



South Gosforth First School

'Roots to grow and wings to fly'

Admissions Policy for South Gosforth First School for the Academic Year 2025-2026

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| | Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read it• Chance for feedback | FGB Approval <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved | Accessible <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website link• Saved |
| Review Date: | October 2023 | October 2023 | October 2023 |
| Next Review Due: | October 2024 | | |

The Governing Body is the Admissions Authority of this school and is responsible for determining the schools' admissions policy.

The number of places available in the Reception class in academic year 2025-2026 is 60.

How and when to apply for places

Applications should be made to the applicant's home local authority (where they pay Council Tax to).

Applications for Reception places for September 2025 must be submitted **by midnight on 15th January 2025**. Applications for school places in other year groups or after the start of the school year can be submitted at any time.

Late Applications

Applications received after the closing date will be classed as late and processed after all of the applications received on time.

Admission of children outside their normal year group (Offset Requests)

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group if they feel that their child is not ready to start school with their peers, for example because the child has suffered ill health or is summer born (born between 1 April 2021 and 31 August 2021). Requests must be submitted in writing to the local authority and include any supporting evidence from relevant professionals.

Requests must be submitted before the closing date for reception applications in the child's normal age group in good time for the local authority to be able to consult the governing body and Head Teacher of the school and inform the parent of the outcome before the closing date for the normal age group. In other words, for children due to start school in September 2025 where the parent wishes the

child to delay admission until 2026, parents must submit their requests well before 15th January 2025. The Governing Body will consider each case individually.

Special Educational Needs

Children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan which names South Gosforth First School will be admitted to the school.

How places will be allocated

If there are enough places at the school then every applicant will be offered a place. If more applications are received than the number of places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be used in the order shown to decide which children will be allocated places.

1. Children who are currently looked after by a local authority (in care) in the UK, children who were previously looked after by a local authority in the UK or who appear to the admissions authority to have been in a state care outside of the UK, and immediately afterwards became subject to an adoption, residence (child arrangements) order or special guardianship order. Evidence of the appropriate order must be submitted before the closing date for applications.
2. Children with a brother or sister (a sibling) who will be on roll at the school on the date that the child will be admitted in September 2025. Sibling can be a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent or carer's partner, as long as the children live at the same address.
3. Children with an exceptional medical reason that means they can only attend that specific school (for example, where the child or one or both parents has a disability that means that the child can only attend this school). Strong supporting evidence must be provided from a healthcare professional who is independent of both the family and the school in this instance. The evidence must relate specifically to this school and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that can meet the child's needs.
4. Children living nearest to the school as measured in a straight line distance from a single fixed central point at the school to a point in the centre of the home address of the child, using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and British National Grid Easting and Northing co-ordinates.

Parents and carers should note that the allocation of Reception places does not take into account attendance at any specific nursery class or school.

Additional Notes

- Where there are places available for some but not all applicants within a particular criterion, distance from home to school will be the deciding factor. Priority will be given to children living nearest to the schools as measured in a straight line distance from a single fixed central point at the school to a point in the centre of the home address of the child, using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer and British National Grid Easting and Northing co-ordinates.
- In the event that more than one child has an equal right to an available place, the place will be offered based on random allocation.
- Parents / carers have two weeks to respond to an offer of a school place. If an acceptance is not received it may be assumed that a place is no longer required and the offer may be withdrawn.
- Parents who share responsibility for the care of their child are expected to reach agreement between them. In the event of a dispute all applications will be placed on hold and will not be processed until: one joint application is made; or written agreement is provided from both parents; or a Court Order is obtained confirming which parent's application carried precedence.
- When stating the choice of school, parents / carers must give the child's permanent address at the

time of application. The address of childminders or other family members who may share in the care of the child must not be quoted as the home address.

- If the child lives at more than one address Monday to Friday (for example due to a separation) the address used should be where the child lives most of the time during the school week. Only one address can be used. If the child lives at two addresses, Newcastle City Council will decide which address to use based on child benefit, child tax credit, Court Orders and/or GP registration.
- Parents who share responsibility for the care of their child are expected to reach agreement to a school placement between them. In the event of a dispute the school will accept the application from the parent to whom the child benefit is paid.
- When stating your choice of school, you must give the child's permanent address at the time of application. The address of childminders or other family members who may share in the care of your child must not be quoted as the home address.
- If the child lives part of the week between two parents, the child's address should be the address where the child lives (1) during the school week, or (2) with the parent who receives child benefit or where the child is registered with a GP, if there is any dispute.

Waiting lists

For applications for Reception places, waiting lists will be kept until the 31st of December 2025 and will then be cleared. Waiting lists will be ranked using the oversubscription criteria regardless of the date the application was received.

From January 2026 and then on a termly basis, waiting lists will be cleared at the end of each term and parents will need to re-apply each term if they still want their child to be considered for a place at the school.

In Year Applications

If you apply for a place in our school in any other year group and a place is not immediately available, your child will automatically be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list will be ranked strictly according to the oversubscription criteria above, regardless of the date the application was received. Waiting lists are cleared at the end of each term. To remain on the waiting list you will need to re-apply for a place every term using the Local Authority in year admissions application form.

Right of Appeal

Parents / carers who are refused a place for their child have a statutory right of appeal to an independent appeals panel. Please contact the School Appeals Team for information (phone 0191 277 7427 or email schoolappeals@newcastle.gov.uk). Information is also available at <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place>

It is school's responsibility to ensure that any families who have made an appeal receive at least 10 school days' notice of their appeal hearing and ensure that the admissions department at the local authority send the decision letter within 5 school days of the appeal hearing, wherever possible.

Definitions

- A **Looked After Child** is a child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time the application for admission to school is made and whom the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the date of admission.
- An **Adoption Order** is an order made under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.
- A **Child Arrangements Order** (previously known as a **Residence Order**) is an order outlining the

arrangements as to the person with whom the child will live.

- A **Special Guardianship Order** is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians.