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## Knowle CE Primary Academy

### Admissions Arrangements 2025-26

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The Academy Trust is the Admission Authority and our admissions process from Reception onwards will then form part of Solihull Council's coordinated scheme. For more information go to: <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/admissions>

The academy's admission number is 60. If the number of applications is lower than the school's admission number, all applicants will be admitted. If there are more applications than places available, then all applications will be given a priority from the oversubscription criteria and places will be offered in priority order.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names Knowle CE Academy will be offered a place first. This will reduce the number of places available.

#### Oversubscription criteria

- Priority 1** Looked after children and previously looked after children who are now adopted or subject to a residence order or special guardianship order, including those children who have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- Priority 2** Children whose exceptional social or medical reasons can only be met by this school
- Priority 3** Children who normally live in the catchment area of the school and who would have a brother or sister at the school
- Priority 4** Children who normally live in the catchment area of the school
- Priority 5** Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the same time
- Priority 6** Other children, measured in a straight line from the child's home

1. Applications with exceptional social or medical reasons must be supported by independent professional evidence. The Cabinet Member Advisory Group for Admissions will consider applications and evidence and make recommendations to Cabinet Member, who will grant priority 2 to applications with exceptional social or medical reasons.
2. Under priority group 3 a brother or sister must live at the same address and could be:
  - A brother or sister sharing the same parents;
  - a half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one parent;
  - a stepbrother or stepsister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage or civil partnership (a formal arrangement that gives same-sex couples the same legal status as married couples);

- the separate children of couples who live together; or
  - an adopted or fostered brother or sister.
  - Priority is not given if the brother or sister attends the nursery unit as this is non-statutory education.
3. There is no guarantee of transfer from nursery to reception class; a further application must be made the following year.
  4. If possible, places will be offered at the same school to twins, triplets and children from other multiple births, as long as we comply with infant class size legislation.
  5. If a priority group has more applicants than places available, priority will be given to those living nearest the school (measured in a straight line from home to school).
  6. Distances are measured by the Council's admissions system. The admissions system uses six-figure grid references provided by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). The grid references provide a unique point on each property.
  7. If two or more applications in the same priority have the same distance, but only one place can be offered, a computerised random allocation system will be used to decide which applicant has the highest priority.
  8. The home address is the place where the child is permanently resident with his or her parents.<sup>1</sup> If care is shared between two parents, you will need to provide a copy of the court order defining the arrangement to the council. In the absence of a court order, the council will use the address of the parent who is in receipt of the child benefit. You will need to send a copy of your child benefit award for the last two years.
  9. Applications received after the closing date are late and will not be processed until after the published offer day. Late applications will be considered when places are allocated from the waiting list.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of education law, the DfE considers a 'parent' to include: all biological parents, whether they are married or not; any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative; any person who, although not a biological parent and not having parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person. A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

10. Waiting lists are produced in strict order of priority, according to the oversubscription criteria and managed by Solihull Council. Parents must phone the council every half term to keep their child's name on the list.
11. Children offered a reception place at a school are entitled to a full-time place in the September after their 4<sup>th</sup> 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; and where parents wish, their child may attend part-time until late in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.
12. 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, the parents of a summer born child (born between 1 April and 31 August) may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group.

Requests should be made to Knowle CE Primary Academy and may be supported by professional evidence such as a speech and language therapist or it may simply be the parent's statement as to why they are making their request. The following is the process to be followed when applying for a reception intake place:

- apply for a place for the child's normal age group at the usual time
- parents submit their request to the school for admission out of the normal age group at the same time and by the closing date
- request and evidence will be considered by school
- a response to the request will be sent before national offer day
- if the request is agreed parents should withdraw their application for the normal age group and make a new application as part of the main admissions round the following year, or proceed with their application for the normal age group and start in September
- if the request is refused the application will proceed in the normal age group or the parent can make an in-year application for admission to year 1 for the September following the child's fifth birthday
- There is no right of appeal against the decision to decline the request. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

13. Applications for a school place at any time other than the normal time for admission (in-year admission) should be made to Solihull Council. If there is a vacancy in the relevant year group a place will be offered. If the year group is full the application will be given a priority and put on the waiting list.
14. The Governing Body recognises its duty to comply with the Local Authority Fair Access Protocol to provide fair access to school for pupils who need a school place because they have missed, or are at risk of missing, education.
15. Parents who wish to appeal against the decision of the Governors to refuse their child a place in the school should contact School Admissions at Solihull Council. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel.

This policy is reviewed annually.

Date of last review: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023