



Admission Arrangements Wallace Fields Infant School 2023/24

The Published Admission Number for initial entry to Wallace Fields Infant School in 2023 will be **60**.

Applications for admission at the normal intake will be managed in accordance with Surrey's coordinated scheme for primary admission.

Places at Surrey schools will be offered on the basis of the preferences that are shown on the application form. Applications must be made to an applicant's home Local Authority. The admissions arrangements for 2023/24 for Wallace Fields Infant School are set out below.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names the school will be allocated a place before other children are considered. In this way, the number of places available will be reduced by the number of children with an EHCP that has named the school.

Where the school is over-subscribed for any year group, applications for entry in September 2023 will be ranked in the following order:

1. Looked after and previously looked after children (see Note 1)
2. Exceptional social/medical need (see Note 2)
3. Children of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years and/or the member of staff has been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
4. Children who will have a sibling at Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School on the date of their admission (See Notes 3, 4 and 5)
5. Distance from applicant's home address measured in a straight line to WFIS & Nursery School Gate or Wallace Fields Junior School gate

Notes

1. Looked after and previously looked after children

Looked after and previously looked after children will receive the top priority for a place. Looked after and previously looked after children will be considered to be:

- children who are in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989, e.g. fostered or living in a children's home, at the time an application for a school is made; and
- children who have previously been in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 and who have left that care through adoption, a child arrangements order (in accordance with Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) or special guardianship order (in accordance with Section 14A of the Children Act 1989); and
- 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 will be regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. The parent/carer will need to provide evidence to demonstrate that the child was in state care outside of England and left that care as a result of being adopted

2. Exceptional social/medical need

Occasionally there will be a very small number of children for whom exceptional social or medical circumstances apply which will warrant a placement at this school. The exceptional social or medical circumstances might relate to either the child or the parent/carer. Supporting evidence from a professional is required such as a doctor and/or consultant for medical cases or a social worker, health visitor, housing officer, the police or probation officer for other social circumstances. This evidence must confirm the circumstances of the case and must set out why the child should attend this school and why no other school could meet the child's needs.

Providing evidence does not guarantee that a child will be given priority at this school and in each case a decision will be made based on the merits of the case and whether the evidence demonstrates that a placement should be made at this school above any other.

Common medical conditions and allergies can usually be supported in all mainstream schools, therefore priority under the school's exceptional medical criterion would not normally be given for these. In addition, routine child minding arrangements would not normally be considered to be an exceptional social reason for placement at this school.

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3. Members of Staff

In order to qualify, a member of staff will need to have been employed for at least two years' with the school, at the time of application. This criterion will also apply to those staff members with less than two years' service but only where they have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

4. Siblings

A sibling will be considered to be a brother or sister (that is, another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), a half-brother or half-sister or a step-brother or step-sister or an adoptive or foster sibling, living as part of the same family unit at the same address.

A child will be given sibling priority if they have a sibling on roll at Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School and that sibling is still expected to be on roll at either school at the time of the child's admission. This will apply both at the initial allocation of places and also when prioritising the waiting list. Giving sibling priority has the effect of maximising the opportunity for children in the same family to be educated at the same school or at a school which operates shared sibling priority.

At the initial allocation, when an applicant is applying for a Reception place at Wallace Fields Infant School and the child has a sibling currently attending Year 2 but who will have left by the time the younger child starts, the younger child will be considered under the sibling criterion as part of the initial allocation. This is because, due to the feeder link, they will be expected to still have a sibling at Wallace Fields Junior School at the time of admission.

Any child remaining on the waiting list after 1 September 2023 will be considered to be an application for in year admission.

5. Home address

The child's home address excludes any business, or childminder's address and must be the child's normal place of residence. It also excludes any relative's address unless the child lives at that address as their normal place of residence. Where the child is subject to a child arrangements order and that order stipulates that the child will live with one parent/carer more than the other, the address to be used will be the one where the child is expected to live for the majority of the time.

For other children, the address used, will be the address where the child lives the majority of the time. In other cases, where the child spends an equal time between their parents/carers, it will be up to the parent/carers to agree which address to use. Where a child spends their time equally between their parents/carers and they cannot agree on who should make the application, we will accept an application from the parent/carer who is registered for child benefit. If neither parent is registered for child benefit we will accept the application from the parent/carer whose address is registered with the child's current school or nursery.

We will not generally accept a temporary address, if the main carer of the child still possesses a property that has previously been used as a home address, nor will we accept a temporary address if we believe it has been used solely or mainly to obtain a school place when an alternative address is still available to that child. All distances will be measured by the computerised Geographical Information System maintained by Surrey's admissions team.

The address to be used for the initial allocation of places to Reception will be the child's address at the closing date for application. Changes of address may be considered in accordance with Surrey's coordinated scheme if there are exceptional reasons behind the change, such as if a family has just moved to the area. The address to be used for waiting lists, after the initial allocation, will be the child's current address. Any offer of a place on the basis of address is conditional upon the child living at the appropriate address on the relevant date. Applicants have a responsibility to notify the school and Surrey County Council of any change of address.

6. Tie breaker and the admission of twins, triplets, other multiple births or siblings born in the same academic year

Where two or more children share a priority for a place, e.g. where two children live equidistant from a school, random allocation will be used to determine which child should be given priority.

In the case of multiple births, where children have equal priority for a place, Wallace Fields Infant school will draw lots to determine which child should be given priority. If after the allocation one or more places can be offered but there are not sufficient places for all of them, each child will be offered a place.

7. Waiting lists

Where there are more children than places available, waiting lists will operate for each year group according to the oversubscription criteria for the school without regard to the date the application was received or when a child's name was added to the waiting list.

Waiting lists for all year groups will be maintained until 31 July 2024, when they will be cancelled. Applicants who wish a child to remain on the waiting list after this date must reapply for in-year admission.

8. In-year admissions

The following applications will be treated as in-year admissions during 2023/24:

- applications for admission to Reception which are received after 1 September 2023;
- all other applications for admission to Years 1 to 2.

Applications for Wallace Fields Infant School must be made to the school. Where there are more applications than places available, each application will be ranked in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria for each school.

9. Starting school

There is a single intake into Reception. All children whose date of birth falls between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 will be eligible to apply for a full time place in Reception at the school for September 2023. Applicants can defer their child's entry to Reception until later in the school year, but this will not be agreed beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the beginning of the final term of the academic year for which the offer was made. Applicants may also arrange for their child to start part time until their child reaches statutory school age.

10. The admission of children outside of their chronological year group

Applicants may choose to seek a place outside their child's chronological (correct) year group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and what is in the best interests of the child concerned.

- Applicants who are applying for their child to have a decelerated entry to school, i.e. to start later than other children in their chronological age group, should initially apply for a school place in accordance with the deadlines that apply for their child's chronological age. If, in liaison with the headteacher, governors agree for the child to have a decelerated entry the place cannot be deferred and instead the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the decelerated cohort
- Applicants who are applying for their child to have an accelerated entry to school, i.e. to start earlier than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place at the same time that other families are applying for that cohort. If, in liaison with the headteacher, governors agree for the child to have an accelerated entry, the application will be processed. If it is not agreed for the child to have an accelerated entry, the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the correct cohort

Applicants must state clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interest and provide what evidence they have to support this. More information on educating children out of their chronological year group and the process for making such requests is available at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.

11. Nursery Admissions

The admission arrangements for the Nursery at Wallace Fields Infant School are available on the Wallace Fields Infant school's website <http://www.wallacefieldsinfantschool.co.uk/>.

12. Home to school transport

Surrey County Council has a Home to School Transport policy that sets out the circumstances that children might qualify for free home to school transport.

Generally, transport will only be considered if a child is under 8 years old and is travelling more than two miles or is over 8 years old and travelling more than three miles to the nearest school with a place. Transport will not generally be provided to a school that is further away if a child would have been offered a place at a nearer school had it been named as a preference on the application form, although exceptions may apply to secondary aged children whose families are on a low income if they are travelling to one of their three nearest schools and to children whose nearest school is out of County but over the statutory walking distance.

Eligibility to transport is not linked to the admission criteria of a school. Some schools give priority to children who are attending a feeder school, but attending a feeder school does not confer an automatic right to transport to a linked school. In considering admission criteria and school preferences, it is important that applicants also consider the home to school transport policy so they might take account of the likelihood of receiving free transport to their preferred school before making their application. A full copy of Surrey's Home to School Transport policy is available on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk or from the Surrey Schools and Childcare Service on 0300 200 1004.

This policy was determined by the Trust following approval by the Trust Admissions Committee on 19th October 2021, the Local Governing Body at their meeting on Wednesday 17th November 2021 and the main Trustee Board Meeting on 7th February 2022. It will be reviewed annually.