

# **Drakelow Park Flying High Academy**

## **Admissions Policy 2026-27**

## Overview

Drakelow Park Flying High Academy is a proud member of the Flying High Partnership. As an academy we are required to set and publish our own admissions criteria. However, for entry to Reception and for all in-year admissions (F2/Reception to Year 6) we participate in the Derbyshire County Council Local Authority coordinated admissions process. Initially, the scheme is administered by the County Council on behalf of the Academy.

## Admission Arrangements

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school is 30 in Reception/F2.

Drakelow Park Flying High Academy opens as a new school in September 2026, with admissions into the F2/Reception year group only.

The first admissions deadline for F2/Reception is 15 January 2026 (refer to late applications section for applications after this date).

The national offer day is 16 April (or next working day, if this falls on a non-working day) where parents/carers that have made an application will be notified of the outcome of their application by Derbyshire County Council.

A child who turns five between 1st September and 31st August will be admitted into Reception in the September before their 5th birthday.

All applications to Reception must be made directly to Derbyshire Local Authority:  
[Applying for a primary school place](#)  
[Derbyshire County Council guide to applying for a primary school place](#)

For pupils who live outside Derbyshire, applications should be made via the home authority.

## **Admissions Over-subscription Criteria**

When an academy is oversubscribed, after the admission of children who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where the school is named, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

1. A current 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A looked after child is a child who is (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.
2. Children living in the normal area served by the school at the time of application and admission who have brothers or sisters attending the school at the time of application and admission.
3. Children living in the normal area served by the school at the time of application and admission.
4. Children not living in the normal area served by the school but who have brothers or sisters attending the school at the time of application and admission.
5. Other children whose parents/carers have requested a place.

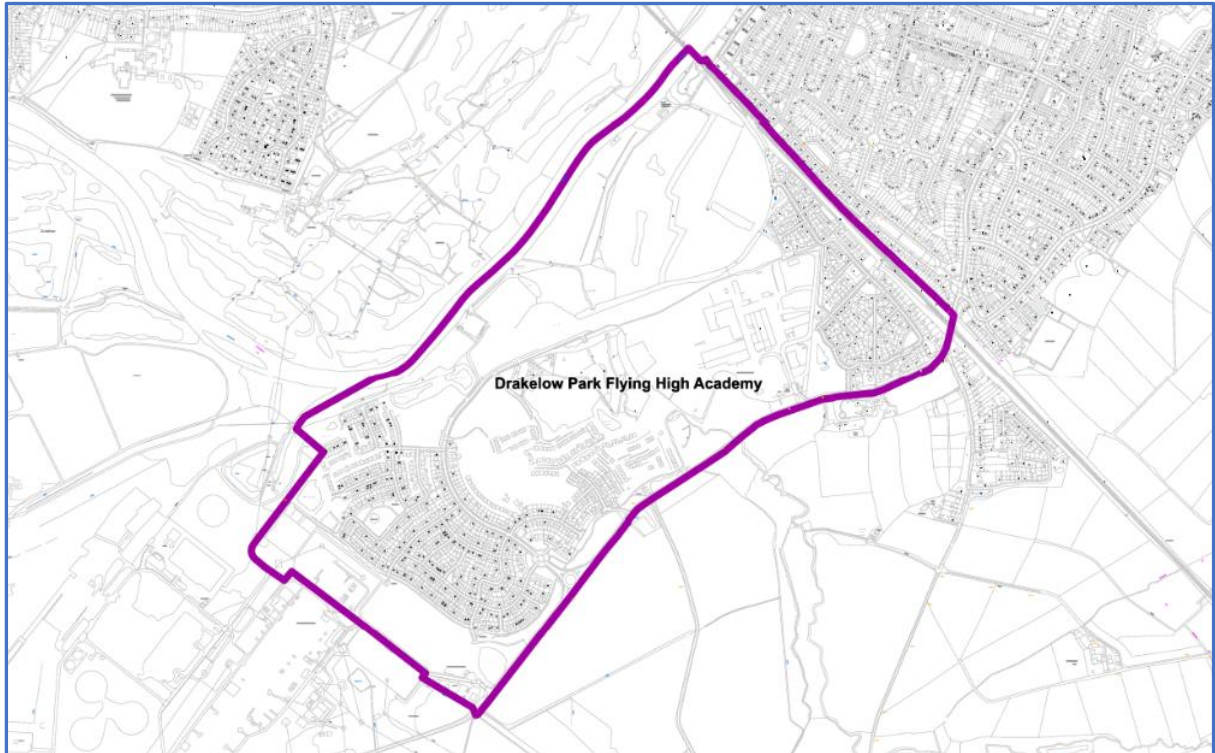
In the case of 2, 3, 4, or 5, choices have to be made between children satisfying the same criteria, and those children living nearest to the school (measured by straight line distance) will be given preference. If the measurements are equal, then lots will be drawn and the process will be independently verified.

The Children's Services Department uses a Geographic Information System (GIS) to measure straight-line distance (accurate to within two metres).

Distance is measured from the house front door to the centre of the school.

Where one child of a multiple birth can be admitted, the other child/children will also be admitted, as permitted by the infant class size rules and exceed our PAN.

## Catchment Area Map



## Admission of children outside their normal age group

The Local Governing Body follows Derbyshire's protocol for such admissions.

Decisions are made case-by-case, considering:

- Parents'/Carers' views
- Academic, social, and emotional development
- Medical history and professional input
- Previous education history
- Premature birth
- Headteacher's views

The decision will be clearly explained to the parent/carer.

The Local Governing Body refers to the statutory requirements detailed in the following documents:

- [Department for Education: School Admission Code](#)
- [Department for Education: Advice on the Admission of Summer Born Children](#)

Parents/carers may seek a place for this child(ren) outside the normal age group. Parents/carers considering delaying their child(ren)'s admission should submit their request to the academy. This request should be made alongside the formal application for a school place that is made to the child's home Local Authority by the closing date (15 January for Reception/F2 places).

The admission authority is responsible for making the decision about which year group a child should be admitted to and will consider the circumstances of each case and take account of the views of the Headteacher. This will include taking account of the parent/carer's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were for not being born prematurely.

When parents are told the decision about the year group to which the child should be admitted, they will also be given reasons for the decision. Where it is agreed that a child will be admitted out of the normal age group and, as a

consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to an intake age group (for example, Reception), and this application will be processed as part of the main admissions round, unless the request was submitted after the closing date, and it is too late for this to be possible.

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.

## **Late applications**

All applications received by the Local Authority after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time.

## **Deferred entry for infants**

Parents/carers offered a place in Reception/F2 for their child(ren) have a right to defer the date their child is admitted, or to take the place up part-time, until the child reaches compulsory school age.

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

Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

## Waiting lists

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group that is open for admissions. Where the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate. For F2/reception admissions (i.e. the intake year) the Local Authority will operate a waiting list, in line with the over-subscription criteria, from National Offer Day (16 April each year) to 31 December of that academic year. For all in-year admissions (i.e. to other year groups outside of F2/Reception, the waiting list will be maintained by the academy, again in line with the over-subscription criteria, and held until the end of the academic year. Waiting lists are open to any parent/carer to ask for their 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 reordered 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 contact Drakelow Park Flying High Academy, for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals process and the appeals is on our school website.

## Definitions

1. *Home address:* The home address is where a child normally lives. Where a child lives with parents with shared parental responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child's residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which residential address should be used for the purpose of admission to school. If no joint declaration is received where the residence is split equally by the closing date for applications, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor. If the residence is not split equally between both parents then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week.
2. *Sibling:* Siblings are considered to be a brother or sister; a half-brother or half-sister; a legally adopted child regarded as a brother or sister; a step-brother or step-sister residing in the same family unit.
3. *Parent:* 'Parent' includes all those people who have parental responsibility for a child who fall under the definition of "parent" as set out in section 576 of the Education Act 1996.
4. *Looked after:* A 'looked after child' is a child who is (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 the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order). Further references to previously looked after children means such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of 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.

Children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 and children who were adopted under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

Child arrangements orders are defined in section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).