



Admissions Policy

**The Palmer Academy
2020/21**

The Palmer Primary Academy admission arrangements for 2020/21

Cohort

Applications for children born between 1-9-2015 and 31-8-2016 will be considered for admission to a reception class 2020-2021 as part of the routine admission round.

The Palmer Primary Academy is a primary academy in Reading and is part of REAch2 Academy Trust. This admissions policy was finalised following public consultation on a Trust-wide approach to admissions. Our aim is to ensure all our academies have simple, consistent admissions arrangements that focus on serving the local community, reflect our vision and values and are as easy as possible for parents/carers of potential pupils to understand. More information about REAch2 is available on our website:

www.reach2.org

The Palmer Academy is a two-form entry school for children aged 3-11 serving the children and families of Whitley, Reading and the surrounding area. We are part of the REAch2 Reading Cluster which also includes Civitas Academy and Ranikhet Academy. Children at The Palmer Academy develop enquiring minds through discovering new concepts and challenging their own ideas. We are an inclusive school, working with other schools, providers and professionals in supporting our children to find success. Further information about The Palmer Academy is available on our website:

www.thepalmeracademy.com

Admission number and process

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

The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applications than this are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at the school to all those who have applied.

Applications in the 'normal round' (that is the main cycle of applications for Reception places from the beginning of the school year) are administered on behalf of the Academy Trust by Reading Local Authority as part of the local coordinated scheme.

Oversubscription criteria

When the school is oversubscribed (that is, there are more applications than places available), after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school, priority for admission will be given to those children based on the criteria set out below, in the order shown:

1. Looked after children or previously looked after children i.e. children in foster care, care homes or who were before being adopted
2. Children with siblings in the school
3. Children of school staff fulfilling a skills shortage role
4. Home-to-school distance – meaning that the remaining places are allocated in order of each child’s proximity to the school.

Definitions relating to the criteria

1. ‘Looked after children’ are (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 (see definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). ‘Previously looked after children’ are children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order. These definitions are set nationally, by the Department for Education.
2. ‘Siblings’ are defined as “children who have either the same mother or father, or they are children who live together in a family unit and with their parent(s)/carer(s). Siblings must also live at the same address as each other. If they do not live at the same address, then they are not treated as siblings. The sibling must be at the school at the point of proposed admission”. Note – this definition is the one used by the Local Authority in relation to admissions to schools that they maintain - REAch2 schools adopt the same definition to avoid any confusion and keep arrangements as simple as possible for local parents and carers.
3. This option is only available for teaching or leadership staff with a permanent contract to work at the school (and not employees in REAch2 regional or central teams); it will be subject to confirmation by an independent REAch2 regional non-executive that, on the evidence available, the post does indeed relate to a skills shortage in the area. This is compliant with the statutory School Admissions Code – in fact the code allows for a wider definition/scope for children of staff but REAch2 has chosen a more limited approach.
4. ‘Home-to-school distance’ is defined/measured as “the straight-line distance from the home to the school, using the Ordnance Survey data points of the home and the school, using computerised

software of Reading Borough Council. Every address has a unique data point which is determined by the property's Easting and Northing. This point can be anywhere on the property. The distance created, using this software, is calculated to 3 decimal places". 'Home address' is defined as the "child's single permanent home address where they live with their parent(s) or carer(s). If a child does not live with a parent or legal carer i.e. a single parent family where the parent is ill and the child lives with grandparents for the majority of the week, a full explanation will need to be supplied together with supporting evidence from a professional supporting the family/ child". Note – these definitions are used by the Local Authority in relation to admissions to schools that they maintain – REAch2 schools adopt the same definition to avoid any confusion and keep arrangements as simple as possible for local parents and carers. The school and REAch2 as admissions authority reserve the right to carry out additional checks on the accuracy of the home address provided.

Tie-breaker

Where the admission number given above is reached part way through one of the above over-subscription criteria, the remaining places available are allocated on proximity to the school¹; but only after any applications are considered where there is third party evidence (e.g. from a medical specialist or a social worker), provided at the time of the application, setting out the exceptional medical/social need of the child (or their parent/carer) and why only this school, rather than any other, is able to meet that need; the final decision on such applications will be made by the school's governors.

¹ As measured according to the earlier 'Definitions' section. If the distance is exactly the same for two or more children, the remaining available place will be allocated on the basis of random allocation undertaken by the Local Authority. Note that random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family tied for the final place. We will admit them all and exceed our admission number, as permitted by the national infant class size rules set by DfE

Multiple births (twins, triplets etc.)

Places are offered according to the oversubscription criteria, In the event that this would result in splitting multiple birth families, in the majority of cases the other child/children will be offered a place. In very exceptional circumstances, where the admission of more than one additional child to the year group causes prejudice to the provision of efficient education and efficient use of resources it may not be possible to offer all multiple birth children a place.

In the event that siblings with a different date of birth, but in the same year group, are split by the over-subscription criteria, during Key Stage 1, if admission would take a class over 30 (up to and including Year 2) – one child will be offered a place, selected by random selection which will be made in the presence of a representative of Reading Borough Council's Committee services. It is open to the parents to decline this offer and seek places for all their children at another school or suggest the place is given to one of the other siblings. The other sibling(s) name(s) will put on the waiting list. If the admission is in Key Stage 2 or admission of the other siblings will not contravene infant class size regulations then each case will be considered and in most cases the other child/children will be offered a place provided the admission will not prejudice the provision of efficient education and efficient use of resources.

Late applications

All applications received by the Local Authority after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. These will be considered after those received on time. If all available places are allocated to children whose applications were received on time, parents or carers who have made a late application may request that their child is placed on the school's waiting list

Deferred entry for Reception places

Parents/carers offered a place in Reception for their child have a right to defer the date their child takes up the place, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age. Children reach compulsory school age on 31 August, 31 December or 31 March – whichever of those three dates follows (or falls on) the child's 5th birthday.

Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the summer term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Admission of children outside their normal age group, including for 'summer-born' children

Parents or carers may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so, they should include a written request with their application, setting out the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place and the reasons for their request.

When such a request is made, the Headteacher will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case, based on their professional judgement of what is in the best interest of the child, taking account of the evidence and rationale provided by the parents/carers.

Waiting lists

Where the school receives more applications for Reception places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until 31 December 2019, after which parents/carers must re-apply for a place in Year 1. The waiting list will be maintained by the school and it will be open to any parent or carer 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 re-ordered 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 submit an appeal using to the Clerk to the Appeal Panel Committee Services, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU within 20 school days of the refusal decision. They are contactable on 0118 937 2532. The appeals process is run in accordance with the statutory processes and timescales set out in the School Admissions Appeals Code.

Applying

If you live in the Borough of Reading we recommend that you apply online at: <http://www.reading.gov.uk/schoolsadmissions>

To speak to local authority regarding admissions, please contact Reading Borough Council on 0118 937 3777

Alternatively, if you would like to get in contact with someone from our Academies, please feel free to contact the school offices:

The Palmer Academy: 0118 9375481
Civitas Academy: 0118 9375053
Ranikhet Academy 0118 9015520

Start date

There is a legal requirement to offer a full-time place to every child whose parents wish to take up that option from the September following a child's fourth birthday. The school term starts for community schools in September 2020. Schools can admit the children earlier if they wish and individual schools will inform parents about their admission arrangements. The place offered is full-time and parents have a right to expect that their child will start full-time. Schools may include an induction period of part-time provision but that should not be longer than two weeks. If these arrangements are difficult for parents/carers then schools must be prepared to take children full-time from the beginning of term in September 2020.