



Admissions Policy 2023/24

Tudor Street, Thurnscoe, Rotherham, S63 0DS

Admission Authority

Astrea Academy Trust is the admission authority for the school.

Admission Numbers

The school has an admission number of **60** for entry in Reception.

The school will admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number for the relevant year group are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at the school to all those who have applied.

The numbers above are often the indicative admission number for subsequent year groups. From time to time, however, the true capacity of these year groups might vary and the Trust is entitled to limit the indicative admission number to a number below sixty where there are clear grounds to do so.

Application Process and Timeline

Normal Round (for entry into Reception in September)

- Applications made during the main round for a place at the school are administered through Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Parents resident in the Barnsley area can apply online at: <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/schools-and-learning/school-admissions-and-transfers/primary-school-places/>
- Parents in other local authority areas must apply through their home local authority.
- The Local Authority's timetable will be used for all normal round applications each year.
- The deadline for an application for a place in Reception is **15th January** in the year that your child will start school.
- Offers will be made by the Local Authority, on behalf of the school, on **16th April** or the next working day.

“In-year” admissions:

- Applications for a place outside the main round are known as “in-year” applications. For example, if a Year 3 child moves into the area, an in-year application will be made.
- Astrea Academy Trust reserves the right to administer in-year admissions to the school. However, by agreement with the Local Authority, the LA will administer these applications and parents should use the link provided above.

Oversubscription criteria

When the school receives more applications than places available, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan or a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

1. **Looked After Children** and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order.¹
2. **Siblings** - Children who normally reside with a parent or person with parental responsibility in the defined catchment area and who will have a brother or sister (including step or half brother or sister) at the preferred school on the proposed date of admission.
3. **Children of staff in skills shortage posts** - Children of staff at the school recruited to fill a skill shortage post – this will be subject to confirmation by the Astrea Executive Board that, on the evidence available, the post does indeed relate to a skills shortage in the area.
4. **Distance** - Children living nearest the school; the distance to be measured by a straight line between the centre point of the child’s ordinary place of residence and the main entrance to the school building.

Tiebreaker for Equi-distant Applications

Where the offer of the last place in the relevant year group could be made to the parent of eligible multiple siblings, resident at the same address, we will exceed our admission number in order to offer sufficient places for the family.

¹ 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).

Where the offer of the last place in the relevant year group could be made for a number of eligible children resident equi-distant from the school the determination of the single offer will be by Random Allocation.

The Random Allocation will:

- (i) be independently supervised
- (ii) take place on a date and at a time notified in advance to the participating parents so that they can attend as witnesses.

False Information

Any place offered on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application will be withdrawn, e.g. giving a false address. It is for parents to satisfy the LA of their circumstances as they apply to the admission criteria at the time of application.

Notes

Home address - The home address is where a child normally lives. Where parents are separated and the child lives with each parent for part of the week, the home address will be the one where the child spends the majority of his or her time.

Multiple births (twins, etc.) - In the case of multiple births or siblings in the same year group, where there is only one place available in the school, all will be considered together as one application.

Service children and Crown servants - For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to their area, or crown servants returning from overseas to live in that area, the Authority 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 when considering the application against their oversubscription criteria. The Trust will not refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area.

Late applications

All applications received after the deadline will be treated in accordance with the Local Authority's policy on late applications.

Deferred entry for infants

Parents offered a place in reception for their child 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.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Applications for children to be admitted to a school year outside of their chronological age group should be submitted to the home Local Authority during normal round admissions, or to the LA/school as described above regarding the in-year admissions process. Each application will be considered and decided by the academy on the individual circumstances of each case.

Applicants should provide documentation in support of their application regardless of whether they are asking for the student to be admitted in a lower or higher year group. Applicants will be notified of the decision in writing.

There is no right of appeal where an offer is made, but not to the year group requested by the parents.

Waiting lists

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. This will be maintained by the Local Authority unless it is agreed that the Local Authority will no longer have responsibility for in-year admissions.

Children's position on the waiting list – and any offers made as places become available - will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. This means that the waiting list is not a 'queue' and it is possible to move down as well as up the waiting list if additional applications are received for children with higher priority.

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. Further information and contact details will be included in any refusal letter.