

New Town Primary School

Admissions Policy 2025 – 2026

New Town Primary School is an academy within the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST). ODST is legally responsible for admissions decisions which it has delegated to the Local Governing Body (LGB). ODST and New Town Primary School work closely with the Local Authority (LA) and uses it as their agent for the processing of applications.

ODST and the LGB have made every effort to ensure that these arrangements comply with the School Admissions Code 2021 and all relevant legislation, including that on infant class sizes and equal opportunities.

The following policy is proposed for admissions to this school in 2025/2026. There are 60 places available.

Cohort

Applications for children born between 01/09/2020 and 31/08/2021 will be considered for admission to a reception class 2025-2026 as part of the 2025/2026 routine admission round.

Admission of children outside the normal age to New Town Primary School

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 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 – to reception rather than Year One in September 2026.

The governing body as the Admission Authority will consider each case individually and make a decision in every case that is in the best interest of the child, taking into account:

- The parents/carers' views
- Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development from their current setting
- The child's medical history and the views of a medical professional (where relevant)
- Whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group
- Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if they had not been born prematurely

In each case the Headteacher will be consulted and their views will be taken into account.

Where the request is for a summer born child to start school in a reception class in September 2026, then the parents/carers' reasons will be carefully considered and if they are confident it is in the best interest of their child to start school for the first time when they are five then this will be the deciding factor if the other evidence is balanced. In circumstances where professionals have significant concerns the request may not be approved.

To request a child's admission is delayed, to start in September 2026 parents/carers must apply in writing giving their reasons and supply any supporting documents i.e. information from their child's education setting or medical evidence. At the same time, they are recommended to make an

application for a reception place, in the normal way to the Local Authority for September 2025 by 15 January 2025 so that the application can be forwarded to the headteacher for consideration. **Note that this approval is for a place at New Town school but does not guarantee a place at the school. The normal oversubscription criteria, as cited below, will apply.**

Over-Subscription Criteria

Children with a statement of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names the school will be allocated a place above all other children.

The Oversubscription Criteria take no account of the parents/carers order of preference and applications for each school named by the parents/carers will be ranked according to the criteria set out below if there are more applications than places available.

Category		Notes
1	Looked after Children in the care of a Local Authority or Children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order) immediately after they had been looked after.	Provided appropriate evidence is submitted. See Note 1
2	Children who have strong medical or social grounds for admission.	See Note 2
3	Children whose permanent home address is in the catchment area of the school and have a sibling at the school at the time of application who is expected to be attending the school when the child is due to start school.	This category may apply in other circumstances. See Note 3.
4	Children whose permanent home address is in the catchment area of the school.	
5	Children whose permanent home address is not in the catchment area of the school but have a sibling at the school at the time of application who is expected to be attending the school when the child is due to start school.	See note 3
6	Children in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) at the time of the application who attend the nursery unit at the school	
7	Other Children	

Priority within the Over-subscription criteria

Within each of the above categories 1 - 5 and 7, priority will be given to children who are in receipt of the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP). To be considered for this priority parents/carers will be required to complete a Supplementary Information Form which **must be endorsed by the child's current school or nursery** confirming that they receive Early years pupil premium for the child. This form must be completed and returned to the **admissions team** prior to 02 February 2025 in order to be awarded this priority on time for the routine admissions round, any applications received later than this date will be awarded the priority after the 01 May 2025.

Notes relating to the above over-subscription criteria.

Note 1. Category 1: Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

By a “looked-after child” we mean one in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of its social services function. Previously looked after children are children who have been adopted, subject to child arrangement orders or special guardianship orders. Adopted children are those for whom an adoption order is made under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Section 46). A ‘child arrangements order’ is one settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live (Children Act 1989, Section 8, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014, Section 14). A ‘special guardianship order’ is one appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian/s (Children Act 1989, Section 14A). Applications under this criterion must be accompanied by evidence to show that the child is looked after or was previously looked after (e.g. a copy of the adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order). Evidence that a child from outside England was previously in state care will be required to come within this criterion. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

Note 2. Category 2: Medical / Social Reasons

Children with a chronic medical condition or strong social grounds in the family will be considered in this category provided a written request from a professional (i.e. Educational Psychologist, Social worker, Doctor) supporting the child or family is submitted. The request must state that the named school is the only school for the child because of the medical or social reasons of the child or family and that no other school can meet their needs. It is not enough for the professional to report what the parent/carer has told them.

In addition this category includes children who are subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order awarded to a family member in order to prevent the child being taken into care by a Local Authority. A copy of the order must be provided.

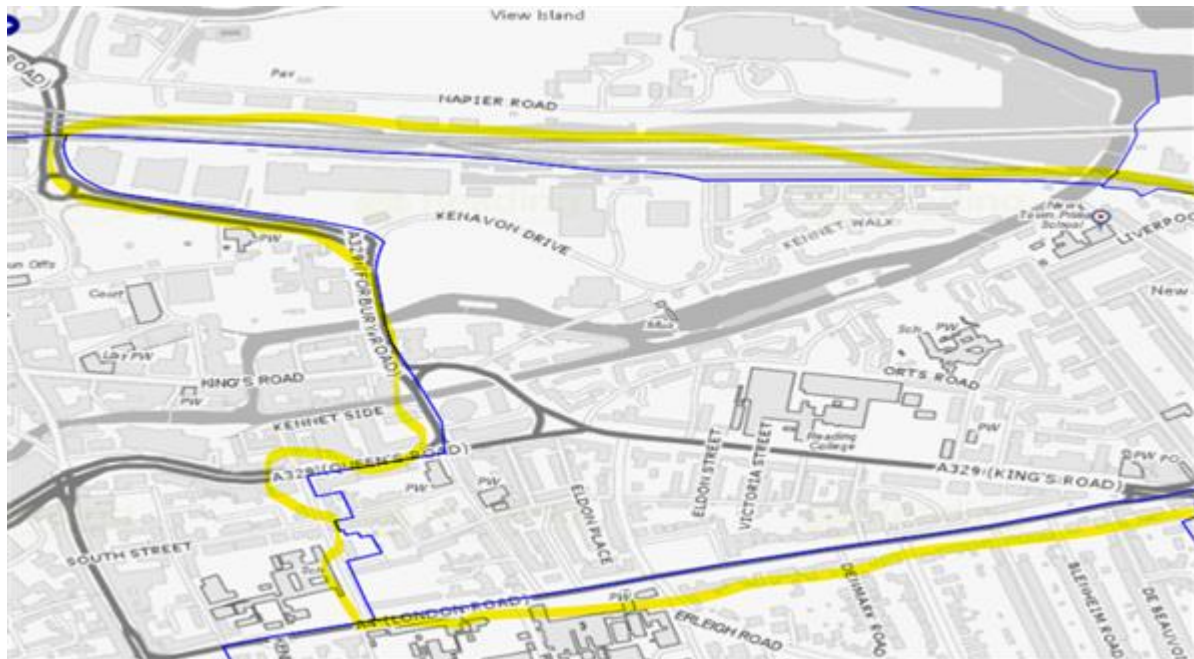
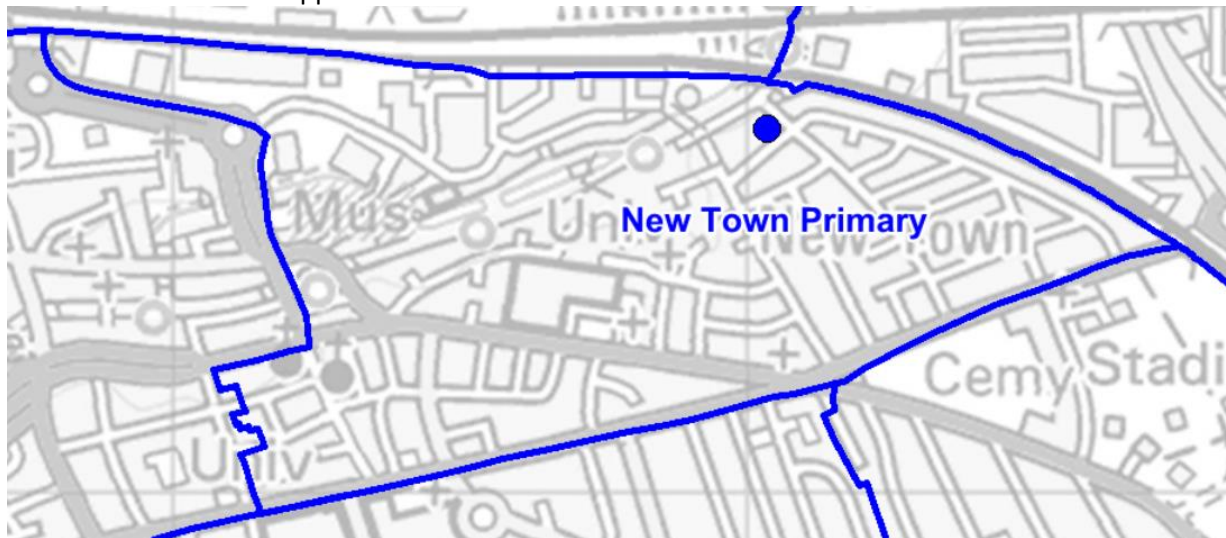
No individual officer will take responsibility for determining whether a case is ranked category. A panel of officers will make the final decision. Evidence must be provided by 02 February 2025 to be considered as on time for national offer day. If evidence is received after this date then it is at the discretion of the panel as to whether to accept these documents for on time allocations. The Academy will not prompt parents to send evidence to support admission under this category but they may ask for further evidence if this is required to make a decision. If evidence is received before the 02 February 2025 then parents will be informed, in writing, before national offer day as to whether this has been granted. This is not a guarantee of a place at the school

Note 4. Category 3: Siblings

If parents/carers applied for a place at their catchment area school for their child and it was not possible to offer a place at that school because the school was over-subscribed, a sibling protection applies. Where the child was admitted to New Town as a lower preference or allocated a place by the authority at an alternative, the application for any younger siblings for that school will be treated as catchment area and considered as category 3. Parents/carers must inform the Admission Team at the time of application if they consider this exemption applies.

Catchment area

Exact catchment area information for individual addresses can be found on Reading Borough Council's website. The approximate catchment area can be found below.



Tiebreaker

If a school does not have enough places for all children in a particular category, places will be allocated to those living nearest the school. The distance is measured in miles as a straight line between the Ordnance Survey data point for the child's home address and the school using Reading Borough Council digital mapping software. This distance is measured to three decimal places. In the rare event that it is not possible to decide between the applications of those pupils who have the same distance measurement then the place will be offered using random allocation. A member of Committee services staff for Reading Borough Council will supervise the selection process.

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.

Parent/Carers

A parent/carer is any person who has parental responsibility or care of the child. Parental responsibility for a child is set out in the Children Act 1989.

Home address

This is the permanent address of the parent/carer and their child. In cases where the child lives at a different address for some days of the week this must be the address where the child spends the majority of their school week. Temporary addresses cannot be used to obtain a school place whilst retaining a previous permanent home within Reading unless evidence is produced to show that this address is no longer available to the family i.e. the property has been rented out. Where an application has been submitted which shows a new temporary address, evidence of a rental agreement of at least a year that goes beyond 01 September 2025 will be required. Where a family claims, or it is evident that, a child is resident at more than one address, justification and evidence of the family's circumstances (e.g. legal separation) will be required. Reading Borough Council or the Academy reserves the right to seek additional evidence of proof of address including the use of the data held by Reading Borough Council Tax.

The home address should be the child's current address and is assumed to be the address on the national offer day. Any change of address after submitting the application must be notified to the Admissions Team at Reading Borough Council and the application will be reviewed using the new address. Any place offered based on misleading information with the intention of deception or fraud concerning a permanent home address will have the place withdrawn.

Siblings

Siblings are older siblings for purposes of admission criteria during the routine admission rounds. Siblings are children who have either the same mother or father, or they are children who live together in a family unit and with their parent/carer(s). Siblings must live at the same permanent home address as each other. If children do not live at the same address, then they are not treated as siblings for the purposes of admission.

Deferring a Place

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. Places offered in a Reading school

are on a full-time basis from September 2025 as a “rising 5” admission. Children do not need to be in statutory education until the September, January or April after their fifth birthday. When children are offered “rising 5” places, parent/carers may defer the place until January 2026 or April 2026 or until their child reaches statutory school age whichever is earlier, but may not defer after April 2026 as admissions beyond that are in the next school year. Parents will then need to re-apply for a place in Year 1, which may not have any places because the places will have been allocated to children in the previous year as part of the routine admissions round.

Part Time Admissions

If parents/carers consider it is in their child’s best interest to attend school on a part-time basis their request will be considered. If parents choose this option, they cannot insist on part-time provision that is individually tailored to their needs. They will be offered a minimum of 15 hours spread over every morning or similar depending on what meets the school’s needs. Parents/carers must discuss this with the Headteacher to agree the best arrangements.

Waiting Lists

After 16th April 2025 ‘waiting lists’ will be created for the school where it has not been possible to offer a place. A child’s position on the waiting list is determined according to the over-subscription criteria and will be re-ranked when new children are added to the list as a result of late applications or change of preference. When a place becomes available this will be offered to the next child on the waiting list.

After the 1 September 2025 children identified for placement as part of the Fair Access Protocol can be placed above those on the waiting list. Positions on the waiting lists may go up or down due to pupil withdrawals, new or revised applications. Reading Borough Council will keep waiting lists until end of July 2026 (End of Term 6 for reception classes). After this date the waiting lists will be abandoned. Parents/carers must then re-apply for a place in Year 1 as an In Year Admissions application if they are still interested in obtaining a place for their child.

Returning Crown Servants and Armed Forces Personnel

The Academy will follow Reading Borough Council’s policy with regard to Returning Crown Servants and Armed Forces Personnel

In Year Admission Arrangements for the school year 2025 - 2026.

Parents/carers seeking admission for their child into Year 1 – Year 6 in the school must apply to Reading Borough Council.

If there is a place in the school the place will be allocated but if there are more applications than places available the over-subscription criteria, as outlined above will apply and the places allocated to the child with the highest priority. Remaining applicants will be added to the waiting list which will also be ranked according to the oversubscription criteria. Children allocated according to the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over children on the waiting list.

Children new to the area or have moved within the borough will be able to start at the school as soon as possible after their move. If the request is to move schools within the Borough without a house move the children will normally be expected to start at the beginning of the following term.

Waiting lists for admission to Year 1 – Year 6 will be held until 31 December 2025 after which parents/carers must reapply for their child to remain on the waiting list until July 2026. The waiting list will be abandoned after July 2026 and parents/carers must re-apply if they are still seeking a place for September 2026.

Appeals

If it is not possible to offer a place at the preferred school(s) parents/carers will be advised of their right of appeal.