



Three Trees Infant Academy Admissions Policy for the school year 2025 - 2026

Introduction

Three Trees Infant Academy is a school within Rise Multi Academy Trust. This means that the school Governors are responsible for all admissions. RISE is the admitting authority for all schools in the Trust. The RISE Directors delegate responsibility to the relevant LGC (Local Governing Committee) for consultation regarding Admission Policies, for application decisions and to appeal against Local Authority decisions to admit pupils.

This policy is reviewed by the Local Governing each spring in line with the legal timelines for admissions. The review will go out for consultation every 7 years unless changes need to be made any earlier.

Derbyshire County Council operates a co-ordinated scheme for admissions to schools in Derbyshire and parents/carers must apply directly to the local County Council for a place at our school.

Department for Education guidance on admissions and appeals is contained in The School Admissions Code (2021) and the School Admissions Appeals Code (2012).

Admission

Three Trees Infant Academy serves the catchment area shown in the attached map - Appendix A.

The admissions authority will set a planned admission number (PAN) which indicates the number of places available within the year(s) of entry. This information will explain how places will be allocated until the PAN is reached. The decision will be to refuse all applications that would lead to admission of pupils above PAN

Our planned admission number (PAN) for 2025 – 2026 is 90 pupils.

Our designated catchment area does not prevent parents who live outside this area from expressing a preference for our school. In the event of insufficient places being available, places within a particular year group will be allocated in line with the criteria listed as 1-6 below. Entitlement to a place in the school is dependent on the parents applying at the appropriate time and (for infant submissions) on compliance with infant class size regulations (2). If a child moves into the school's designated catchment area once allocation decisions have been made, they will not be offered a place in the school if the planned admission number for that year has been reached but will have the right to appeal.

Applications for places for children starting school for the first time need to be registered by completing the on-line Local Authority common application form available from the council you live in. This must be completed by 15 January 2025

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx>

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Parents will be notified by Derbyshire admissions if a place is to be offered. The closing date for Local Authority applications and the notification of the decision are in accordance with the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme (3). Late applications will not be offered a place within the school if the infant class has 30 pupils, regardless of distance to the next nearest available school. Any application received after the closing date will be treated as a mid-term application and places will be allocated according to the school's admissions criteria and planned admission number (PAN) for that year.

Parents may seek a place for their child outside their normal age group, for example, if the child has experienced problems such as ill health or if they are moving from overseas and their child has not been educated in the English school system. Parents should contact the Headteacher to discuss any such requests with all the relevant information taken into account. Parents may also wish to submit other information in support of their request; for example, from professionals who have worked with their child. Each request will be looked at on an individual basis with any decisions taken according to what is considered to be in the child's best interests. This would be called a delayed start.

In addition, the parents of a summer born child (those born from 1st April to 31st August) have the right to choose not to send that child to school until they are of compulsory school age. In this case the child would have to start school during the same academic year for which they have been accepted and not beyond the beginning of the start of the final term. Parents should discuss this with the Headteacher. This is called a deferred entry start.

For delayed entry the following process should be followed in order:

a) Parents should make the request to Derbyshire LA and the school as the admitting authority by 15th January stating their request in their application for the chronological year group. This will provide time for requests to be processed, and where a request is not agreed, for the family to be assured their chronological application will be processed as a normal on time application.

b) Parents should submit to the admitting authority their reasons for wishing to delay applying for a school place. This should include confirmation of agreement to the proposal from the Headteacher. On receiving the supporting evidence, and on the recommendation of the Headteacher, Derbyshire LA will write to the parent to agree that the application can be processed for the following year. However, the letter will highlight the potential risks / impact of this delay which include:

i) *Whilst the school has agreed to the delay, there is no guarantee that the child will be allocated a place at that school the following year;*

ii) *Should it not be possible to allocate a place at the school the following year, the Local Authority will make every effort to allocate a Reception place and will expect the parent to take up a place in reception immediately if available, or make an application for a place in Year 1. However, it may not be possible to do this. Decisions on which year group a child is admitted to are taken by a school's admission authority; this is not always the local authority and the admission authority of alternative schools may not be in agreement with delayed entry.*

iii) *Attention will also be drawn to the fact that when the child moves to a different school (eg primary to secondary, or to a different school due to a house move) that the admission authority of the new school will be responsible for deciding which year group the child will be placed in. This could result in a child being required to 'skip' a year.*

c) If the request is not agreed, the parent will receive a letter detailing the reasons why.

d) A copy of the letter sent to the parent will be sent to the Headteacher.

e) The parent may still change their mind regarding delayed entry by a whole school year, and submit an application in the normal way. If an application is received, then the parent's previous request to delay until the following year would no longer apply.

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This will offer the following options to the parent:

- i) Their child starts school in the September following their 4th birthday;
- ii) They can consider deferring the child's start date in Reception until later in the school year;
- iii) They can discuss part-time arrangements with the allocated school, as detailed above.

f) A parent who chooses to delay entry by a whole school year will need to apply for a school place in the admissions round for the following year in the normal way. Their application will then be considered in exactly the same way as all others submitted during that application year.

If a parent who has applied by the closing date given by the Local Authority later changes their mind and wishes to defer/delay their child's entry to Reception, they should discuss this and other options with the Headteacher. Requests to defer/delay will not be agreed if the only reason is that a place has not been offered at one of the preferred schools.

These applications for admission outside normal age group will be considered alongside all other applications in accordance with the Local Authority coordinated admissions scheme. Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at the school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they have been offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP or Statement of Special Educational Need) naming the school will be admitted even if this means exceeding the agreed PAN. Otherwise, when there are more applications than there are places available, the governors will admit pupils according to the following criteria which are listed in order of priority. If there are fewer applications than places, then no application is refused.

If there are too many requests, priority will be given to children whose parents applied on time, in the following order:

1. Children in care of a Local Authority and those children who were previously looked after children (3), but ceased to be because they were adopted (4) (or became subject to a Child Arrangements order (5) or special guardianship order (6) or those who appear (to the Admissions authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (7).
2. Pupils who live in the designated catchment and have an older sibling attending the school at the time of admission. (Older siblings include brothers or sister, half brothers or sisters, step brothers or sisters, adopted children, fostered children, children of partners living together or any child who permanently resides at the parental home and for whom the parent has parental responsibility.
3. Pupils who live in the designated catchment at the time of admission (see Appendix A). The child's place of residence is taken to be the parental home. In a family where parents live separately this is the pupils' main address where they spend most of their time.
4. Pupils who do not live in the designated catchment area at the time of application and admission but who do have an older sibling attending the school at the time of admission.
5. All other pupils based on distance (living nearest to the school as measured by direct line using the LA's mapping tool Routefinder).

Where there are more applications than places available, places will be allocated within that particular criterion (as listed above) by a method of measuring the distance from the school. This measuring service is provided by Derbyshire County Council, and pupils will be allocated places in order from the nearest to the school to the furthest. If distances are exactly the same, lots will be drawn and supervised by an independent person.

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The school has the right to withdraw the offer of a place if:

1. An error has been made.
2. The place has been obtained by fraudulent means.
3. A parent does not respond to an offer in the time specified.

This is regardless of numbers in the school and whether or not other requests have been refused.

In-Year (mid-term) Transfers

All mid-term transfer requests (in-catchment included) will be coordinated through the Derbyshire admissions authority. Parents should make an application to

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/changing-schools/changing-schools.aspx>

Before applying, parents are strongly encouraged to discuss their intention with their current school and arrange a visit to the proposed school.

Waiting Lists

During the normal admissions round it is necessary to complete a Local Authority common application form to apply for a school place. Registering interest with the school on a 'waiting list' before the admissions round guarantees neither a school place nor priority within the priority criteria. Offers of places will be made by the local authority on the school's behalf. If the academy has more applications for children due to start 2025-2026 a waiting list will be maintained. The position on the list will be determined by applying the published priority criteria and not by date of receipt. Each name added will require the list to be re-ranked. The existence of a waiting list does not remove the right of appeal against any refusal of a place form any unsuccessful applicant.

Names will only be removed from the list if a written request is received, or if the offer of a place that becomes available is declined. The waiting list will shut down on 31st December in the policy year in accordance with statutory requirements. Mid-term admission waiting lists will be for the academic year of application only and it will be necessary to reapply the following or subsequent years if applicants wish to remain on the list. Looked after children and previously looked after children as defined in this policy, are children who are the subject of direction by a local authority or who are allocated to a school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol and they will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

Appeals

If a place is not offered parents/carers' have the right to appeal. Appeals should be made via:

<https://www.Derbyshire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-admissions/appeal-a-school-place-and-check-waiting-lists-online>

For reception children starting school appeals must be made by 23rd May on the relevant form, and appeals will be heard during the summer term, within 40 school days of this date. Appeals lodged after this deadline, like appeals for in-year admissions, will be heard within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged. In all cases, appellants will receive at least 10 days' written notice of the appeal hearing. Applicants may submit additional evidence in writing by 12 noon the day before the hearing. Decision letters are sent to the school and appellant within 5 days of the hearing.

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Notes:

- (1) Education (infant class sizes) (England) Regulations 1998
- (2) The Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme is available for inspection through Allocations, Derbyshire County Council, County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG
- (3) A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.
- (4) Under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. See section 46 (adoption orders).
- (5) Under the terms of the Children Act 1989. See section 8 which defines a 'Child Arrangements order' as 'an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live'.
- (6) See section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as 'an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's 'special guardian/s'.

Appendix A – Catchment map for Three Trees Infant Academy.

