

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2022 - 23 Intake

Office use

Published: October 2020	Next review: October 2021	Statutory/non: Statutory	Lead: Assistant Principal, Walton
Associated documents:			
Links to:			



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1 Introduction

1.1 Walton is an 11 - 18 academy. The current Admissions Policy is published on the academy's website.

This policy has been approved up by the Board of Governors. Before finally determining the Policy, the Board of Governors has consulted with the local authority and other schools as required by the School Admissions Code.

All academy offers of places are determined by a Committee of the Board of Governors with delegated powers.

By law the Board of Governors must consider parents who have applied for a place before any other parents.

The academy has a right to investigate applications and withdraw places offered on the basis of misleading information.

2 How to apply to Walton Academy

Parents/carers of students wishing to apply for a place at Walton Academy will need to do so via the Lincolnshire County Council website.

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

The website will enable parents/carers the opportunity to make an informed choice of school that is appropriate for their child(ren).

3 Fraudulent and/or Misleading Applications

We reserve the right to check any address and other information provided so we can apply the oversubscription criteria accurately and fairly. As an admissions authority we have the right to investigate any concerns we have regarding your application and to withdraw the offer of a place if we consider there is evidence to suggest you have made a fraudulent claim or provided misleading information. For example, if a false address was given which resulted in a place not being offered to another child with a stronger claim.

4 Year 7 Intake

Once the criteria for placement in Year 7 has been applied by the school and the year group has reached 180 students, appeals will be organised and led by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC). Walton is a fully inclusive academy and Governors will consider applications for students of all abilities from all primary schools including small and rural schools.

5 Admissions procedures for students in Years 8 – 11

Initial enquiries regarding a place at Walton should be made through the LA in year admissions process or to the Principal or Vice Principal of the Academy.

6 Oversubscription procedures

In accordance with the 1996 Education Act, the allocation of school places for children with an Education Health and Care Plan – clearly naming the school as the most suitable option, will take place first. We will then allocate the remaining places in accordance with this policy.

Where the number of applications for admissions exceeds the number of places available, the Governors will apply the oversubscription criteria in the order listed below:

- 1. Looked after Children and previously looked after children - (note 1)**
- 2. There is a sibling who is attending the academy when the application is made.- (note 2)**
- 3. Children of staff who, when the application is made, has been employed at Walton Academy for at least two years and/or are recruited to fill a demonstrable skill shortage – this does not include employment at another academy within the academy trust.**
- 4. Distance from the child's home to the academy with the child living closer to the academy being offered the place(s) first. – (note 3)**

Tiebreaker

If any of the oversubscription criteria (except point 4) have too many applicants then the tie break will be by straight line distance. The child living closer to the academy will be offered the place.

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 academy or working in the Local Authority of Children's Service Directorate.

Multiple births and twins

Twins and other siblings from a multiple birth – if twins or multiple birth children are split by operation of the oversubscription criteria, Walton Academy will go above its published intake number (PAN) to accommodate all children unless it would make the classes too large and prejudice the education of the other students.

Note 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) at the time of making an application to a school. 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 Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders). Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.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).

Note 2

Sibling, for the purpose of this Admissions Policy is defined as follows:

- (a) A full sister or full brother, whether or not resident in the same household.
- (b) Another child normally resident for the majority of term time in the same household, to whom an adult in the household has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act 1989.

Note 3

The distance from home to the academy is found by measuring the distance from your address to the academy by straight line distance. Distance is measured electronically using the post office address point of the home to the post office address point of the academy. This is generated by the LCC school admissions team and is calculated to three decimal places (e.g.1.234)

The child's home means the address where they live for the majority of the academy term time with a parent who has parental responsibility as defined in 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. This could include a person who is not a parent but who has responsibility for the child.

It could include a child's guardians but will not usually include other relatives such as grandparents, aunts, uncles etc. unless they have all the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities and authority, which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and their property.

Where your child lives normally during the academy week with more than one parent at different addresses, parents can choose which address to use as part of the application.

If you have more than one home we will take as the home address the address where you and your child normally live for the majority of the academy term-time.

7 Children with an Educational Health and Care plan

In accordance with the 1996 Education Act, the allocation of school places for children with a statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education and Health Care Plan, will take place first. We will then allocate the remaining places in accordance with this policy.

8 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:

Consider an application for 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 on the basis that the family does not currently live in the area.

9 Appeals against admissions refusals

Parents have the right to appeal against a refusal by the Governors to admit their child. The appeal will be heard by an independent panel and the decision of the panel is binding. Full details of the appeals procedure are available from the academy.

Repeat appeals will not be considered in the same academic year unless there has been a significant change in circumstances.

The Appeals Process is outlined below:

- You are informed that we are unable to offer your child a place.
- You are able to appeal online via the school admission section of the Lincolnshire County Council website. If this is not possible you should tell the academy that you want to appeal; we will send you an appeal form to complete.
- If you appealed online you will receive an email acknowledgement of your appeal. We will usually acknowledge a paper appeal form or letter within five working days. If you do not receive an acknowledgement please contact the academy.
- A date for your appeal will be arranged.
- At least ten school days before the appeal you will be informed of the date, time and venue.
- You need to contact Legal Services School Appeals Team if you are unable to attend your appeal at the appointed time.
- A reasonable time before the appeal you will receive an appeal statement explaining why your child has not been admitted.
- A reasonable time before the appeal you will receive the names of the Panel Members and Clerk.
- The day of the appeal. Please remember to bring everything relating to your appeal.
- The Clerk will tell you if you can telephone for the Appeal Panel's decision. You will always be notified in writing.

10 Reserve list

For entry into Year 7 a reserve list is kept. This list will be used if the number of students falls below the published admission limit for the academy. If you listed the academy on your application form your child's name is automatically placed on the reserve list. The list is kept by the Schools Admission Team until the end of August prior to admission. After this the academy will keep the reserve list until the end of the first half term and then the list will be removed. Parents are invited to contact the academy for information about the reserve list, including their child's current position and likelihood of gaining a place.

If families move into the area they may be placed higher on the reserve list because we take account of where you are in relation to the oversubscription criteria and not the length of time you have been on the list.

11 Fair access

The government has stated that all local authorities must have a Fair Access agreement that allows hard to place children, especially the most vulnerable, for example those that have been permanently excluded, to be given a place before any oversubscription criteria are applied and before any one is considered from the reserve list. Such children are shared out to make sure no one school has to take too many of these children. The academy will participate in the fair access arrangements of Lincolnshire County Council

12 Post-16 admissions

Year 11 students at this academy have the right to transfer to our Year 12 provided they meet the academic standards set out below and that we can provide their subject or a combination of subjects.

We also welcome applications from students attending other schools and have set an admission number of 20 for these applicants.

In the event of there being more external applicants than places available we apply the same criteria as new students entering the academy in Year 7 (see page 4 for details).

For enrolment on all courses the requirements are five GCSE (or equivalent) at grade 5 or above, including English and Mathematics. Each course also has recommended entry requirements, which can be accessed via the academy website (www.walton-ac.org.uk/sixth-form/courses). Special consideration will be given for individual cases.

Sometimes we may be able to offer a place in Year 12, but not your preferred combination of subjects. If we cannot offer the preferred subjects we will offer a place for an alternative combination of subjects.

13 In-year admissions

Applications to join the academy outside the normal application timescale will need to be made via Lincolnshire County Council (admissions) or direct to the academy. We strongly advise that prospective students should visit the academy before looking for admission. Walton will accept admissions up to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the respective year group at the point of entry. In the event where this would cause prejudice to the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources it may be necessary to refuse the place. If there are more applications

than there are places then the oversubscription criteria will be used to decide who should be offered the place.

If a place is refused at the school you will be informed of your right to appeal. Parents can apply online at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions> or call 01522 782030 for a paper form.

For late intake applications and in-year applications we will aim to remove any disadvantage to UK service personnel by applying the academy's oversubscription criteria (Note 4). We will check to see if the address is within the distance of the last child admitted in the last admission round that was oversubscribed on offer day. If the address is within the distance the Governors will consider admitting providing all children in public care and siblings have already been admitted. This will be irrespective of the fact that the academy has had appeals heard or appeals currently being scheduled.

It may be that we still cannot admit because of organisational or curriculum difficulties within the academy, if this is the case we will inform the Local Authority and you will be notified by them as soon as possible.

14 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. Parents resident in Lincolnshire should call 01522 782030 or email schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk for advice 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. Walton Academy 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 principal

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM:	
DATE:	
SIGNED ON BEHALF OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS:	
DATE:	