non-placement at Fowey River Academy would cause harm to the child and that placement at Fowey River Academy is essential. Such recommendations must be made in writing and must give full supporting reasons.

4. Siblings at the Academy

Children who have a sibling attending the Academy at the time of application and who will still have a sibling attending the Academy at the proposed date of admission.

5. Primary school in designated area

Children on the roll of a primary school (at the time of allocation) whose designated area is contained within or forms part of the designated area of Fowey River Academy

6. All other children

Notes and definitions

Children in care

A 'child in care' may also be referred to as a 'looked after child' and is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, (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).

A 'child arrangement order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989. 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).

Designated areas

The geographical area for the academy (determined by Cornwall Council and then reviewed every two years) within which Fowey River Academy as the admissions authority must consult all other prescribed schools on its admission arrangements. Each of these areas is served by a specific primary school, or in some cases, groups of schools.

Maps are available for all designated areas online at: www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions or by calling the School Admissions Team on 0300 1234 101 or emailing: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk.

If you are planning to move into the designated area of Fowey River Academy, your application for a place for your child will not be given the priority accorded to designated area pupils without firm evidence of your new address and moving date, such as a copy of a signed and dated tenancy agreement or confirmation that contracts have been exchanged.

Primary Schools

Primary schools whose designated areas are contained within or form part of the designated area of Fowey River Academy:

Biscovey Academy	Lerryn CofE Primary School
Tywardreath School	St Winnow CofE Primary School
Fowey Primary School	Lanlivery Primary Academy
Lostwithiel School	Polruan Primary Academy

Social and medical need

Applicants will only be considered under this criterion for children with an unequivocal professional recommendation and the parent/carer can demonstrate that their only the preferred school can meet the exceptional medical or social needs of the child, supported by a recommendation from, for example, a doctor, school medical officer or educational psychologist. Such recommendations must be made in writing to the School Admissions Team and must give full supporting reasons. The admission authority will make the final decision on whether or not to accept an application under this criterion.

Siblings

A sibling means brothers or sisters and is defined as a full, half, step, adopted or long-term fostered child living at the same address. In the case of siblings living at a different address the siblings must be blood relatives, in other words share at least one parent. We do not include 'cousins' within our definition of siblings.

Where applications are received on behalf of "multiple birth siblings" (i.e. twins, triplets, etc.) or siblings whose dates of birth place them in the same chronological year group, every effort will be made to offer both or all the children places at Fowey River Academy, which may mean allocating places above the Published Admission Number (PAN) where that is possible. However, where this is not possible, parents will be invited to decide which of the children should be allocated the available place(s).

Tie-breakers

If any of the criteria outlined earlier leave more children with an equal claim than places available, priority will be given to the child who lives nearer to Fowey River Academy.

Final tie-breaker

Should the tie-breakers above still leave children with an equal claim because distances are exactly the same, random allocation will be used to decide on priority. Fowey River Academy will use the Local Authority's Random Allocation Protocol, supervised by an independent person, which is available on request.

Distances

Home to school distances used for tie-breaking will be measured by a straight-line measurement as determined by Capita One and supported by Cornwall Council's nominated Geographical Information System (currently DataMap). Measurements will be between your home address (the centre of the main building of the property) and the main gate of the school (as determined by Cornwall Council).

Home address

Each child can have only one registered address for the purposes of determining priority for admission and transport entitlement. This address should be the place where the child is normally resident at the point of application or evidence of the address from which a child will attend school, in the form of written confirmation of a house purchase or a formal tenancy agreement. If there is shared residence of the child or a query is raised regarding the validity of an address, the LA will consider the home address to be with the parent with primary day to day care and control of the child. Residency of a child may also be clarified through a Child Arrangement Order where it is shown who has care of the child. Evidence may be requested to show the address to which any Child Benefit is paid and at which the child is registered with a doctor's surgery.

It is expected that parents will submit only one application for each child. Any disputes in relation to the child's home address should be settled before applying, the admission authority will not become involved in any parental disputes. If agreement cannot be obtained before an application is made, then parents/carers may need to settle the matter through the courts. Where no agreement is reached or order obtained, Cornwall Council will determine the home address.

Applications for children of Service Families will be processed and places allocated based on the proposed address (with supporting evidence) or, if the family are not able to confirm a proposed address and a unit or quartering address is provided, an allocation will be made based on the unit or quartering address. Until a fixed address is available, the unit postal address or quartering area address will be used to determine allocation of a school place. For the purposes of measuring distances, the main entrance of the unit will be used.

The Academy reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place should it become apparent that such proof of residence is unsubstantiated. The parent retains the right to appeal against this decision following Fowey River Academy's appeal procedure.
