



The Boston Witham Academies Federation

Wygate Park Academy, Spalding - Admission Policy 2019/20

Wygate Park Academy in Spalding is part of The Boston Witham Academies Federation. The academy trust is the admission authority for the school and therefore set the admission arrangements.

Arrangements for applications for places in YR at Wygate Park Academy will be made in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council's co-ordinated admission arrangements; parents resident in Lincolnshire can apply online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions, they can also apply by telephone, or ask for a hard copy application form, by telephoning 01522 782030. Parents resident in other areas must apply through their home local authority. Wygate Park Academy will use the Lincolnshire County Council's timetable published online for these applications and the relevant Local Authority will make the offers of places on their behalf as required by the School Admissions Code.

Wygate Park Academy provides for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday.

Where we have offered a child a place at our school:

- a) that child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday;
- b) the child's 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, whichever is the sooner;
- c) where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Parents interested in deferring admission or arranging part-time attendance must contact the school to discuss this.

However, in order to secure a preferred school place, in the above instances, parents must still apply through the outlined process for the Academic Year their child is due to start school.

In accordance with legislation the allocation of places for children with the following will take place first; Statement of Special Educational Needs (Education Act 1996) or Education, Health and Care Plan (Children and Families Act 2014) where the school is named. Remaining places will be allocated in accordance with this policy.

For entry into reception in September we will allocate places to parents who return an application before we consider any parent who has not returned one.

The school's admission number is 30.

Midyear Place

An application can be made on the midyear application form or online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Applications are usually made through the child's home local authority. Lincolnshire residents should contact Lincolnshire County Council for an application. Applications can be made directly through Lincolnshire by out of county residents if their home local authorities do not co-ordinate this process. The governors will accept admissions into other year groups if there are places (PAN size of 30). If there are more applications than places then the oversubscription criteria will be used to decide who should be offered the place. If there are no places then you will be told of the independent appeal system.

Fraudulent or misleading applications

As an admission authority we have the right to investigate any concerns we may have about your application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence that you have made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information, for example a false address was given which denied a place to a child with a stronger claim.

We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

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.

Parents wishing to make these requests must contact their home local authority for guidance on the procedure to follow.

It is important for parents to note that they will have the opportunity and responsibility to provide whatever evidence they wish to support their request.

Wygate Park Academy school will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

This will include taking account of:

- the parent's views;

- any available information about the child’s academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- the views of the head teacher

Tie Breaker

If two or more children are tied for the last place a lottery will be drawn by an independent person, not employed by the school or working in Children's Service Directorate at the local authority.

The oversubscription criteria are listed in order. Words marked with a number, for example 1, 2 and 3 are explained separately in the definition and notes section.

Oversubscription criteria

- A. The child is in the care of the local authority or had previously been in care (note1).
- B. There is a brother or sister (2) at the school who will still be attending when the child is due to start. i.e. between years Rec – Yr 5.
- C. The school is the nearest one to the home (3) address, as defined in note 4.
- D. The distance from the home (3) to the school, priority will be given to the child living closest the school, as defined in note 5.

If the distance criterion is not sufficient to distinguish between two or more applicants for the last remaining place then a lottery will be drawn by an independent person, not employed by the school or working in the Children's Services Department at the Local Authority.

Definitions and Notes

1. Looked After Child and All Previously Looked After Children

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).

This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children’s Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).

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).

2. Brother or sister.

A full brother or sister, whether or not resident in the same household. Another child normally living for the majority of term time in the same household, where an adult in the household has parental responsibility as defined by the Children Act 1989. Or any child in the household where an adult in the household is defined as a parent for the purposes of Section 576 of the Education Act 1996.

Twins and other siblings from a multiple birth

In these cases all the children will be considered together as one application. If one or more can be admitted within the published admission number the school will be allowed to go above its admission number as necessary to admit all the children, unless this would make the class too large. The government's school admissions code makes an exception to the infant class limit in this situation.

Brothers and sisters in the same year group

Where there is only one place available in the school the children will be considered together as one application. The school will be allowed to go above its admission number as necessary to admit all the children except in cases where infant class regulations prevent this from happening. If this happens we can only legally offer one place because the government's school admissions code makes no exception to the infant class size limit for siblings in the same year group. We will offer the parent one place for one child and a different school for the other child or children.

3. By home address we mean the address where the child lives for the majority of term time with a parent as defined in section 576 of the Education Act 1996 who has parental responsibility for the child as defined in the Children Act 1989.

Where the child lives normally during the school week with more than one parent at different addresses, the home address for the purposes of admission will be that of the parent who lives closest, as measured by straight line distance, to the academy.

If a parent has more than one home, we will take as the home address the address where the parent and child normally live for the majority of the school term time.

4. The nearest school is found by measuring the straight line distance from the child's home address to all schools admitting children in the relevant year group. Measurements are calculated electronically from the Post Office address point of the home to the Post Office address point of the school. We measure distance to three decimal places, e.g. 1.256 miles.
5. Measurements are calculated electronically from the Post Office address point of the child's home address to the Post Office address point of the school by straight line distance. We measure distance to three decimal places, e.g. 1.256 miles.

Reserve Lists

For admission into the intake year the governors will keep a waiting list which we call a reserve list.

If we have to refuse a place at our school your child is automatically put on the reserve list, unless you have been offered a higher preference school.

This list is in the order of the oversubscription criteria, as required by the school admissions code. This means that names can move down the list if someone moves into the area and is higher placed under the oversubscription criteria. The governors must not take account of the time you have been on the list.

For the intake year the list is kept by the Schools Admission Team until the end of August.

After this the school admissions code requires that schools keep the reserve list until the end of the autumn term. After, Wygate Park Academy will keep the reserve list until the end of the academic year.

If you wish your child to join the school in another year group and it is full, you can contact the school and request to be added to the reserve list. This will be kept in the order of the oversubscription criteria. The time you have been on the list is not taken into account.

The reserve lists are cleared at the end of each academic year. If you would like your child to be placed on the reserve list for the following academic year please contact the school. Failure to notify the School of your decision to continue on the reserve list, by July of that Academic Year, will result in your child being removed from the reserve list. In this instance, should you wish your child to be added at a later date the mid year admissions criteria should be adhered to.

Appeals

The procedures for appeals relating to admissions will be in accordance with all relevant legislation. They are independent and entirely separate from the admission

system. The decision of the appeal panel is binding on all parties. You should send your appeal to the school by the required date.

Fair Access Protocol

Local Authorities are required to have Fair Access Protocols in order to make sure that unplaced children who live in the home local authority, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. This includes admitting children above the published admissions number to schools that are already full.

Children of UK Service Personnel (UK Armed Forces)

For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area, or crown servants returning to live in the area from overseas, the Governors will:

- Allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address to use when considering the application against the school's oversubscription criteria.
- Accept a Unit postal address or quartering area address for admissions purposes for a service child.

The Governors will not refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area.