

Duke of Bedford Primary School

Admissions Policy for 2026-2027

November 2025



The Duke of Bedford Primary School Admissions Policy for 2026/2027

The Duke of Bedford Primary School is a maintained primary school situated in the village of Thorney. Our school offers a high quality, knowledge rich curriculum to all its pupils. By law, parents are required to make sure that their child is educated from the beginning of the term after his or her fifth birthday. Primary Schools in Peterborough offer places to Reception children at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Parents are required to apply for school places through the Local Authority.

The Duke of Bedford Primary School has a Published Admissions Number of 30 children per class with a maximum availability of 210 for the school. The age range is 4 – 11 years, i.e. Reception to Year 6. Admissions to the Duke of Bedford Primary School are coordinated by the Local Authority.

The Local Authority gives priority to children whose parents have applied for a school place by the published deadline (15 January). Schools do not always have enough places available for every child whose parents have applied for a place. In this case where applications exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit: The local authority will admit children with an education health and care plan which names our school. This will be in addition to any specific arrangements to specialist provision.

The order of priority for all other children is as follows:

1. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. 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);
2. Children who appear to the Admission Authority to have been in state care (i.e. in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation or any other provider whose sole/main purpose is to benefit society) outside of England but ceased to be so as a result of being adopted only;
3. Children who are both living in the catchment area* served by the school and have siblings** of compulsory school age still attending the school at the time of their admission;
4. Other children living in the catchment area at the time of admission;
5. Children of members of staff, provided that they have been employed for a minimum of two years and/or are recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage;
6. Children who do not live in the catchment area served by the school, but who have siblings of compulsory school age attending the school (or are attending an infant or junior school on the same site) at the time of their admission.

7. Other children whose parents have requested a place who live outside the catchment area of the school. *A Catchment database is available on the Peterborough City Council website at www.peterborough.gov.uk

**For the purposes of admissions, the Department for Education definition of sibling is as follows: 'Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living in the same family unit at the same address. Every effort will be made to ensure that brothers or sisters (as defined above) and those from multiple births can attend the same primary school, understanding

that the local authority must comply with the Education (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 1998. The sibling must be on roll at the school both at the time of application and at the time of admission for the sibling criterion to be accepted.

In cases of equal merit, priority will be given to the child living nearest the school as measured by a straight line. Distance is measured in a straight line using the Local Land Property Gazetteer (LLPG) provided from the seed point located at the child's home address to the seed point for the school. The seed point is taken from the ordinance survey's (OS) Address- Base dataset. It is used to locate individual residential and school addresses using grid references as seed points.

It may be necessary to use other OS maps or online resources for any home address outside of the Peterborough local authority distance measuring system. In the case of flats, the priority is that of floor level i.e., ground, first, second etc. in that order.