



# ADMISSIONS POLICY

## For admissions from September 2022

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### INTRODUCTION

Catmose Primary is its own admissions authority and as such is responsible for setting the criteria for admission and their interpretation; however, at all times it will act in accordance with the School Admissions Code published by the Department for Education.

This policy was consulted upon in 2017 and was last determined by the Governing Body on 29 September 2020.

All parents wishing to apply for a place at the Primary should do so via their 'home' authority (i.e. the authority where they live).

Parents have a right to express a preference for the school they want for their child. Application forms can be obtained from the School and the home authority. Application forms must be returned to the home authority by the specified date, which is published annually.

The Planned Admission Number (PAN) for the School is 30 per year and the School will admit children up to this number.

A child with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), or statement of educational need, which names the School as part of that Plan will be admitted. The number of places within the PAN will reduce accordingly.

## OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

Where the number of applications for places exceeds the number of places available, as specified by the Planned Admission Number, the following criteria, in priority order, will be applied to determine those children that will be offered a place: -

### 1. Looked After Children

A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority. Priority under this criterion will also be given where the child was previously in care but ceased to be so because they were adopted under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). This priority is also given to children who were previously in care outside of England.

### 2. Children whose sibling currently attends or has attended Catmose Primary School within the last five years at the time of admission.

Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, foster brother or sister, or the child of the parent's/carer's partner where the child for whom the School place is sought is permanently living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

### 3. A child of staff at Catmose Primary.

Where the member of staff has been employed at the School for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the School is made, or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

### 4. Children who live nearest Catmose Primary School by distance.

Distance is measured from the centre point of the child's home address to the centre point of the School (LE15 6SH). The route is defined as a driving route or safe walking route, whichever is the shorter, using a computerised mapping system.

In the case of there being oversubscription in criteria 1 – 3, places will be allocated using the distance criterion in 4.

Applicants living in the same block of flats will be regarded as living the same distance from the School. In the unlikely event that two or more children live in the same block of flats and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last remaining available place at the School, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to determine which child shall be offered the place.

A child's home address is considered to be the residential property that is the child's only or main residence at the time of application. Where the parent/guardian/carers of the child have separated, the home address of the child will be regarded as the address at which the child sleeps for the majority of the weekdays.

Places will be allocated in advance of a family moving into the area where suitable confirmation, such as proof of property purchase, or a letting agreement [for a minimum of 6 months] has been received.

## LATE APPLICATIONS

In the event of the Primary being oversubscribed, applications received after the closing date in January, which is published each year, will be relegated to the waiting list.

## WAITING LIST

In the event of oversubscription, the School holds a waiting list for places which may become available. All applications declined through the oversubscription process will be given the opportunity to be placed on the waiting list which will be maintained until 31 December 2022.

Being placed on the waiting list does not remove an applicant's right to appeal. It is important to note that the waiting list does not operate on a first-come, first-served basis, and that places will be offered according to the oversubscription criteria if they become available.

Children who are allocated a place to the School in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those on a waiting list.

Fair Access Protocols exist to ensure that access to education is secured quickly for children who have no school place but for whom a place at a mainstream school or alternative provision is appropriate.

## IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

Parents who wish to apply for a place outside of the normal admissions round should do so by contacting the School directly.

On receipt of an in-year application, the School will notify Rutland local authority of both the application, and its outcome, to allow the local authority to keep up-to-date figures on the availability of places in the area.

## RIGHT TO APPEAL

If the School informs a parent of a decision to refuse their child a place, we will include the reason why the admission was refused; information about the right to appeal; the deadline for lodging an appeal and the contact details for making an appeal.

If a parent wishes to appeal, they must set out their grounds for appeal in writing.

## WITHDRAWING OFFERS

Once offered, places will not be withdrawn except in the following cases: -

- where the place was offered on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent (for example, a false claim to residence in a catchment area) which effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim;
- where the place was offered under co-ordination by the local authority in error;
- where a parent has not accepted the offer of the place and does not respond to a reminder letter from the School within a reasonable time (defined as 21 days from the issue of the reminder letter).

## DEFERRED ENTRY TO SCHOOL

Admission will be offered to all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Children are entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the School until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made.

Where parents 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

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, parents of a summer-born child may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and may request that the child be admitted out of his/her normal age group (i.e. to Reception rather than Year 1).

Catmose Primary will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis and take account of all views, including where relevant, that of a medical professional. The Executive Principal will also be consulted.

There is a statutory right of appeal against a refusal of a place. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the School but it is not in their preferred age group.

## CHILDREN OF UK SERVICE PERSONNEL

Applications for a child of UK service personnel will be considered in advance of a move to the area if the application is accompanied by an official government letter (e.g. MOD, FCO or GCHQ) declaring a relocation date and intended address. The Unit postal address or quartering area address will be used for consideration against the oversubscription criteria.