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ADMISSIONS POLICY 2026/2027

The School is a co-educational school and provides education for children aged between 4 and 11 years.

The published admission number for the relevant age group is 90. Children are admitted in September in the academic year in which they have their fifth birthday. Children with Education, Health and Care Plans are admitted outside this policy but count towards the published admission number.

Applications to this School must be made through the Local Authority's co-ordinated admission system. Applications should be made to your home local authority - those living in North Northamptonshire should visit [Primary school places | North Northamptonshire Council \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](http://Primary school places | North Northamptonshire Council (northnorthants.gov.uk))

Entry at Year R:

Oversubscription criteria

If applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following order of priority will be applied.

- Looked After Children or children who were previously looked after but immediately after became subject to adoption, residence or special guardianship order.
- Children of staff members; where the member of teaching and non-teaching staff has been employed at Woodnewton – a learning community for two or more years at the time of which the application for admission to the school is made and/or the member of teaching and non-teaching staff is recruited to fill a vacant post, for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage. It is at the absolute discretion of the CEO of Inspiring Futures through Learning to determine when there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- Children who have a sibling* currently attending the School, where that sibling will still be attending at the time of the admission of the applicant child.
- Children whose home address is within the School's defined catchment area.
- Proximity of the child's home address to the School, those living nearer being accorded the higher priority. Measurements will be straight line distances taken using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system.

Tie-breaker

Tiebreaker arrangements

In circumstances where the school admissions number has been exceeded in any of the above categories and there is a need to discriminate within the category, preference will be given to those living closest to the school, measured in a straight line to the school main reception

using the Local Authority's computerised distance measuring system, with those living nearer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Definitions used in this policy

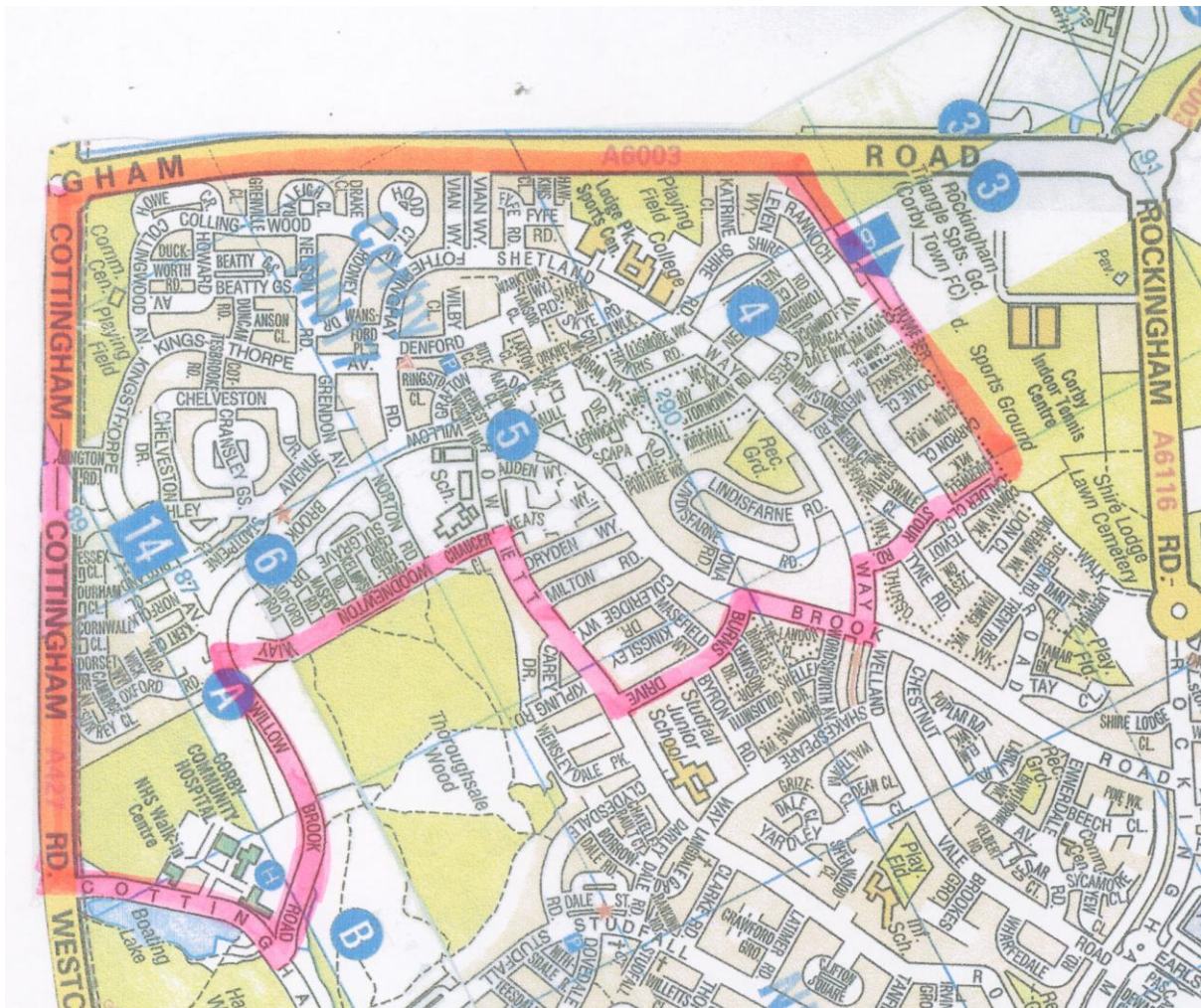
Looked After Child/Previously Looked After Child

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 (according to the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to the School.

Previously 'looked after children' are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted, became subject to a child arrangement order or became subject to a special guardianship order. This includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Defined Catchment Area

The School's catchment area is the area within the line marked on the attached map. Where there is a dispute as to whether a particular address is within the Catchment area, the School's decision shall be **final**.



Sibling

In cases where there is one remaining place available and the next child on the waiting list is one of a twin, triplet or other multiple birth groups, all siblings* would be admitted even if this goes above the planned number for the school.

*A sibling is a brother or sister, which for admission purposes means brothers and sisters of whole or half blood, or any other child (including an adopted child) who permanently resides at the same address and for whom the parent also has parental responsibility.

Home address

The child's home address is the address of the parent or legal guardian with whom the child spends the majority of the time during the School week (Sunday-Thursday nights). If the child spends equal amounts of time at two addresses, the parents must agree which address they wish to be the child's main address before we can process the application. If we receive more than one application for the same child (made by separated parents) and where the home address and/or the preferences do not match, **neither application will be processed** until such time that the parents can agree on both the address and the preferences. If no agreement can be made, parents are recommended to seek legal advice. If an agreement cannot be reached before the closing date, this may affect the chances of your child being allocated a place at the school.

Parents/legal guardians may be asked to produce evidence of residency/home address at any time during the admissions process. The address used must be the home address at the time of application. If a house move is planned, the new address may only be used once Exchange of Contracts has taken place or a Tenancy Agreement has been signed.

Fraudulent or Misleading Applications

The admissions authority has the right to investigate any concerns we may have about an application and to withdraw the offer of a place if it is considered that there is evidence that an applicant has made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information.

Late applications

Late applications are any common application form (for the normal point of entry) received by the Local Authority after its statutory closing date of 15 January. Late applications will not receive an offer of a school place by the Local Authority on National Offer Day (16 April)

Where children below compulsory school age are offered a place at the school/school, they will be entitled to attend the school full-time in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents/carers may defer their child's entry to the allocated school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age, and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made when the place will cease to be available for the child. Where parents/carers wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Admission of children outside their normal age group (Summer Born)

Parents/carers who wish to apply for a place in Reception out of the normal age group, should make their request to delay their application in writing to the School in the first instance to the Principal. The request should be accompanied by reasons for such a request and should be made by **1 December** of the year prior to the year the child should enter Reception if they had not requested to delay applying. This will ensure that if the admission authority does not agree to the request, there is still time for parents/carers to submit an application for the normal year of entry by the statutory deadline (15 January). The admission authority will make a decision based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of: the parent's/carer's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group; whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely; the Principal's views.

The Admission Authority will inform the parents/carers of its decision on the year group the child should be admitted to when they have to start school (i.e. Reception or Year 1) and will set out clearly the reasons for their decision.

If the Admissions Committee **agrees** to the parent's/carer's request to delay the application for a Reception place, they will inform the local authority and the parents/carers will then need to make an application for a place in Reception in the normal round of admissions in the following academic year.

Please note – in this following normal admissions round, if the School is oversubscribed, all applications (including delayed applications) for the School will be ranked in accordance with the School's oversubscription criteria. If the application is not successful, parents/carers will have the right to appeal but, as the purpose of the appeals process is to consider whether a child should be admitted to a particular School, parents/carers 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;

If the Admissions Committee does **not agree** to the application being deferred, there is **no right of appeal** against that decision and the parents/carers will need to make an application to the local authority for a place in Reception by 15 January or make an in-year application for a Year 1 place at the appropriate time.

Admission of children outside their normal age group (not Summer Born)

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. When such a request is made; the Trust will make a decision based on 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. Parents requesting such an admission should do so in writing to the Chair of the Local Governing Body who will make a decision on the matter in consultation with the Headteacher. A decision will be based on the individual circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

This includes taking into account the parent's views; 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 been previously educated outside of their normal age group and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

In-Year Admissions

An in-year admission refers to an application for an school place made during the school year or an application for admission to an school made at the start of the school year for any year group other than the normal year of entry. All in-year applications should be made to the Local Authority on their website www.northnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions

Waiting List

A waiting list will operate for each year group. Where in any year the School receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of each term. The admission authority will maintain this 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

If your child is not successful in obtaining a place at this School, you have a right of appeal to an independent panel. If you wish to appeal, please contact the School office for further information.